



Internal Investigations Report

FMO Reference: 2022-0001

Case Number: Not Applicable

Date of Occurrence: April 16, 2022

Date of Complaint: April 28, 2022

Investigating Officer: Captain S. Schoonover

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

On 04/19/2022, at 09:17 AM, Fire Marshal Christensen received an email from Ronnie Dooley through county email. The email stated:

Dear Chief Christensen,

I would like to file a formal written complaint against Officer James Singleton for unprofessional conduct. On Saturday, April 16th, 2022, while Officer Singleton was wearing the Harris County Fire Marshal's uniform, and while publicly representing the Harris County Fire Marshal's office, Singleton took it upon himself to begin a slanderous rant against me, to another Harris County Deputy while working an extra job at Top Golf. This Deputy (Deputy Jimmy Holley 832-573-4375) listened as Singleton called me a liar and a sex offender, both of which are not true. Being alarmed by these accusations, Deputy Holley notified me by phone about Singleton's rant.

I feel that this is very unprofessional for Singleton to make these statements while representing the Harris County Fire Marshals Office and in uniform.. These statements not only alarmed Deputy Holley, but has offended me and damages my reputation.

Please investigate this complaint and keep my apprised of the outcome. I feel that nothing less of a written reprimand and a written apology is appropriate for this unprofessional conduct.

Thanking you in advance,

Ron Dooley

Chief Mitchell Weston contacted Mr. Dooley by email on 04/19/2022 at 11:03 AM and explained the process for filing a formal complaint. Mr. Dooley was unwilling to come to an office location to file a complaint, so mail in instructions were sent to him by Chief Weston.

On 04/28/2022 at 3:00 PM, Chief Weston received a formal written complaint by United States Postal Service from Ronnie Dooley. The hand written statement was notarized and dated April 19, 2022. Chief Weston received the complaint and forwarded it to Captain Scott Schoonover. Captain Schoonover processed the complaint and generated an internal investigation within RMS under reference number 2022-0001. All documentation can be found under this reference number. The written complaint brought the following allegations against Lieutenant Singleton:

- 1) Unprofessional conduct by Lt. Singleton for comments made to Deputy Jimmy Holley while working an extra job. The alleged comments made by Lt. Singleton was that Ronnie Dooley "was a liar" and " a sex offender."

INVESTIGATION:

Captain Schoonover conducted the following actions in relation to this complaint:

- Reviewed the formal written complaint from Mr. Dooley
- Notified Lt. Singleton of the written complaint and provided a copy of the statement
- Obtained and reviewed Lt. Singleton's written statement which included news articles
- Completed documentation under reference FMO 2022-0001
- Investigator Lopez interviewed the only named witness and obtained a statement through video
- Reviewed and analyzed all information to complete a report of findings.

The following was determined by reviewing all statements and information obtained during this investigation:

- 1) A conversation took place between James Singleton and Jimmy Holley on April 16th while both were working an extra job. Lt. Singleton was approved to work this extra job. This conversation was between these two officers without involvement of any other 3rd party persons.
- 2) The conversation did include Lt. Singleton calling Ronnie Dooley a liar and a sex offender.
- 3) Mr. Holley's statement provided information that he knew Dooley was not required to register as a sex offender from a previous sexual harassment incident at a previous employer.
- 4) Mr. Holley's statement provided information that he knew Dooley had charges dismissed for this same incident that involved females drunk in a hot tub.
- 5) Lt. Singleton's response included news articles date 07/10/05 and 04/12/07 when Dooley worked for San Angelo Police Department. These articles explained the case Singleton was referencing.

CONCLUSION:

After a full review of all information available, the complaint received is sustained. Lt. James Singleton was verbally counseled for expressing an unfavorable opinion while working an extra job in uniform. No violation of law was found to have occurred.

EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit 1: Written Complaint, Ronnie Dooley
- Exhibit 2: Lieutenant Singleton Written Statement and news articles
- Exhibit 3: Body Camera Video, HCFMO (Digitally Stored)
- Exhibit 4: Emails from Ronnie Dooley
- Exhibit 5: Internal Affairs Documentation (Digitally Stored)