



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of State Police

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Detective Unit - Worcester County

19 Midstate Drive

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December 30, 2008

To: Detective Lieutenant Richard D. McKeon #1510, Unit Commander
Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit-Worcester

From: Trooper Jeffrey E. Perry #3494
Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit-Worcester

Subject: Assist Warren Police Department with Larceny of Town Highway Department
Property alleged against: Raymond R. Blais, DOB: [REDACTED], SSN: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], of [REDACTED]
Case# 2008-115-0776

1. On Wednesday, December 3, 2008, at approximately 10:00 a.m., the undersigned officer was assigned by Detective Lieutenant Richard McKeon of the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit-Worcester to investigate the larceny of town equipment alleged against Warren Highway Department employee Raymond R. Blais. DLt. McKeon elaborated that Warren Police Chief Bruce D. Spiewakowski, had initiated the investigation at the request of the Warren Board of Selectmen after it was discovered that several pieces of construction equipment were missing.

2. On Wednesday, December 3, 2008, at approximately 10:30 a.m., the undersigned reviewed Chief Spiewakowski's report. This report identified the three pieces of missing backhoe equipment; a swinging coupler (a.k.a. wrist twister), a 24" digging bucket, and a 48" grading bucket. Chief Spiewakowski's report went on to identify several witnesses that provided information that identified Blais as selling the equipment for an unknown sum of money

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES MASS. STATE POLICE
YEAR/DIST/CRIME/CASE
2008-115-0776
SERIAL#
<i>2509</i>

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estimated at \$250.00 to a New Braintree resident identified as James Daley. (Refer to Warren Police Department report #08-0327-OF for Further Information.)

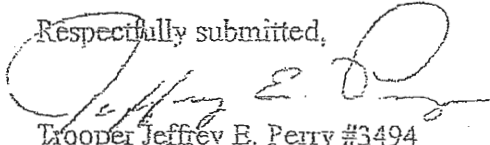
3. On Friday, December 5, 2008, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Raymond Blais having waived his Miranda rights provided a voluntary statement to the undersigned officer in the presence of Tpr. Patrick McStay at the Office of the State Police Detectives located at #19 Midstate Drive, Auburn, Massachusetts. In essence, Blais stated admitted that he was responsible for taking the equipment and transferring it to a high school friend, James Daley, however, Blais continually denied having accepted any compensation as a result of the transaction. Blais elaborated that the Warren Highway Superintendent, Gary Odiorne, had authorized Blais to "get rid" of the equipment. When confronted with witness statements outlined in Chief Spiewakowski's report which implicated Blais in the sale of the equipment, Blais refuted all allegations stating that he believed everyone was lying because of an ongoing rift in the Highway Department surrounding a pending ~~sexual harassment~~ ^{SEXUAL HARASSMENT} complaint. (Refer to Video of Blais' Statement for Further Information.)

4. On Tuesday, December 30, 2008, at approximately 10:30 a.m., James Daley provided a written statement to the undersigned officer in the presence of Tpr. Keith Egan at the Daley residence located at ~~_____~~. In essence, Daley stated that he had received the equipment from Blais at the old highway barn around October of 2007. According to Daley, Blais stated that Odiorne had given permission to give the equipment away. Daley denied providing any type of compensation to Blais for the equipment. (Refer to Attached Daley Statement for Further Information.)

5. On Monday, January 26, 2009, at approximately 10:30 a.m., the undersigned met with the Warren Highway Superintendent, Gary Odiorne, at the Highway Department facility located at #87 Brimfield Road in Warren. In essence, Odiorne stated that he gave Blais permission to "get rid" on the equipment in question and the two never had any conversation regarding compensation. (Refer to Attached Odiorne Statement for Further Information.)

5. At this time, the undersigned officer respectfully requests this case closed pending further information that would warrant it's re-opening.

Respectfully submitted,



Trooper Jeffrey E. Perry #3494
Massachusetts State Police
State Police Detective Unit-Worcester

Statement of:

Gary D. Odiome

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: [REDACTED]

The following statement was given to Trooper Jeffrey E. Perry #3494 by Gary Odiome on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 10:30 a.m., at the Warren Highway Department located at #87 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA.

Q: Is the following statement you are providing the complete truth?

A: Yes.

Q: How are you employed?

A: Highway Superintendant for the Town of Warren.

Q: How long have you held this position?

A: 8 ½ years

Q: How many people do you supervise?

A: 5

Q: Why are we here today?

A: Because of the misplaced equipment.

Q: What equipment are you referring to?

A: 2 backhoe buckets and 1 Wayne Roy Twister Whist

Q: How much are those pieces of equipment worth?

A: Each bucket was about \$250.00 and the twister was about \$2300.00 new, but it is in need of repair, around \$100.00.

