

Internal Investigation

To: Chief Perry Gallow

From: Captain Craig Thomas

Date: March 14, 2007

Reference: 14.2.4 Truthfulness, 14.3.7 Unauthorized Use of Force

On March 14, 2007 at approximately 1133 hours, I was contacted by Sgt. Michael Lacombe and Captain Mark Guidry in reference to a complaint being filed against three officers. Sgt. Lacombe stated that he was dispatched to the Opelousas General Hospital where he was approached by Andre Richard. Mr. Richard stated that to Sgt. Lacombe that he drove up to 602 Planters Street and he was assaulted by police officers while at the residence. Sgt. Lacombe took pictures and of injuries and obtained a statement from Mr. Richard and turned the investigation over to Capt. Thomas.

1210 hours

Capt. Thomas conducted a verbal interview with Mr. Richard at the Opelousas Police Department in reference to the complaint filed against officers. Mr. Richard stated that he was approached by Sgt. Bill Ortego and he was asked his name and his purpose for being at the residence. Mr. Richard stated that he told Sgt. Ortego that his cousin lived at the residence and he saw all of the police vehicles and wondered what was going on. Mr. Richard stated during this time another white officer later identified as Clay Higgins approached the vehicle and started looking through the windows of his vehicle and opened the driver's door of his vehicle. Mr. Richard stated that he closed his door and told Officer Higgins that he didn't give consent to search his vehicle and he was grabbed around the neck and taken to the ground by Officer Chautin. Mr. Richard stated while he was on the ground he was handcuffed in a brutal manner. Mr. Richard stated while on the ground, Officer Higgins grabbed him by the hair and twisted his head and told him to go get his lawyer and called him a pussy. Mr. Richard stated that he was then kicked while still on the ground but could not see who kicked him. Mr. Richard stated that the officers then searched his vehicle without his consent and disarranged his vehicle.

Pictures of Mr. Richard's vehicle are also included in this package. Mr. Richard then stated that someone grabbed him by his arm in attempt to help him off of the ground and he noticed that it was Twin (Lt. Graig Leblanc). Mr. Richard said that he told Lt. Leblanc that it was fucked up how those officers handled him and asked him to tell the truth when the time came for him to make his complaint. Mr. Richard stated that Lt. Leblanc shook his head and went back inside of the residence. Mr. Richard said that he told the officers that God didn't sleep and that we all got to die and answer to him because that was wrong what they did to him. Mr. Richard stated that Officer Higgins got real pissed at him and asked him if he was making "Death Threats" to him. Mr. Richard said that Officer Higgins grabbed him by the neck and slammed him against his car calling Mr. Richard a pussy. Mr. Richard stated that Officer Higgins removed the handcuffs off of him and struck him in the jaw. Mr. Richard stated that he couldn't tell if it was an open hand or close hand strike. Once he was struck, Officer Higgins started walking towards the house and he, (Mr. Richard) put a cigarette in his mouth while they were exchanging words to each other. Mr. Richard stated that Officer Higgins turned around and jerked the cigarette out of his mouth and stated "Who gave you permission to smoke" and threw the cigarette on the ground. Mr. Richard stated that Sgt. Ortego then told him to get in his vehicle and leave before he was arrested.

1300 Hours

Captain Thomas met with Lt. Graig Leblanc at Special Operations and obtained a written statement from him in reference to the complaint filed against officers. Lt. Leblanc stated that he along with several other officers were conducting a search warrant at 602 Planters Street and while serving the warrant he observed a subject be the name of Andre Richard drive up in a maroon four door vehicle. Lt. Leblanc stated that he then went into the bedroom and asked Captain Mark Guidry for a copy of the search warrant to show Mr. Richard. Lt. Leblanc stated that when he walked outside he observed Mr. Richard face down on the ground and as he walked down the steps he thought he saw Pfc. Clay Higgins kick Mr. Richard but he was uncertain because he was looking across the street. Lt. Leblanc stated that he did see Pfc. Higgins grab Mr. Richard by the hair and say "**Now go call your back yard lawyer now motherfucker**". He then told Pfc. Higgins, Pfc. Chautin and Sgt. Ortego to help Mr. Richard off of the ground. Lt. Leblanc stated that he grabbed Mr. Richard off of the ground and Mr. Richard told Lt. Leblanc that "**Twin, you going to let them treat me like this?**" "**You know they doing me wrong twin, how you going to let them do me like this?**" Lt. Leblanc said that Mr. Richard also told him that he hope that Lt. Leblanc would not lie and tell the truth when the time comes. Lt. Leblanc stated that he went back in the house.

