

LT. JAMES LUSSIER INTERVIEW

June __, 2009

ID #200975683

I am Jim Kennedy, I am here with Dick Tracy, an Investigator and Lt. Jim Lussier of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Lussier we're here today to discuss matters related to an [REDACTED] being sent from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department to the Portsmouth Herald and perhaps other news media sources during the fall of 2008. You are here, you are being recorded. Please acknowledge that you're here.

JL: I am here and I am present.

JK: And do agree to being recorded?

JL: I do.

JK: Okay.

DT: Could you just state your name and spell your last name for the record please.

JL: Yes, my name is James Lussier. My last name is L-U-S-S-I-E-R.

DT: And date of birth please.

JL: [REDACTED]

DT: And your current occupation.

JL: I am a lieutenant with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department.

DT: And are you assigned to, what is your area of assignment currently?

JL: I am currently assigned to Rockingham County Superior Court, Security and Transportation Division.

DT: Okay. So your base office is at the Superior Court . . .

JL: Yes.

DT: Which is in?

JL: Brentwood, New Hampshire.

DT: And how many years of experience do you have with the Rockingham Sheriff's Department?

JL: With the Sheriff's Department I have just over six years.

DT: Any prior law enforcement jobs?

JL: Yes, I worked for the Kingston Police Department for five years.

DT: And did you attend the Police Standards and Training Academy?

JL: Yes, I did.

DT: And what class did you graduate from?

JL: The one hundred and fourteenth.

DT: Okay, so you're full-time certified?

JL: Yes.

DT: Alright. Okay.

JK: Mr. Lussier, you said that you've worked for the Sheriff's Department now for six years.

JL: Yes.

JK: Is that correct? And how long have you worked for the current Sheriff?

JL: The whole six years.

JK: So, is this his second term or third term?

JL: This would have to be his third if not fourth term.

JK: Are they two-year terms?

JL: Yes.

JK: Okay.

DT: So he was the Sheriff that hired you?

JL: Yes.

DT: Okay.

JK: Go ahead Dick.

DT: Who is your immediate supervisor?

JL: Captain Al Brackett.

DT: Is he assigned at the courthouse as well?

JL: No, he's at headquarters in Brentwood.

DT: We mentioned, Attorney Kennedy mentioned a document which contained an [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Prior to going on record we asked you if you were familiar with a David Lovejoy and if you could explain to us how that name, how you are familiar with that person.

JL: I am familiar with that name solely because he ran for Sheriff, high Sheriff of Rockingham County last year, for 2008.

DT: Did you ever meet David Lovejoy?

JL: No, I have never met him.

DT: If David Lovejoy was to walk through this room now would you recognize him?

JL: No, I would not.

DT: Okay.

JL: I only know him because he was running for Sheriff and I saw his campaign signs.

JK: Did you participate at all in assisting the current, your current boss Linehan in his campaign?

JL: I did.

JK: What role did you play?

JL: I probably put out two maybe three signs for his campaign; Dan Linehan, Sheriff Linehan, Linehan for Sheriff, campaign signs on roadsides after I got done working during the day.

JK: Did you do anything else?

JL: I took the day off, I was present at the polls in [REDACTED], that's where I live.

JK: And what did you do at the polls?

JL: I held a sign for Sheriff Linehan.

JK: Anything else?

JL: No.

JK: Do you recall, you said that you know the name David Lovejoy. Do you recall participating in any research on his past?

JL: Yes.

JK: What did you do?

JL: I was asked to contact the Clerk of the Civil Division at Superior Court to see what if any civil judgments were on file for him.

JK: Who asked you to do that?

JL: I believe at the time it was Mark Pierce and I believe he was Major Mark Pierce at the time. There was a transition where there was promotions and I believe, I mean it was definitely Mark Pierce and I believe he was the Major at the time, I'm not sure.

JK: So what did he ask you to do?

JL: He just asked me to contact somebody within the Civil Division at the Superior Court in Rockingham and ask if there was any files relative to civil judgments against David Lovejoy.

JK: Did you find any?