Q: What happened to these pieces of equipment?

A: When the Highway Department was moving from the old location to the new location around May or June 2008, Raymond Blais asked me what we were going to do with the equipment. He told me he knew someone that was interested in them and he asked me if he could get rid of them.

Q: What does "get rid of" mean to you?

A: Give them away.

Q: Did you give Blais permission to get rid of the equipment?

A: Yes, I verbally told him that he could.

Q: Who is Raymond Blais?
A: He's my Foreman/Equipment Operator.

Q: How long has he worked for you?
A: 8 ½ years

Q: Are you a friend of Blais?
A: Kind of, yes, we've done things together like camping.

Q: Was there any talk between you and Raymond Blais about selling the equipment?
A: No, not at all.

Q: Has the Warren Highway Dept. ever given any equipment away in the past similar to this incident?
A: Yes, old tires, rims, old cutting edges.

Q: Were these items given to employees or the general public?
A: Whoever... Like contractor, general people, it wasn't a practice but it happened occasionally.

Q: Did Blais tell you where the equipment went?
A: No.

Q: Do you know Jim Daley?
A: Not personally, no.

Q: Did Blais "get rid" of the equipment on work or personal time?
A: Personal time.

Q: Did anyone on the Highway Dept. help Blais?
A: Not to my knowledge.

Q: Does Blais have permission to use Town property on personal time?
A: No.

Q: How did this incident become an issue?
A: It was brought to my attention by 2 or 3 of my employees, Larry Pease, Patty Leboeuf, and Armond Valois, who overheard Blais saying that he sold the equipment in the bar at the American Legion Post in West Brookfield around September or October.

Q: Did you ever confront Blais?
A: No, I didn't talk to him.

Q: Do you think your other employees are lying?
A: No.

- Q: Did you tell the other employees that you gave permission to Blais to "get rid" of the equipment.
- A: No.
- Q: Why didn't you tell the other employees that you gave Blais permission to "get rid" of the equipment?
- A: I don't know. I can't remember. I might have mentioned it to Larry.
- Q: What was going on internally at the Highway Dept. during this time?
- A: Patty Lebeouf had made allegations [REDACTED] against Ray.
- Q: Was there a faction at the Highway Dept. that was against Ray?
- A: Yes, Armand & Larry sided with Patty.
- Q: But you still believe Armand & Larry were being truthful about hearing that Ray sold the equipment?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Did you receive any compensation in the form of cash, favors, trade, or merchandise as a result of Ray "getting rid" of the equipment?
- A: None at all.
- Q: Did you specifically tell Blais that he could not profit from the equipment?
- A: No. I didn't because I didn't think he was going to, I figured that he knew that.
- Q: Did Blais sell the equipment?
- A: Not to my knowledge. I can't tell you. I don't think he did. I have no proof that he did.
- Q: As a result of this investigation has the Town reached an agreement with Blais?
- A: Yes, he was suspended for 15 working days and he was given a document that had stipulations to follow.
- Q: Where is the equipment now?
- A: It's out back, behind the building.
- Q: Did you ever tell Blais to return this equipment?
- A: Yes, soon after I heard there was a State Police investigation I told Ray that he needed to get the equipment back.
- Q: If you or Ray hadn't done anything wrong, why have the equipment returned?
- A: I felt as though they belonged to the Town and I hadn't gone about it in the right way. It wasn't the right thing to do. We should have put it out to bid and followed the right procedure. It was a spur of the moment thing.
- Q: Anything else to add?

A: I learned a valuable lesson from this and I've done a lot of talking to the selectmen about it.

/s/ Gary D. Odiorne 11:30 a.m. 1/26/09

Statement of:

James P. Daley

DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Home

The following statement was given to Tpr. Jeffrey B. Perry #3494 and Tpr. Keith Egan #2733 by James P. Daley on Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at approximately 10:30 a.m. at #359 Barr Road, New Braintree, MA.

Q: Is the following statement you are about to provide the complete truth?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you know why we are here today?

A: I believe for the bucket and twister wrist situation.

Q: Do you have any friends that work for the Warren Highway Department?

A: I know "Pit" Blais, Raymond Blais, I've known him since high school, but we're not really close friends, he's friends with Al Drake the Chef at the Salem Croft Inn. I would usually see Pit with Al.

Q: How long have you known Blais?

A: Since the 1970's.

Q: Is Blais a close personal friend?

A: No, not a close personal friend.

Q: When was the last time you spoke to Blais?

A: I spoke to him at the Warren Selectman's closed meeting. A couple of Thursdays ago.

Q: Were you involved in that meeting?

A: I didn't speak in front of selectman, but I did speak to Raymond Blais' attorney.