1440 Hours

Capt. Thomas went to 603 Planters street and obtained a written statement from Damian Mouton. Mr. Mouton lives directly across from the residence where the search

warrant took place. Mr. Mouton stated that he was at his mother's house located at 603 Planters street and he noticed Officer Higgins and Red (Andre Richard) talking by Red's vehicle. Mr. Mouton stated that Officer Higgins reached and opened Red's car door and Red reached in to lock the door and close it. Mr. Mouton stated that he observed Officer Higgins grab Red by the neck and Officer Chautin came and grabbed Red around the neck in a choke hole and threw Red to the ground and cuffed him. Officers' Chautin, Ortego and Higgins then began to search the vehicle. Mr. Mouton stated after the search Officers' Higgins and Graig Leblanc helped Red off of the ground and Officer Higgins removed the handcuffs from Red. Mr. Mouton stated that he could tell they were having verbal confrontations but could not hear any of the conversation because he and his mom were watching from inside of the house. Mr. Mouton stated that he observed Officer Higgins grab Red around the neck a second time and punched Red in the face with his right hand. He then stated that Officer Higgins forced Red against the car with his hand around his neck and that's when his mother and he walked outside because they could not believe what the officer had just done. Once Officer Higgins noticed their presence, he then released Red and started walking back towards the house while exchanging words. Mr. Mouton stated that he observed Red put a cigarette in his mouth and Officer Higgins turned around and jerked the cigarette out of his mouth and started pointing in Red's face and the other officers told Red to get in his vehicle and leave. Red then told Ortego that it was fucked up how Higgins did him and Ortego told him to leave.

1545 hours

Capt. Thomas conducted a verbal interview with Sheryl Mouton in reference to the incident. Ms. Mouton lives across the street from 602 Planters Street and she stated that she and her son, Damian were standing in her front door looking across the street when they noticed a Red (Andre Richard) exit his vehicle and a white cop with a green bandana along with Ortego approached Red. She stated the cop with the bandana opened Red's car door and Red pushed the car door and locked the door and that's when Chautin came and grabbed Red around the neck and threw him on the ground and handcuffed him. Ms. Mouton stated that the officers stood Red up and they began to search his car. Once they finished searching, one of the policemen took the handcuffs off of Red and the guy with the green bandana walked in the house. Red lit a cigarette and the cop with the bandana walked back out, jerked the cigarette on the ground, and they began exchanging words. Ms. Mouton stated that she observed the policeman with the green bandana hit Red in the face and they exchanged more words and Officer Ortego instructed Red to leave.

1845 hours

Capt. Thomas conducted a recorded verbal interview with Officer Higgins in reference to the statement that he originally gave to Capt. Guidry early that day. Officer Higgins stated that while serving a search warrant at 602 Planter Street, a red vehicle drove through the perimeter where they were serving the warrant. Officer Higgins stated that Mr. Richard refused to let officers search his vehicle and that Mr. Richard committed a battery on Officer Higgins while attempting to stop the officers from searching his vehicle. Capt. Thomas asked Officer Higgins if he committed any of the violations that he was accused of and Officer Higgins stated that he never committed any batteries and conducted his job in what he thought to be a professional manner. When Officer Higgins was asked, why Mr. Richard wasn't arrested if he committed a battery on him, Officer Higgins stated that it was a misdemeanor and that they were operating in the capacity of SWAT.

2037 hours

Capt. Thomas conducted a recorded verbal interview with Officer Chautin in reference to the complaint lodged against him and other officers. Officer Chautin also gave a written statement to Capt. Guidry earlier that morning. Officer Chautin stated that while serving a search warrant at 602 Planters Street, he walked outside of the resident and observed Pfc. Higgins walking up to a red vehicle that had crossed the perimeter of the operation. Pfc. Chautin stated that the vehicle had been parked with the driver's door open and a black male subject rushed toward Pfc. Higgins and grabbed his arm with one hand and the car door with the other. Pfc. Chautin stated based on these observations he advanced and grabbed the subject from behind and took the suspect to the ground along with Higgins and Ortego. Officer Chautin stated that the subject resisted all the way down to the ground and even after being handcuffed. Officer Chautin stated that the vehicle was searched by all three officers but no contrabands were found. Officer Chautin stated that the subject was warned and released. During the verbal interview, Captain Thomas asked Pfc. Chautin if Officer Higgins struck Mr. Richard in his presence and Pfc. Chautin stated that he didn't see Officer Higgins strike Mr. Richard anytime in his presence. Pfc. Chautin did say that after the handcuff were removed, he (Chautin) walked away on the side of the house.