JL: Yes.

JK: What did you do with that information?

JL: The Clerk had indicated that she had found several files and that she would, it was the day that I asked her, it was late in the afternoon. She indicated that she would leave those files on a vacant desk up in the Civil Division and that I could make copies of items contained in those files when I came in the next morning.

JK: What did you do?

JL: The next morning when I came in, after I opened the building, I went upstairs and located the files that she had mentioned on that vacant desk. I was surprised to see that there was quite a few files.

JK: You were surprised?

JL: Ya, well, I just thought she was going to leave a file or two on a desk and when I got up there there was, there was probably manila folders stacked approximately a foot tall.

JK: And these were all civil cases?

JL: Yes.

JK: And what did you do with these files?

JL: I had one of my deputies who used to work in the Civil Division go through them and make copies of judgments, basically whether or not . . .

JK: You had who do that?

JL: Deputy Christopher Stone.

JK: Does he work for you?

JL: Yes.

JK: He works currently for the Sheriff's Department?

JL: Yup.

JK: So he made copies of these files?

JL: Not everything in there, just when you first open it there's judgment for whatever happened at that case. I think some of the things dated quite a ways back so he just made copies of what he believed to be pertinent information.

JK: What did he do with that information?

JL: I believe he, obviously put everything together in one packet and I believe he put it in a manila folder or inter-department envelope to send over to Major Pierce.

JK: Did you do anything else with these files?

JL: No. Well, no I did not. He indicated it took him quite some time. He came back downstairs and told me that he was going to be there for quite a while because there was a lot of stuff to copy and he made copies of everything. Obviously put all of the originals back in the folder. We notified the Clerk that everything was, ya know, we were done with all of her files and that she could have them back and then he made the copies and like I said put them in a manila envelope or, ya know, inter-department office envelope to forward to the Major who had asked me to . . .

JK: Did you do anything else with the files?

JL: No, just left them on that desk and just notified the Clerk that we were done with them and that she could file them.

JK: Did you ever see any of this information again?

JL: No.

JK: Did you ever ask the Major what he was doing with this information?

JL: No.

JK: Did you go to any other courts and get any information?

JL: No.

JK: You didn't go to the Exeter District Court?

RT: Is Exeter District based at Rockingham?

JK: Ya, actually it is.

JL: That's a good question. I don't know if I went to Exeter. I might have asked Exeter if they had anything. I don't recall having Chris or myself makes copies from Exeter. And I might have asked if there was anything.

JK: You might have done something.

JL: I may have asked the clerk if there was anything but I don't recall anything from Exeter at all.

JK: Okay. It would have made sense if you went to Exeter District if you went to Rockingham?

JL: Yes.

JK: All in one building?

JL: Yes.

JK: So if we found information from Exeter District Court would it be surprising that you gathered that information?

JL: Not necessarily, no cause I don't remember doing it. I mean obviously everybody else in the department has access to Exeter.

JK: Uh hum.

JL: Not just myself, so the only thing I recall is the civil division. If there was information from Exeter I don't remember providing it.

JK: Okay. Do you recall getting any criminal information or asking for any criminal information?

JL: No I do not.

JK: So when you were in Rockingham, you spoke to the clerk, you only spoke to the civil clerk or did you speak to the clerk of court, who did you speak to?

JL: Sandy Pease who was the clerk of the civil division.

JK: Sandy who?

JL: Sandy Pease.

DT: How do you spell her last name?

JL: P-E-A-S-E.

JK: So you did not look for any criminal. Did Major Pierce ask you to look for criminal records?

JL: No, just the civil, civil judgments, that's what he had asked for.

JK: Did you understand this to be part of the election?

JL: Yes.

JK: Then why else would you be looking for David Lovejoy's civil judgments?

JL: Right, for the election. I know there was, I remember media articles that came out. I think he was, I think actually David Lovejoy was trying to sue the Sheriff.

JK: Uh hum.

JL: I think. So I knew that he had written an article or had a reporter write an article relating to Sheriff Lenehan.

JK: Do you remember what the article was in reference to?