

# Chief second conversation Feb 10.WAV

Good afternoon. Yes, ma'am. Is your wicking I can speak with the mayor's office. My name is Tom Donohue. I have a problem with the way I was treated by your Police Department. Okay, and I have concerns about your Internal Affairs Department as well. Okay. Let me see in your name this Donahue. Are you a resident of bleep?

I'm actually southeast DC resident. I was doing some shopping at your Walmart on the third and had an encounter with one of your officers that I was basically was walking into the Walmart notice that two of your units were outside running like on without anybody around it. And the only reason I even pondered it for a quick second was because that day I.

I had been on a phone call with our I had was on a zooming with our with ANC Commissioners who had discussed that one of our Southeast either one of our our units were stolen because the officer had left the unit on and so I was just wondering frankly if there was if this was a normal policy that you know departments had and stuff. So I was just shopping for about 40 minutes and I came inside.

Last time I went outside and there was an offer on the phone. It's just kind of hung around for a second to see you know, if you would acknowledge means if I can ask a quick question which he did and he his behavior and attitude was completely unprofessional especially ask, you know, a citizen whether I'm a direct tax paying citizen, although we kill do not retail security attacks, whatever, you know, I'm still doing business in your in your in your area.

You know basically flat out told me that multiple times that it was none of my concern of which I became defensive and began to understand, you know to explain to him that it is of my concern and didn't frankly would be his it should be his his concerned that he thinks that it's not my concern and and I you know, I even went to a point of view no suggesting that he you know, he checked himself because I think I thought he was out of line.

I kept it completely professional. I mean the only thing he did was increase escalated didn't know I mean, it wasn't even supposed to be anything. It was just a question. Well, mr. Donaghy, I think the chief of police is here his to be his immediate supervisor. I've actually gone through him and I gone through his Internal Affairs and I have recordings of the conversation because I actually had.

The conversations with him on my my office line here in Southeast DC and it just and I thought about it after I've been pondering it for several days as you can tell today's the 10th and I just went and actually called pulled the video the audio from it and really do think that a little further to the point where your turtles are. Your internal first apartment was.

Well, I don't know if we really have a internal affairs Department. I think we had something on board. But we have a I'm going to see if I can get someone for you or he identified him as internal affairs. So can I just give you the mayor's email address and then I'm going to see if I could get someone to help you, you know, I mean if you have an officer identifying themselves as internal affairs, and he's not Internal Affairs. Well, I'm not sure.

So I'm just going to give you the okay. Okay?

And also blend over Hills is where the Walmart is. It's not in Bladensburg, but it may have been a Bladensburg police officer would definitely was I mean, I have your welcome and one moment, please.

Okay, the person I was going to get if he was available through which he's not but he may be just send it back for a moment. She like the old I don't know if with capacity he may be in now, but I'm going to see if he if you want to hold it when he gets back. It's can take your call sure. Otherwise, you have the mayor's contact email information. Sure. Yes.

Hey, so like a strong dog in the background. Oh, yeah, my kid need what if you don't have such good companions. I love dogs. I don't have one of my own right now though everything to me. Hi, mr. Bauman who has continued to hold he may have told me he was going out, but I did not hear him. But if you'd like to hold out, just great. Thank you.

Hi. Mrs. Donahue. Did you talk to the chief of police already said yes.

He'll be with you in just a moment. Please. Great. Thank you.

You calling hello? Hello? Hi Chief. Yes. Yes, sir. I was actually looking for a member of the mayor's office.

How many accounts that don't work full-time here? No, they don't work full-time here. They were they are part time.

All right. I'm not sure I was why I was connected to you. Is it something that we can help you with? No, I just found on you you and I spoke in regards to the issue at Walmart. Right? And I have some real concerns about the way that that this is being handled. So including a member of your department identifying themselves as internal affairs calling me what you spoke to Lieutenant.

Yes, he is internal Faith. Okay. Well the way that he handled the phone call was nothing like what I would expect an internal affairs investigation or discussion to take to happen. So I'm escalating this to the mayor's office because I'm concerned about the the conversation that I had so I know I'm not your resident of your of your city of your area. However, I am very concerned about this. This the way that this was handled so which which plots are I mean, we would like to resolve this and I'm not sure how would you like this result but we do have a policy. So I'm just trying to understand what part of it. Were you dissatisfied with. Well, I'm just got excited with the way it's been being handled and interact with all due respect sir. I do not agree with the way that you sir. Handle it yourself and they don't agree with told you how I handled it. So, well the way that the way that you handled it with me our conversation how you were you were you were literally the one on the phone with them while I had this conversation with this officer. Yes. Well, we were as I explained to you as we were addressing a.