March 15, 2007

1637 hours

Captain Thomas had the opportunity to speak with Sgt. Bill Ortego. This interview was also a recorded interview and a written statement was obtained from Sgt. Ortego in reference to the incident. Sgt. Ortego stated that he along with other members of the swat

team were serving a search warrant at 602 Planters Street and Officers' Chautin, Higgins and Ortego were all standing on the outside of the residence when a subject pulled up in a red car. The subject got out the vehicle and approached all three officers. Sgt. Ortego stated that he asked the subject if he lived there and he said no. The subject stated that he was just passing by. Officer Higgins walked to the driver's side door of the vehicle and began looking inside the car. The subject walked to the car door and attempted to close the door while officer Higgins was still standing in the door way and at this time Officers' Higgins and Chautin took the subject down to the ground. Capt. Thomas asked Sgt. Ortego if Mr. Richard placed his hands on Officer Higgins before closing the door and Sgt. Ortego stated no. Sgt. Ortego stated once Mr. Richard was on the ground Officer Higgins asked for some handcuffs. Once the cuffs were on, Officer Higgins grabbed the subject by the hair and told him to contact his lawyer. Sgt. Ortego stated that Officers' Higgins and Chautin began searching the vehicle and he did not take part in the search. Sgt. Ortego stated that Lt. Graig Leblanc walked outside and the two of them helped Mr. Richard off of the ground. Once Higgins and Chautin were finished searching, Chautin walked to the side of the house and Higgins walked towards the front door of the vehicle. Sgt. Ortego stated that Mr. Richard then began to tell Higgins, **"It's alright, everybody got to die someday."** Officer Higgins asked Sgt. Ortego for some handcuff keys and removed the cuffs from Mr. Richard. Higgins then pushed the subject onto the car. Capt. Thomas asked Sgt. Ortego if he had his hand around Mr. Richard's neck and Sgt. Ortego stated yes. Sgt. Ortego stated that he told Higgins to leave it alone and go into the house and Higgins slapped the subject in the face and told him to leave. Sgt. Ortego stated that he told the subject to leave and he stated that he wanted to file a complaint and Sgt. Ortego told him to go to the Police Department. Sgt. Ortego stated that the subject attempted to smoke a cigarette, and Higgins walked up to him and pulled the cigarette out of his mouth and pushed him towards his vehicle. Sgt. Ortego stated that he instructed the subject to leave again.

March 15, 2007
2300 hours

Capt. Thomas received a phone call from Officer Higgins stating that he was not completely honest about the incident. Officer Higgins stated that he contacted a counselor from Las Vegas, Nevada and confessed to him what had taken place and he advised that his counselor told him that he needed to tell the truth. Capt. Thomas advised Officer Higgins to come to the office the next day and that Capt. Thomas would re-interview Officer Higgins.

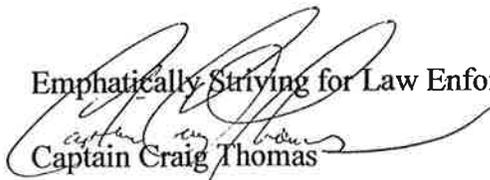
March 16, 2007
0835 hours

Capt. Thomas re-interviewed Officer Higgins and obtained another written statement from Officer Higgins (see attachments). Officer Higgins did admit to placing his hand around Mr. Richard's neck, but did not choke him. Officer Higgins also stated that he cuffed Mr. Richard on the side of the head only using 10 to 15% force, not an actual strike and jerking the cigarette out of Mr. Richard's mouth. Officer Higgins offered an apology for lying to Capt. Thomas and stated that Capt. Thomas deserved the truth in the beginning. Officer Higgins also stated that no other Officer would have seen anything, not even the victim himself knows what happened to him.

Summary

Chief Gallow, you instructed Capt. Thomas to conduct an internal investigation regarding unnecessary use of force. Under Policy and Procedures 13.3.4 Review and Investigation, the investigative officer must send a written report of findings, plus conclusions and recommendations to the Chief of Police. In my finding it was determined that all three officers were in violation of policy and procedures. Sgt. Bill Ortego failed to stop and correct Officer Higgins from using unnecessary force and failed to report this incident to the Commanding Officer of the scene. Pfc. Chautin engaged in force, but investigation shows that he was only acting upon Officer's Higgins actions. However, when Capt. Thomas interviewed Pfc. Chautin he failed to tell the truth and denied seeing Officer Higgins commit a battery upon Mr. Richard. The investigation proves through written and verbal statements of witnesses that Pfc. Chautin did witness and discussed the facts of this case and tried to deceive this investigation. Pfc. Chautin violated 14.2.4 Truthfulness- Always speak the truth regarding police matters, declining comment where revealing facts within your knowledge is forbidden by law or the contents of this manual. Officer Higgins, did commit use unnecessary force and committed several batteries upon Mr. Richard. Officer Higgins also failed to tell the truth by saying that Mr. Richard committed a battery upon Officer Higgins prior to their scuffle and tried to deceive the investigation by plotting and staging facts that did not take place in this incident. It was also determined that Officer Higgins only told the truth about this incident after speaking with Sgt. Ortego and learned that Sgt. Ortego did not go along with the original story that Higgins and Chautin told to Capt. Thomas. Capt. Thomas recommends that mentioned officers be brought in front of the Discipline Review Board for discipline.

