

To whom it may concern;

In August of 2020, I, Travis C. Hakes, was made aware that the Barron County District Attorney's Office had some concerns regarding statements I made on Body Camera, which I voluntarily chose to record, I chose to save, and I notified management that it should be attached to the case file.

On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 2020, I, Travis C. Hakes was on duty for the City of Chetek. During my shift I was contacted by the Barron County District Communications Center to respond to either an address on [REDACTED] City of Chetek to conduct a check welfare on the complainant's ex-wife and 2 male children as the complainant was informed that the Ex-Wife's new boyfriend had been significantly domestically violent and the complainant was concerned for the welfare of her and his children.

Due to law enforcement contacts with the family I was aware that the ex-wife was [REDACTED] and the addresses were her residence, and the other was her Grandmother's. I first responded to the address on [REDACTED], which I knew was [REDACTED] Grandmother's address and I informed dispatch. I was immediately met by [REDACTED] in the drive-way of her Grandmother's residence on [REDACTED]. The very first thing [REDACTED] said to me was that she was "scared to death." [REDACTED] went onto say that she was unaware of who notified the police of the situation; I explained to her who called. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] would not leave her house, she expressed she did not want to go into details, because she was fearful of the threats [REDACTED] had made. I established that there was a domestic related relationship, due to the fact that [REDACTED] was getting mail at [REDACTED] residence and she stated that he lived there. In the first 2 minutes of my conversation I established that there was a domestic partnership and that something occurred meeting the mandatory arrest requirements set by the state statutes; which [REDACTED] confirmed but would not provide details.

I then explained to [REDACTED] that in the past there have been situations where Domestic complaints have included confidential informants where the records pertaining to their testimony had been sealed (this did happen with a case I had in Chippewa County). My conversation with [REDACTED] was an attempt to get her to feel safe talking to Law Enforcement about the situation, due to the fact that I was aware the mandatory arrest requirements had already been met; I was just not aware if it would be disorderly conduct as opposed to battery at the time. I went onto explain to [REDACTED] that I needed grounds to arrest him, what I was attempting to do was discover if [REDACTED] was fearful from previous physical assault(s) or verbal assault(s); either way it was apparent she was fearful. [REDACTED] made a comment that she would be afraid even if [REDACTED] went to jail for 10 years, and got out. I explained to [REDACTED] that the fact she felt her life was threatened would be a good factor for the courts to consider keeping [REDACTED] incarcerated.

During my entire contact with [REDACTED] she attempted to get me to be deceptive with her children, her ex-husband, [REDACTED], and everyone else; which I was aware would need to be disclosed to the courts. When I explained to [REDACTED] that details would need to be discussed, but there were grounds to arrest [REDACTED] for disorderly conduct; but further details may allow him to be held longer. [REDACTED] asked if it was "off record" I vaguely implied it might be, but I knew it was being recorded and I planned to save the video.

I then left the residence, and shut off my body camera to contact Chief Ron Ambrozaitis to inform him that I believed I was taking a complaint of a mandatory arrest for domestic abuse; but that the victim was reluctant to disclose full details. I inquired about contacting the on-call District Attorney which Chief Ambrozaitis encouraged me to do regarding using [REDACTED] as a confidential informant.

I then contacted the on-call District Attorney Brian Wright at 11:59AM, to speak with him about [REDACTED] being used as a confidential informant. I was informed that it was possible but not probable she could be used as an informant. Due to these phone conversations, I was under the impression that this matter would be reviewed carefully to determine if this case could be prosecuted without her cooperation, or with her being a confidential informant which caused me to reference certain things being omitted or not disclosed. I was fully aware that all information would be turned over to the District Attorney's Office which I saved, and it was turned over for their review, hence the existence of the information contained within this file.

This can be apparent based on the conversation I started in the garage in the second body camera recording. During this conversation, I explained to her that [REDACTED] would ultimately discover that I spoke with her, because I knew the video I was creating would be submitted to the court; and if they used her as a confidential informant that was the courts decision on what is or isn't released to the defendant.

During this second video you can also clearly see [REDACTED] trying to get me to be deceptive with other parties whom may review this case; during which time I ignore, clearly did not do hide things. Example of this would be regarding what her children were or were not exposed to. I also called Probation and Parole during this video, which they later called me and advised that [REDACTED] would be placed on a hold based on the information provided.

What was identified as "problematic" and allowed to be played in Barron County Court was from video "file #3" and identified on the date and time (which was inaccurate) as 1/1/2019 at 19:02:30 to 19:03:17. I attempted to inform [REDACTED] that sometimes video from confidential informants was not released, during which time I was attempting to get her to feel more comfortable discussing this situation with me. At no point in time, did I ever delete any body camera footage ever; and in this case I documented as well as recorded every contact I had with [REDACTED]. All of my conversations with [REDACTED] were recorded or in text, all of which were discussed with both my supervisors at the Chetek Police Department and saved within their departmental records, but not all released to me.

Our Department did not currently have policies in place regarding the use Body Cameras. At the time I had previously recorded body camera footage of people who did not wish to cooperate explaining how they witnessed crimes being committed; which I was informed the Barron County District Attorney's Office did not use, which resulted in a burglary never being charged.

The forth body camera recording was generated as attempt to make contact with [REDACTED]. I had a valid arrest warrant issued through Probation and Parole for [REDACTED], who I observed in our records management software to flagged with a caution indicator as being violent to law enforcement. Due to the caution indicators, as well as the fact that I smelt the odor of marijuana coming from open windows; I called out for [REDACTED] I knew [REDACTED] wasn't there, but I was hoping [REDACTED] would come to the door if he did

not believe I was looking for him. Due to [REDACTED]'s known caution indicator towards law enforcement it was my intention to take him into custody as safely as possible for him as well as myself.