Incident involving a individual with a handgun.

So yeah, guys we got to get was which of which I believe was either has been completed or near being completed because there was no indication. Okay. Well, you don't know what the timing is Sir. So I was gonna no idea whether they telephone when I was on the phone as I explained to you when the officer was when you approach them and I heard the exchange and like I told.

You on the foul first goal that I'm not telling you whether I agree with them or disagree with them, but it is a we do not expect our cars to be left money and at that moment we were dealing with a individual armed with a handgun and the shopping center.

With there were people including yourself inside the shopping center, right? And so.

My point is that I don't agree with the way that you handled it you can I just ask you if that's okay frankly the way that you're talking to me on the phone if I had been on the phone and I would have been the chief of police on the phone with that gentleman. I mean I even had to tell the officer that I thought that he needed to check himself.

And for you to be actually on the phone with him at the time and him being even blazing enough to to to treat me the way he did while his chief of police is on the phone makes me very concerned. Well, let me let me just say this to you again miss about here.

I didn't say whether I agree with him with with the way he was speaking to you. Why wouldn't you and do not hit me out? I didn't say to you that whether or not I agree with him or didn't agree with them. And as I said, we do not expect our officers to be disrespectful to anyone. It's the Y while on the phone with him. Did you did you not.

Are you a dream that are you are you assuming that will be continuing the conversation between him and I had gone on for ya know several minutes and I asked him to step away the deescalate the situation between you and him to walk away. Alright interested to deescalate the situation.

Okay, so so so your name is is the answer to your question to an inquiry from a citizen say that again so so.

Snoring him and ignoring someone responded to you he gave you a response, but I can tell you is none of my concern. It was it was all gone and like I explained to you we were dealing with a subject of armed subject and the shopping center with patrons inside the shopping center. I needed to get information from him. I asked him to DIA to in order to deescalate the situation to separate himself from you.

You.

No I couldn't have been there from my house to that location to physically step between the two of you. So I had to ask him to step away from you to deescalate diffuse the situation or anything else. I don't think there was a situation. I was just asking a simple question. However, he escalated to a point where he was telling me. It was none of my concern so given the fact that you were on the phone with him while he said that.

You know D escalating it just to walk away and ignore me or to dismiss me the sir. He did not ignore what you well he gave you a response. But again, he's trying to tell you that he would he was he was going to handle that but at the same time we're trying to deal with the individual of the individual inside of the shopping center. I'm not understanding where you are not seeing the severity of writing lives Mike.

Inside of a a shopping center with arm individual my personal opinion sir. Is that the the person who you're referring to had already been taken away? That's that's what I believe. He has not been taken away. Okay. Well a Freedom of Information Act out request. I'll find out when I point. My point is that there was there was if there were so many that dangerous in the in the in the in the Walmart for there being too casual officers one. You're just kind of cash.

Usually standing inside and one talking to you outside. It doesn't it doesn't ring very important. So I think what happened is the gentleman the person that you that that had begun probably had left and this in your Corporal was talking to you and feel you filling you in at that point as to what had what had happened. That's my gut feeling I could be wrong. Yes, and I would tell you 100% Well, I have no reason. Listen Miss Donna. I have no reason to lie to you.

Or given him in the department sir. I have I mean and the way that you were public to your Internal Affairs Department Silver's responded. I have I do I'm not sure that I'm you know warm and fuzzy about your department in general.

I mean your silver your what was the concern you had with? What was his behavior on the phone? First of all, I couldn't get a word out edgewise. All he wanted to do was to defend your officer didn't even listen to me.

But I had to tell him do you want to hear this? So when I called just now asking for a member of the mayor's department or the mayor's office when I said Internal Affairs the woman she just did sort of that may be that that was that that Internal Affairs or whether it's anyway is it made me question it but if you're saying that there's a he's from your Internal Affairs, I'll take it as as your word, but.

You know the way he behaves certainly did not in any way prevent himself as internal affairs Department if he was investigating something with one of his officers, then the the conversation that I had with him was shameful. Well Miss Donna, I mean, I'm not sure what that conversation was between you and him, you know you.

Begins to me now and I'm trying to resolve this and provide you with as much information that I can to help you understand that the complexity and the severity of the situation that they will handle in that evening and you're going to bring your individual was not taken away from the location at that point. He was still there. So the Prince George's County officers officers that I saw leave the parking lot when I arrived then they I thought you.