Emphatically Striving for Law Enforcement Excellence,



Captain Craig Thomas

WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident	District	Incident Number
Date of Incident	Page	

Date of Statement 3-14-07 Time 11:31 hrs Place OPP

I, CHAUTIN, JOHN D. am 36 Years of Age,

My Address Is [REDACTED]

And My Phone Number Is [REDACTED]

WHILE SERVING A SEARCH WARRANT AT 602 PLANTERS STREET PFC. JOHN CHAUTIN WALKED OUT OF THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOUSE AND OBSERVED PFC. CLAY HIGGINS WALKING UP TO A RED VEHICLE THAT HAD CROSSED THE PERIMETER OF THE OPERATION. AS OFFICER HIGGINS APPROACHED THE VEHICLE THAT HAD BEEN PARKED WITH THE DRIVER DOOR OPEN, A BLACK MALE SUBJECT RUSHED TOWARD HIM & GRABBED HIS ARM WITH ONE HAND AND THE DOOR OF THE VEHICLE WITH THE OTHER. AT THAT TIME, PFC. CHAUTIN ADVANCED & GRABBED THE SUBJECT FROM BEHIND. PFC. CHAUTIN, HIGGINS & SGT ORTEGO TOOK THE SUBJECT DOWN, WHO RESISTED THE WHOLE WAY DOWN AND EVEN AFTER HE WAS HAND CUFFED. THE SUBJECT'S VEH. WAS SEARCHED AND NO CONTRABAND WAS FOUND. THE SUBJECT WAS RELEASED & WARNED NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE DUTIES OR OPERATIONS OF POLICE OFFICERS. THE SUBJECT WAS ALSO TOLD TO LEAVE THE AREA.

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

PFC. J. Chautin
Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature _____ Badge No. _____ Supervisor's Initials _____

OFFICER STATEMENT

0905 HRS 16MAR07

RE: I.A.D. / PLANTER ST S.W.A.T. INCIDENT

ON 14MAR07 I DETECTIVE PFC GLEN C HIGGINS WAS WORKING A S.W.A.T. CALL OUT / NO-KNOCK SEARCH WARRANT AT 602 PLANTER ST . I AM A MEMBER OF THE ENTRY TEAM , WHICH ROLLS UP HARD ON THE TARGET HOUSE , JUMPS FROM THE S.W.A.T. VAN , RAMS THE DOOR, ENTERS AND CLEARS THE HOUSE . THIS TYPE ENTRY IS DYNAMIC AND FAST AND DANGEROUS , AND IS USUALLY OVER IN A MATTER OF JUST A FEW MINUTES.

AFTER THE RESIDENCE AT 602 PLANTER WAS CLEARED , MY RESPONSIBILITY ALONG WITH TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FIVE MAN ENTRY TEAM WAS PERIMETER SECURITY . THIS MEANS THAT WE MOVE OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE AND STOP ANY ONLOOKERS OR OTHERWISE INTERESTED SUBJECTS FROM ENTERING THE SEARCH ZONE , WHICH INCLUDES NOT JUST THE INTERIOR OF THE RESIDENCE BUT ALSO THE ENTIRE YARD AND ANY SURROUNDING SHEDS OR BUILDINGS AND ALSO VEHICLES WHICH MAY BE PARKED AT THE RESIDENCE , AS DICTATED BY THE SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE WARRANT OR DEPARTMENTAL AND LEGAL PROCEDURE .

IN THE CASE OF 602 PLANTER , PERIMETER SECURITY WAS ENHANCED BY THE FACT THAT THE FRONTAGE OF THE RESIDENCE WAS SHORT AND WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY BLOCKED BY THE S.W.A.T. VAN AND THREE OTHER POLICE VEHICLES . THIS PROVIDED A SORT OF CLEARLY MARKED BARRIER THAT ANY REASONABLE PERSON WOULD EASILY OBSERVE AND RECOGNIZE AS A LINE NOT TO CROSS .

APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES AFTER I HAD TAKEN POINT ON PERIMETER , ASSISTED BY SGT ORTEGO AND PFC CHAUTIN , A RED CAR DROVE AROUND THE S.W.A.T. VAN AND BETWEEN THE PARKED POLICE VEHICLES , STRAIGHT INTO THE FRONT YARD WITHIN TWENTY FEET OF THE FRONT OF THE RESIDENCE AT 602 PLANTER . THIS WAS A CLEAR BREACH OF OUR ESTABLISHED PERIMETER . BECAUSE IT WAS DAYTIME AND I COULD SEE THE OCCUPANT AND HIS HANDS , I EXERCISED RESTRAINT AND DID NOT DRAW MY WEAPON , DID NOT OPEN THE DOOR , AND DID NOT PULL THE DRIVER FROM THE VEHICLE . I ALLOWED THE VEHICLE TO STOP AND THE DRIVER , A YOUNG THIN BLACK MALE WITH LIGHT REDDISH SKIN AND EXTREMELY BUSHY HAIR , EXITED THE CAR . AT THAT TIME SGT ORTEGO AND I IMMEDIATELY ASKED THE MAN WHAT HE WAS DOING , WHAT WAS HIS INTENT, DRIVING INTO THE YARD IN THAT MANNER . SGT ORTEGO CONTINUED QUESTIONING THE SUBJECT AND I DIVERTED MY ATTENTION TO THE VEHICLE , INTENDING TO LOOK INSIDE THE VEHICLE FOR PLAIN VIEW WEAPONS, HIDDEN INDIVIDUALS, DRUGS, ... ANYTHING AT ALL THAT COULD COMPROMISE OUR SAFETY OR IN ANY WAY CONTAMINATE THE SEARCH ZONE AND PERIMETER .

WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident	District	Incident Number
Date of Incident	Page	

Date of Statement 3-14-07 Time 1440 Place 603 Planters
 I, DAMIAN MOUTON am 33 Years of Age,
 My Address Is [REDACTED]
 And My Phone Number [REDACTED]

(M) I was at my mother's house located at 603 Planters Street, I noticed Officer Higgins and RED talking by RED's vehicle. Officer Higgins reached and OPENED RED's car door and RED reached in to lock the door and close it and Officer Higgins grabbed RED by the neck. Officer Chantlin came and grabbed RED around the neck in a choke hold and threw RED to the ground and cuffed him. Officers' Chantlin, Ortega and Higgins then began to search the vehicle. Once they were done searching, Officer Higgins and Leblanc helped RED off of the ground and Officer Higgins removed the handcuffs from RED and they were having verbal confrontation. Higgins again grabbed RED around the neck after he punched RED in the face with his right hand. Higgins had RED pinned against the car with his hand around his neck. Higgins then let RED go and started walking back towards the house while exchanging words. RED lit a cigarette and Officer Higgins turned around and jerked the cigarette out of his mouth and started pointing in RED's face.

(D.M.)

STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY ACTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

Damian Mouton
 Signature of Person Giving Statement

Badge No. _____ Supervisor's Initials _____

WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident	District	Incident Number
Date of Incident	Page	

Date of Statement _____ Time _____ Place _____
 I, _____ am _____ Years of Age,
 My Address Is _____

And My Phone Number Is (337) _____

(D.M.) The other officers told Red to get in his vehicle and leave. Red then told Ortega that it was hooked up how Higgins did him and Ortega told him to leave. (D.M.)

Capt. THOMAS wrote THIS STATEMENT FOR ME AS I quoted the incident that happen TO RED (D.M.)

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

[Handwritten Signature]
 Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature _____ Badge No. _____ Supervisor's Initials _____

OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Witness Voluntary Statement Supplement

Battery
Type Incident 200 Incident Number 2007-008689
3-14-07 District 200 Page 1 of 1
Date of Incident

Date of Statement 3-14-07 Time 1045 Place Opelousas General E.R.

I, Andre Richard am 30 Years of Age,

My Address Is [REDACTED]

And My Phone Number Is [REDACTED]

I drove up got out my car. An officer (white) came talked to me and asked me my name. I told him Andre Richard. Another officer approached my car and open my door. I told him that I didn't give him permission to search my car. I then tried to close my door but another officer grabbed me around the neck. They then slammed me to the ground and handcuffed me. While I was on the ground He grabbed me by the hair and twisted my head around and told me to get a lawyer for that you pussy. He then kicked me. They searched my car without a warrant and messed it up pretty bad. I told him that God don't sleep and we all gotta die and answer to him because that's wrong what they just did to me. So he got real pissed off and grabbed my ~~throat~~ neck choking me he slammed me against my car. He then called me names like, I'm a pussy. Then he ~~took~~ took the cuffs off and punched me in the jaw. Then he told me to leave and go home.

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

Andre Richard
Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature [Signature] Badge No. [REDACTED] Supervisor's Initials [REDACTED]
FORM # OPD005

WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident _____	Incident Number _____
District _____	
Date of Incident _____	Page _____

Date of Statement 3-15-07 Time 1653 Place O.P.D.
 I, Sgt. Bill Ortega am 33 Years of Age,
 My Address Is 318 N. COURT ST OPRB CA 94520
 And My Phone Number Is (337) 948-2522.