Which is why on the 5th video generated you can see the blind is pulled shut, but the window is open; hence why I spoke loud to [REDACTED] about looking at the home to see if it was "safe" for the children due to the check welfare. I was still attempting to take custody of [REDACTED] as safely as possible. This is apparent on how I immediately head downstairs when I entered the home. [REDACTED] was hiding in the bathroom, when he exited the bathroom he was visibly sweating, and tense. When I grabbed [REDACTED]'s arm he was flexing and I tried to ease the tension by asking about the children, and saying I was unaware of why there was a probation warrant for [REDACTED]. After I secured [REDACTED] I transported him, once at the jail, I explained to [REDACTED] that there was a Domestic Abuse investigation that would be conducted.

The video pertaining to [REDACTED] and I speaking in her kitchen after [REDACTED] was in custody, I was attempting to get [REDACTED] to complete written statements. During this time [REDACTED] asked if it was "off the record" and I implied it was; but clearly I knew it wasn't; because I was recording it and submitted the video. I indicated that we would know more "tomorrow" which was referring to Monday, after I presumed my Department supervision and the Barron County District Attorney's Office would review the case. I presumed a decision would be made regarding whether or not [REDACTED] would be considered a confidential informant or not. I just tried to redirect her to cooperating with completing the forms. At the end of the video you can hear me say, "this is dying." and the video ends; because my body camera battery died. The conversations I was clearly trying to have with [REDACTED] and continued to have with [REDACTED] were regarding her completing the Domestic Abuse Paperwork. I wanted her to complete the paperwork, so I could complete my report which would have included her cooperation. With her written statements and her full cooperation including medical release forms in hand there would be no need for her to be treated as a confidential informant. This conversation continued for nearly 2 hours, before I finally realized she would not cooperate that day; and the forms were left which took her over a month to return.

In my report regarding the matter, I did not express that I in fact first responded to [REDACTED] before I responded to [REDACTED]. I did however, imply it; and I also testified under oath at a Probation Revocation Hearing regarding the order of events. [REDACTED] subsequently had his probation revoked at the Judge informed Probation that he found me, "incredibly creditable" regarding this matter. My report had no information regarding using [REDACTED] as a confidential informant, for the purpose that it would have been counterproductive. I was unaware that concerns I had expressed with Department Supervision as well as the Barron County District Attorney's Office were apparently verbally not communicated appropriately. I requested a copy of this report for my records, as well as to provide to the Chippewa County District Attorney and Cornell Chief of Police; I was apparently not given the full report. The report I was given indicates pages 1 - 10 and on page 10 it indicates page 10 of 10. Pages 11 - 13 indicate the report is 19 pages long. I am unaware of what pages 14 - 19 consist of, but am aware that [REDACTED] did take her own life; which I assume has some connection to this matter.

After I was made aware of the Barron County District Attorney's "concerns" regarding this case, I was never spoken to about it prior to that. I was supposed to have a meeting with them regarding it, which they cancelled. I voluntarily took two weeks off from work to review how I wished to pursue my career

in Law Enforcement. During this time I found myself reflecting on times when I was ordered to do things "deceptively" or against State recommended guidelines for areas such as the Crime Laboratory. I found myself reflecting on administrative differences I wished would have been handled differently regarding the operations of our Department.

I then contacted Chief Hurt of the Cornell Police Department and expressed the situation as well as my concerns with it. Chief Hurt expressed in interest in employing me on a Part-Time basis.

I reviewed my commitments to businesses I have outside of Law Enforcement; and most importantly my commitment to being a single Father of a young son.

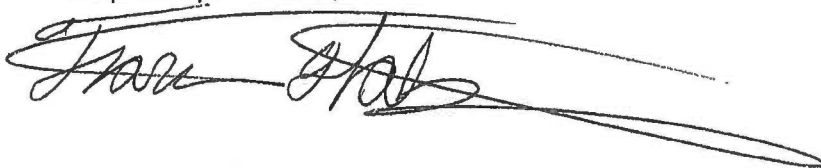
I chose to resign from the City of Chetek, without an official complaint, and no investigation being conducted. I am confident that if I would have requested one occur, if need be, I would have returned to work with the City of Chetek, but it was not where I wanted to pursue the remainder of my career.

Since leaving the City of Chetek, I have been scheduled to testify in two open cases. One is a criminal controlled substance arrest where body camera footage was deleted by the Chief of Police in Chetek. The Barron County District Attorney's Office stated that they did not feel the release of the section of video aforementioned in this statement would be that detrimental to the case. The presiding Judge reviewed this matter and stated that he did not believe I acted in malicious nor in violation of Brady / Giglio. The Judge stated that it was his impression I was trying to soothe a clearly distraught victim and was encouraging her to be honest as well as explain what occurred.

At the end of the day, I may have said some things, taken out of context, that were inappropriate. I never said or did anything to benefit myself, nor did I hide anything. There was a communication break down between myself, my command staff, and the District Attorney's Office that should have never occurred.

Clearly, the District Attorney's Office in Barron County will continue to use my testimony as they have me scheduled to testify at trials. This was a lesson hard learned that ultimately guided my career in a different direction, but no one feels should be a career ending situation. Any further questions, comments, or concerns; please communicate them to me.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Hakes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Travis C. Hakes