Were waiting for so many from Prince George's County to actually take they did not take the individual weight at that point. The individual was still there. Okay. Well game they came when we actually additional units because it was a slight disturbance there. They call for additional units. They came they show Once the situation was was under control. They left went back to their normal duties or wherever they came from. Okay. So the tips it to the situation was under control when I had arrived.

To a certain degree that their struggle because they were other individuals with this individual. Well the officers to make sure that the officers were safe while they were doing their job they call for additional units because they were other individuals with this person and I thought that was your officers responding as backup or was a primary.

Three. Yes, what miles is were there on the scene at the time that this this this started and where they primary or backup or will know we call Prince George's for backup. So all the pictures officers left and left Bladensburg police officers there. Yes, they did even though it's their jurisdiction. Yes, they didn't notice another situation that we're trying to deal with but the answer

you question and to be transparent. Yes.

Leftmost is there.

Okay that aside because again, there was no sense of urgency of problems of and you know, like I said and I informed you that I have been a former assistant store manager for Walmart. So I'm very familiar with how you know, there was no digit. There was no commotion. There was no concern there was no, you know, it didn't look like there was anything really going on to be honest with you now the other his partner Humphries.

I was in the doorway. What of what I assume is your Square security office off of the this customer service desk area. And of course Humphrey was outside on the phone with you. You know, I'm freezing certainly, you know gave me the opportunity to have a good discussion with him and his response while on the phone with you concerning. I know this is no big deal. No big thing.

But and it's not that big of a deal and I agree. However, and I'm I'm thinking of your time on something very something that's that's not all that important. However, it doesn't matter because if it's important to you, it's important to me. So I don't mind, you know, giving up my time to you know to hear you. I'll have this discussion. But if you know, I just want to end I told you in the beginning. I'm very thankful that you took the time to try to you know.

Look out for our cruises because I heard you mention I'll call was stolen in and the District of Columbia and and someone like you being out there with the hopefully, you know be a deterrent about one of our cars being taken right so you can understand. I hope that when I'm having a simple inquiry with one of your officers, and he tells me it's none of his business or it's basically none of my concern while on the phone with the police of chili with the police of Chief of Police. You know granted you're right. I don't understand what conversation you and him had while I was on the phone or what you were saying to him while I was on the phone while I was talking with him given the fact that his demeanor didn't change and frankly. It was more challenging than anything and that the fact that he said that it was none of my concern multiple times while on the phone with you that his demeanor continued to be challenging all the way up until the point of me leaving the.

Listen to a point where he even asked me when he asked me if I was harassing him, you know, what was this intense? But behind that I have no idea what his intent why he acts you that but again, I will say again that I asked him to step away to diffuse the situation because it sounded like you both were shouting at each other and I needed to get information that but I also at the same time, don't we?

One more officer engaged in a verbal altercation with a civilian. So at that point I asked him to set step away and hopefully that would diffuse and deescalate the situation. Do you think a little more appropriate response would have been just answering the question? Well, I thought he did answer your questions. He basically told me multiple times. It was none of my concern and you were on the phone with answer. So that's my that's my point. And what I'm saying to you is again. You know, we're dealing with the situation. I'm not sure if you're going to understand that part of it you're going to receive that part that we would is it was more important for us at that point to handle the situation with a person at a location a public location with a handgun. Okay. Well, that's what we were dealing with and and my response would be then he could have said something to me about that. He could have you know, he didn't have to acknowledge me at all to begin even having a conversation.

Action with him, he could have you know, if you're leaving look what was an armed person in the Walmart store with one officer while the other is outside. It just doesn't add up. I mean, you know, if this person was a threat or of concern, why wasn't he in the back of a unit? Why is he sitting in Walmart's Security office with one other officer because the office is handling the investigation. Well, I have more.

I mean you hope you've opened more questions to me than anything. Well, that's fine. But you know, and I'm here to answer your questions. I don't have a problem with that. But it you know, I just want to make sure that you know, you have an understanding of I mean you what you think and what we're going to do within the law is going to be two different things sometimes sure. I'm just because we have the we have to do our due diligence before we take someone away and

handcuffs and that's what.

We're going to do we're going to take out time and methodically work through the situation. Well, and I would say then if you have a somebody that was in Walmart with an art with armed that you have put in handcuffs if he's just sitting there in the security office with one officer standing in the doorway your other officers outside.

You know having a discussion with you seems like it's probably either been a diffused situation or you or you know, so my conversation with your officer, which he invited, you know didn't need to be dismissed like like it was and so, you know, I don't know what was going on with your detainee and you know why it wasn't in one of your units or whatever.