ON THE GROUND AND BEGAN SEARCHING HIS VEHICLE MYSELF OF LT. WILSON
 Picked THE SUBJECT UP AT THE GROUND. ONCE HIGGINS & CHAMBERLAIN
 WERE FINISHED W/ THE VEHICLE, CHAMBERLAIN WALKED TO THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE,
 & HIGGINS WALKED TOWARDS THE FRONT DOOR. AT THIS TIME THE SUBJECT
 STATED "IT'S ALRIGHT, EVERYBODY GOT TO DIE SOMEDAY". AT THIS TIME
 OFFICER HIGGINS WALKED TO THE SUBJECT & ASKED HIM "WHAT DID YOU SAY".
 HIGGINS ASKED ME FOR MY HANDCUFF KEY, & UNHANDCUFFED THE SUBJECT.
 HIGGINS THEN PUSHED THE SUBJECT ONTO THE HOOD OF HIS VEHICLE. I
 TOLD HIGGINS TO JUST LEAVE IT ALONE, AND TO GO INTO THE HOUSE.
 HIGGINS LET GO OF THE SUBJECT, & SLAPPED THE SUBJECT ON THE FACE AND
 TOLD HIM TO GET OUT OF HERE. I TOLD THE SUBJECT TO LEAVE, & IF HE
 WANTED TO FILE A COMPLAINT TO GO TO THE P.D. THE SUBJECT ATTEMPTED TO
 SMOKE A CIGARETTE, & HIGGINS WALKED UP TO HIM & PULLED THE CIGARETTE
 OUT OF HIS MOUTH AND PUSHED HIM TOWARDS HIS VEHICLE. I TOLD HIGGINS
 TO GO BACK INSIDE AGAIN & INSTRUCTED THE SUBJECT TO LEAVE. SUBJECT
~~LEFT~~ LEFT & INCIDENT WAS OVER.

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

Sgt. Bill Ortega
 Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature _____ Badge No. _____ Supervisor's Initials _____

WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident	Incident Number
District	Page
Date of Incident	

Date of Statement 3/14/2007 Time 13:00 Place Special Operations
 I, Lt. Craig LeBlanc am 28 Years of Age,
 My Address Is 318 N. Court St. Opelousas, La 70570
 And My Phone Number Is (337) 948-2500

On March 14, 2007 I, Lt. Craig LeBlanc, along with several other officers of the Opelousas Police Department were serving a search warrant at 602 Planters Street. While serving the search warrant I observed a subject identified as Andre Richard drive up in a maroon four door vehicle. I then went into the bedroom and asked Capt. Mark Cudry for a copy of the search warrant to show Mr. Richard. When I went outside I observed Mr. Richard face down on the ground. As I was walking down the steps I thought I saw Pte. Clay Higgins kick Mr. Richard but I was not certain because I was actually looking across the street at the time and caught the motion out my peripheral. I then saw Pte. Higgins grab Mr. Richard by the hair and say "Now go call your back yard lawyer now motherfucker." I then told them Pte. Higgins, Pte. John Chantia, and Sgt. Bill Ortega to help the Mr. Richard off of the ground. I then grabbed Mr. Richard off the ground. Mr. Richard

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

Craig LeBlanc 116
 Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature _____ Badge No. _____ Supervisor's Initials _____

WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident _____	Incident Number _____
District _____	Page _____
Date of Incident _____	

Date of Statement 3/14/07 Time 1300 Place Special Operations
 I, W. Gary L. Blane am 28 Years of Age,
 My Address Is 318 N. Court St. Opelousas, La 70570
 And My Phone Number Is (337) 949-2500

then told me: "Twin you going to let them treat me like this."
"You know they doing me wrong twin how you going to let them
do me like this." "But I just hope You don't lie when the time
comes." I then went back in the house.

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

W. Gary L. Blane 116
 Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature _____ Badge No. _____ Supervisor's Initials _____

OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Witness Voluntary Statement Supplement

Type Incident _____

Incident Number _____

District _____

Page _____ of _____

Date of Incident _____

Date of Statement 3-14-07 Time 1545 Place 318 N. Court St.

I, Cheryl Christine Houston am 51 Years of Age,

My Address Is 603 Planters

And My Phone Number Is ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED]

CCM
I, Damica and I were standing in my front door looking across the street. When I noticed RED drive up at 602 Planters St. RED exited the vehicle, a white cop with a green bandana and Ortega approached RED. The cop with the bandana opened RED's car door, and RED pushed the car door and locked the door and that's when Chantia came grabbed RED around the neck and threw him on the ground and handcuffed him. The officers then stood RED up and they began to search his car. Once they finished searching one of the policemen took the handcuffs off of RED and the guy with the green bandana walked in the house. RED lit a cigarette and the cop with the bandana walked back out, jerked the cigarette on the ground, and they exchanged words and the cop with the bandana hit RED in the face and they exchanged more words and Officer Ortega instructed RED to leave. CCM

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

Cheryl C. Houston
Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature _____

Badge No. _____

Supervisor's Initials _____

WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident	District	Incident Number
Date of Incident		Page

Date of Statement 3-15-07 Time 1053 Place O.P.D.
 I, Sgt. Bill Orfano am 33 Years of Age,
 My Address Is 318 N. COURT ST OPELOUSAS, LA 70570
 And My Phone Number Is (337) 948-2500