Q: Who else there was involved?

A: Bill Tuttle, he went with me the day we picked up the buckets, and Al Drake, he took the buckets back to the Highway barn in Warren.

Q: Have you and Blais had conversation about this investigation?

A: Mostly at the meeting there. Not really. Al's talked to me about it a couple of times.

Q: Tell me what was said.

A: After it became an issue that Pit had given me the buckets we decided it was the best thing to give them back.

- Q: What do you do for work?
A: I'm a union heavy machine operator.
- Q: Do you own any heavy equipment at your residence?
A: I have a John Deere 510 backhoe.
- Q: Did you receive any construction equipment from Blais?
A: The Town gave it to me. Pit is the one who gave it to me, but I view him as a representative of the Town. He had permission from the Highway Superintendent to give it to me.
- Q: Who told you that the Superintendent had given permission to give you the equipment?
A: Raymond.
- Q: What did Blais tell you about this equipment?
A: He told me that the twister wrist was damaged and the buckets were worn out and needed to be reworked. He just said that they traded their John Deere 410 for a JCB and in the transition from the old highway barn to the new one Odiorne said that it was o.k. for Pit to get rid of the equipment.
- Q: When did you get this equipment?
A: Probably October of 2007.
- Q: How did you receive this equipment?
A: On a Saturday me and Bill Tuttle went down to the highway barn and Pit loaded them on to Bill's pickup truck with a chain on the Town's JCB backhoe.
- Q: Did anyone help?
A: It was just us three.
- Q: Do you know if Ray has permission to use Town equipment on the weekend like that?
A: I don't know for sure. I assumed it was o.k. because the boss said it was o.k.
- Q: Did Blais tell you that this exchange had been approved by the Highway Department Superintendent?
A: Yes.
- Q: Did Blais tell you the the Odiorne had approved the sale of this equipment?
A: According to Ray, Odione said that if I wanted the equipment I could have it.
- Q: Is Odione going to tell us the same information?
A: I've never talked to Odiorne, I believe so.
- Q: Did Ray accept payment of any type for this equipment?

- A: No. The only time I gave him something was when he came with me to look at my current John Deere 510, before I bought it to make sure it was a good piece of equipment. I gave him a 30 pack of beer. This was a few months before this whole bucket thing.
- Q: As a result of this investigation are we going to find that any transaction, for services, cash, or favors took place as a result of you receiving the equipment?
- A: No, no, absolutely not.
- Q: Do you have any other friends or family members that work for the Town of Warren?
- A: No.
- Q: Why did you decide to give back the equipment?
- A: Al Drake called me up and we decided it was the best thing to give them back.
- Q: Why was Al Drake so involved? Why didn't Ray call you?
- A: Al and Ray are good friends and I just think Ray didn't want to get involved. Al told me that Pit was suspended and Pit couldn't be involved because he couldn't go back to the barn.
- Q: When did you return the equipment?
- A: It was right after Thanksgiving. Al Drake took the equipment back to the Town Barn using Bill Tuttle's truck.
- Q: At what point to you hear Ray was in trouble?
- A: I think when Al called me a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving. At that time they didn't think it was going to become an issue because Odiorne was going to admit that he gave permission.
- Q: What do you think the equipment is worth?
- A: I don't know, whatever they are worth in scrap metal. A couple of hundred bucks maybe.
- Q: After the bucket was dropped back off at the Town barn did you receive any calls of acknowledgement?
- A: No. The only time I was contacted by either Al or Pit or both was about this closed session Town meeting. Basically Pit's lawyer wanted everyone that was involved there.
- Q: Who helped load up Tuttle's truck to send the equipment back?
- A: I loaded it up on a Sunday with the help of Bill Tuttle. Then on Monday Al drove Bill's truck to the Town barn and turned over the stuff to Odiorne.
- Q: When was the first conversation about this equipment?
- A: September or October of 2007.
- Q: Have you had any conversations with Al or Ray between the time you first received the buckets and then the recent Selectman's meeting?
- A: Yes, there have been phone conversations back and forth.

Q: Were there any transactions or payments involved between anyone involved in this incident?

A: No.

Q: Have you ever done any business or work with the Town of Warren?

A: No.

Q: Did you think it was strange that you didn't receive any paperwork or documentation from the Town for this equipment?

A: Yeah, I learned my lesson. I didn't think it was necessary I thought that everything was on the up and up.

Q: Did you ever request paperwork for the transfer of equipment?

A: No.

Q: If you thought Ray was a representative of the Town, why didn't you try to clarify the exchange with Ray or Odione?

A: I don't know, I tried looking for Odione but I didn't find him. It wasn't worth it to me to get involved any further.

Q: Do you have anything else to add?

A: No, I don't think so.