I mean, it doesn't seem like it's the best place to keep him inside of a Walmart store if you had a gun and there was a concern with that. I think it would probably be in a secret place to have them in one of your units with the door shut but you know.

This isn't just a particularly about one situation. This is about the the tone in the the respect in general that I think is afforded to every citizen especially asking a you know, asking of a particular policy that you know, isn't that should be important to you. I certainly could have jumped into any one of those units. Not that I would and right off with one of your Cruisers and probably not have.

Known about until whenever they came out and I was inside for about 40 minutes or so and then to be told and dismissed basically that it was none of that's none of my concern not just one time multiple times while on the phone with the chief of police overhearing the conversation and to include that the chief of police asked the officer at that point in time to step away from you to diffuse and deescalate.

Uh, I don't think that that was an unreasonable suggestion from the chief of police listening to two individuals arguing back and forth yelling at each others might not say and to step away. I think that that was a very reasonable instructions that I gave to the officers to keep the situation from escalating any further. I actually also to step away to diffuse the situation. Okay well and. Fine, we may disagree you haven't said anyway, so I would like to have a good discussion with this with the with the mayor's office. I think it's important that they're aware of the situation. I'm going to share with her an audio conversation that I had with your Internal Affairs Department because it's clear that that you know, he was in complete.

Defense the entire time of your officer rather than even, you know, hearing the out which raises even more concerns about the internal affairs department and how fair it may or may not be if this is a response. I'm getting back from your Internal Affairs Department investigating a complaint that I had is concerning sir.

Okay, I understand what you're saying and I'm not trying to I'm not trying to create a problem. I'm not trying to you know, I'm not one of those types of people that but this is the this is evolved into you know, something that has raised more concerns of mine as a citizen then than anything and I'm not sure that that you're confident that your Internal Affairs Department certainly is not going to look at.

At this, you know in the eyes of a, you know, a middleman or middle person or or to evaluate it fairly based upon the conversation that I have and I and fortunately for me all my conversations for my home office are recorded so they can go back and listen to details if I miss anything with a client of mine. I had not thought about that until just recently last couple days of which I because it's been on my mind. It really has been positive. I've been.

During it really been thinking about how irritated it was making me. So I actually went back and listened to it. And I'm very I feel very confident on the concern that I have the way it was handled and it and and and especially with your Internal Affairs department. So I think it needs to be reviewed and considered when it comes to your department. Well at me I would love to sit down with you and listen to the sound bite that you have what?

You you're saying you recorded the lieutenant, correct? The all of my phone calls. I might I might all of my calls on my phone incoming outgoing are automatically recorded simply for the purposes of review for like with my clients. Would that include this phone call? Yes, it would but you'd never advised me that you record me. If you have a concern with me recording you as you know, it's a the laws of DC.

Is being recorded here in DC and in Southeast DC make it legal. However, I'm surprised it having it recorded would even concern you to begin with. Well, I'm not sorry, but it would have been more professional that you had if you wanted to be called me which I don't have a problem with you record me. But why are we talking about it? Because you telling me that you have a recording device.

Showing your telephone and you record all your calls, which they are. You know, what's happening laws sure. But again as we both know Indies in Washington DC it is a one-party consent. Well, I'm in Maryland rolling is a two-party consent, but what's being recorded out of DC. I'm physically admire. I might home office location, so.

You know again, it's not it's not all of my car. All of them are done that way. So it's not that I right if I like 35 minutes into a conversation.

Yes, sir. Okay. Would I have gotten a different response from you? Absolutely not. Okay. There's nothing to worry about to be professional that you would have said that but I don't have a problem. It's not required that like I told you before I don't have a problem with anything that I've said to you. I think I've been more than helpful still you. I've been more than professional to you to try to you know, put this matter to rest.

And and hopefully gain your trust without Police Department, you know, that's why I told you ask as many questions as you want. I'm okay. I will you you admit it that you were taking up my time with something that you didn't think was really that concerned. But if it concerns you concerns me, thank you. I appreciate that. Well, thank you again for your time. I don't see us. Additional information and like I said again nothing personal. I don't know you I don't know the officers. I don't know anybody from your area. The only thing I know is the way I was treated when I went to Walmart to buy some some slacks. So, you know, this is nothing personal. However, I do I do have some elevated levels of concern that I do that I will discuss with the mayor's office. Okay. All right, will you.

More than welcome to do that. Thank you, sir. You take care and have a good day. Thank you, too.