ON 3-14-07 @ APPROX. 0830 HRS. MYSELF AND THE SWAT TEAM CONDUCTED A SWAT OPERATION @ 602 PLANTERS STREET. AFTER THE RESIDENCE WAS CLAMBERED, MYSELF, OFFICER CHARITON & OFFICER HIGGINS WERE STANDING OUTSIDE WHEN A SUBJECT PULLED UP IN A RED CAR. THE SUBJECT GOT OUT THE VEHICLE AND APPROACHED US. I ASKED THE SUBJECT IF HE LIVED HERE, & HE SAID "NO". I ASKED HIM WHERE IS HIS HOME BOY, AND HE SAID HE DON'T KNOW. I TOLD HIM COME ON MAN YOU JUST DIDN'T JUST SHOW UP HERE. HE SAID "I'M JUST PASSING". I TOLD HIM THAT HE JUST GOT OUT OF BED, HE DIDN'T EVEN WASH HIS FACE. AT THIS TIME OFFICER HIGGINS WALKED TO THE DRIVER'S SIDE DOOR OF THE SUBJECTS CAR AND BEGAN LOOKING INSIDE THE CAR. THE SUBJECT WALKED TO THE CAR DOOR AND ATTEMPTED TO CLOSE THE DOOR WHILE OFFICER HIGGINS WAS STILL STANDING IN THE DOOR WAY. AT THIS TIME OFFICER CHARITON & HIGGINS TOOK THE SUBJECT TO THE GROUND. ONCE ON THE GROUND OFFICER HIGGINS ASKED ME FOR SOME CUFFS. I GAVE MY CUFFS TO CHARITON AND THEY PLACED HIM INTO HANDCUFFS. OFFICER HIGGINS THEN TOLD THE SUBJECT TO GO NOW & CONTACT HIS LAWYER, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT LOOKED LIKE OFFICER HIGGINS WAS PULLING THE SUBJECTS HAIR @ THAT TIME, BUT I DIDN'T SEE HIM DO THAT. OFFICER HIGGINS & CHARITON THEN LEFT THE SUBJECT →

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

Sgt. B Orfano
 Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature _____ Badge No. _____ Supervisor's Initials _____

ST. LOUIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
WITNESS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Type of Incident	District	Incident Number
Date of Incident	Page	

Date of Statement 14 MAR 07 Time 1030 Place OPD
 I, OLEN C. HIGGINS am 45 Years of Age,
 My Address Is 318 N. CANT ST. OP. LA.
 And My Phone Number Is (337) 948-250

WHILE SERVING A WARRANT @ 602 PLANTER ST. A RED
 VEH DROVE THROUGH THE PERIMETER INTO THE FRONT
 YARD. A BLACK MALE EXITED THE VEH. AND STOPPED
 TO AID THE RESIDENCE. I MOVED TOWARD THE RED VEH
 TO LOOK INSIDE FOR PLAIN VIEW WEAPONS OR DRUGS AND
 THE SUBJECT MADE AN AGGRESSIVE MOVE TOWARD
 ME GRABBING MY ARM. AT THAT TIME MYSELF
 AND OFFICER CLANTON AND OATY TOOK THE SUBJECT
 DOWN AND CUFFED HIM. THE SUBJECT RESISTED BUT WAS CUFFED
 THE SUBJECTS CAR WAS SEARCHED AND HE
 WAS RELEASED WITH A WARNING TO NOT INTERFERE
 WITH POLICE ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY
 WHEN AN OBUS S.W.A.T. OPERATION IS UNDER WAY.

THIS STATEMENT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS A TRUE AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF MY
 RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT.

[Signature]
 Signature of Person Giving Statement

Officer's Signature

[Signature]

[Redacted]

Supervisor's Initials

OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENT NUMBER: 2007008683

	Date	Time	Incident Address Information
Received	3/14/07	8:43:53	602 PLANTERS ST
Dispatched	3/14/07	8:44:13	OPELOUSAS
Enroute			ST LANDRY
Arrivec	3/14/07	8:44:17	
Under Control			Incident Reported From: Telephone: (337) 000-0000
Completed			OPD GUIDRY

Signal	9	CHECKED AREA
Reference Signal	9	CHECKED AREA
Actual Signal	966	DRUG LAW VIOLATION

Citations Issued Weapons How Recieved: License No:

DISPOSITIONS		NOTIFIED	
<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> G	<input type="checkbox"/> CHIEF	<input type="checkbox"/> CID
<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> H	<input type="checkbox"/> CORONER	<input type="checkbox"/> CRASH TEAM
<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> J	<input type="checkbox"/> SUPERVISOR	<input type="checkbox"/> SWAT
<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> K		
<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> M		

Notes:
 07014 03/14/2007 8:52:11: 966 located
 19300 03/14/2007 9:15:45:
 located additional 966
 19300 03/14/2007 9:19:14:
 animal control enroute
 19300 03/14/2007 9:26:59:
 animal control 1097
 19300 03/14/2007 9:33:10:
 located additional 966

Name:	Eqp. No.:	ID Number	Party	Dispatched	Enroute	Arrived	Completec
STELLY, MELANIE	CO02	[REDACTED]	R				
STELLY, MELANIE	CO02	[REDACTED]	D				
GUIDRY, MARK	107	[REDACTED]	A			8:44	
LEBLANC, GRAIG	116	[REDACTED]	B			8:53	
GALLOW, ROYLIS	119	[REDACTED]	B			8:53	
ORTEGO, BILL	130	[REDACTED]	B			9:18	10:31

OPELOUSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENT NUMBER: 2007008689

	Date	Time	Incident Address Information
Received	3/14/07	9:48:43	602 PLANTERS ST
Dispatched	3/14/07	10:14:20	OPELOUSAS
Enroute	3/14/07	10:14:24	ST LANDRY
Arrivet	3/14/07	10:21:43	Incident Reported From: Telephone [REDACTED] 529 E PRUDHOMME LN
Under Control			
Completed	3/14/07	11:33:23	JAKE

Signal	35	SIMPLE BATTERY
Reference Signal	35	SIMPLE BATTERY
Actual Signal	21	COMPLAINT

Citations Issued Weapons How Recieved:P License No:

DISPOSITIONS		NOTIFIED	
<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> G	<input type="checkbox"/> CHIEF	<input type="checkbox"/> CID
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> H	<input type="checkbox"/> CORONER	<input type="checkbox"/> CRASH TEAM
<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> J	<input type="checkbox"/> SUPERVISOR	<input type="checkbox"/> SWAT
<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> K		
<input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> M		

Notes:

12202 03/14/2007 9:50:13: OPELOUSAS GENERAL HOSPITA
 12202 03/14/2007 9:49:30:stated that he has a subject by the name of andre richard who advised that he was assaulted by police officers
 07014 03/14/2007 11:38:29: incident took place at 602 planters st
 07014 03/14/2007 11:39:53: further investigation turned over to cpt. craig thomas.

Name:	Eqp. No.:	ID Number	Party	Dispatched	Enroute	Arrived	Completed
ETIENNE, LORETTA	122	[REDACTED]	R				
STELLY, MELANIE	CO02	[REDACTED]	D				
LACOMB, MICHAEL	129	[REDACTED]	A		10:14	10:21	

Internal Affairs Investigation
"Garrity Notice"

I.A. Case Number: 2007-068683

I wish to advise you that you are being questioned as part of an official internal affairs investigation by the Opelousas Police Dept. You will be asked questions specifically directed and related to the performance of your official duties or fitness for office. You are entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the laws and the constitution of the state and the Constitution of the United States and the right not to be compelled to incriminate yourself. I further wish to advise you that if you refuse to testify or to answer questions relating to the performance of your official duties or fitness for duty, you will be subject to departmental charges that could result in your dismissal from this agency. If you do answer, neither your statements nor any information or evidence that is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceeding, (except for perjury of obstruction of justice charges). However, these statements may be against you in relation to subsequent departmental charges.

The above warning was read to me by

Capt. CRAIG Thomas on March 14, 2007 at 20 37 hrs
Name Date Time

Signature: _____

[Handwritten Signature]

Witness: _____

Witness: _____

Internal Affairs Investigation
"Garrity Notice"

I.A. Case Number: 2007-008683

I wish to advise you that you are being questioned as part of an official internal affairs investigation by the Opelousas Police Dept. You will be asked questions specifically directed and related to the performance of your official duties or fitness for office. You are entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the laws and the constitution of the state and the Constitution of the United States and the right not to be compelled to incriminate yourself. I further wish to advise you that if you refuse to testify or to answer questions relating to the performance of your official duties or fitness for duty, you will be subject to departmental charges that could result in your dismissal from this agency. If you do answer, neither your statements nor any information or evidence that is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceeding, (except for perjury of obstruction of justice charges). However, these statements may be against you in relation to subsequent departmental charges.

The above warning was read to me by

Adam P. Thomas on March 15 at 1637 hrs
Name Date Time

Signature: Sgt. Bud Dety

Witness: _____

Witness: _____

Internal Affairs Investigation
"Garrity Notice"

I.A. Case Number: 2007-008683

I wish to advise you that you are being questioned as part of an official internal affairs investigation by the Opelousas Police Dept. You will be asked questions specifically directed and related to the performance of your official duties or fitness for office. You are entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the laws and the constitution of the state and the Constitution of the United States and the right not to be compelled to incriminate yourself. I further wish to advise you that if you refuse to testify or to answer questions relating to the performance of your official duties or fitness for duty, you will be subject to departmental charges that could result in your dismissal from this agency. If you do answer, neither your statements nor any information or evidence that is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceeding, (except for perjury of obstruction of justice charges). However, these statements may be against you in relation to subsequent departmental charges.

The above warning was read to me by

Cap. Craig Thomas on March 14, 2007 at 1845 hrs
Name Date Time

Signature: 

Witness: _____

Witness: _____