
Interview Details

January 2, 2015, 9:51 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

Complainant/Victim:

- [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] years old at the time of this incident. He is a 6" tall, 180-pound white male with brown hair, brown eyes and a goatee.
- [REDACTED] was employed as [REDACTED]. He also [REDACTED].

CCRB Statement

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the CCRB on January 2, 2015.

On December 24, 2014, at approximately 1 a.m., [REDACTED] was driving southbound on [REDACTED] in Brooklyn, when the front driver's side hood of his vehicle was struck by a white Mercedes, driven by an unidentified woman. At the time of the collision, [REDACTED] was passing through an intersection with a green light, and the white Mercedes had a red light. [REDACTED] was driving a 2009 black Chevy Suburban with the license plate [REDACTED]. Although [REDACTED] has lights and sirens on his vehicle, as he uses his vehicle for a volunteer ambulance, he was not utilizing them at the time and he was not partaking in volunteer work.

As a result of being struck, [REDACTED] swerved to the right and hit a parked car. The parked car then went underneath a taxi and the taxi hit another vehicle. The total collision involved five vehicles.

[REDACTED] exited his vehicle as the female driver of the white Mercedes exited her vehicle. He asked her if she was alright, and she yelled at [REDACTED] for running through a red light. [REDACTED] argued with her that he had the green light. The only witness to the incident, an unidentified security guard, stated that [REDACTED] was the one who ran the red light.

[REDACTED] noted that he has a "dash cam" in his vehicle, which is a camera connected to his dash board that depicts the street in the front him [During the course of the interview, [REDACTED] presented the video from his cell phone]. He was unable to play the video at the scene of the accident, as he did not have his laptop with him.

[REDACTED] called 911 to report the incident and request EMS for the woman just in case. The fire department arrived simultaneously, followed thereafter by approximately three marked RMPs. Sgt. 1, a 5" tall, heavy Chinese man with very short hair in uniform, exited one of the marked RMPs. There were a couple plainclothes officers and a couple uniformed officers. Sgt. 1 was immediately worked up and angry with [REDACTED] as evidenced by his clenched fists and cadence of speech. Before [REDACTED] even provided his side of the story, Sgt. 1 yelled at [REDACTED] "Bullshit! You drive reckless." [REDACTED] presented a cell phone video of this conversation, which depicts a male officer yelling phrases containing the words, "shit" and "fuck." [REDACTED] was unable to independently recall the exact statements made.

At one point, [REDACTED] requested a lieutenant because Sgt. 1 was acting out of control, and Sgt. 1 responded, "What!? I am not good enough?"

[REDACTED] remained calm throughout the interaction. He responded to the sergeant's outburst, "Serge, with all due respect, you have no right screaming at me. If you want to talk to me like two normal human beings, let's come to the side and we discuss the incident." However, Sgt. 1 kept screaming and was unresponsive to [REDACTED] request to talk. A plainclothes officer (PO2), described as a 5'5" tall, heavy set black man, intervened and pulled Sgt. 1 away, in what [REDACTED] believed was an effort to calm him down. As Sgt. 1 was being escorted away, Sgt. 1 stated, "Fucking Jews..." [REDACTED] believed that PO2 heard this statement as well. [REDACTED] has worked with PO2 in the past, in the capacity of his volunteer ambulance duties, and believes he works in conditions or crime.

Aside from PO2, [REDACTED] did not recall interacting with any of the other officers. However, the officers were saying that [REDACTED] "does this all the time."

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Sgt. 1's operator (PO3), who [REDACTED] identified as "PO S-h-o-w" (pronounced chow), then began yelling at [REDACTED] about how he had to respect Sgt. 1, since he was a supervisor. PO3 did not use profanity toward [REDACTED]

By then, approximately 100 to 150 witnesses gathered around the incident, as they had previously gathered at a car accident nearby and just moved over to [REDACTED] once they heard the noise. Some people who were not even present for the incident stated that [REDACTED] had gone 100 mph and run the red light. [REDACTED] noted that the two officers had been murdered only one to two days prior so tensions were high.

PO4, who [REDACTED] identified as PO Miskowitz, came over and took his driver's license, registration and insurance, and he provided this officer with his statement about the accident. The officer filled out the report but it did not reflect [REDACTED] statement, he only wrote the other woman's side of the story. The narrative of the accident report was read aloud on the record. Nevertheless, [REDACTED] has the video proving he is correct and would like the report amended. [REDACTED] attempted to speak to the officer thereafter, but he refused to amend the report.

On the interview record, [REDACTED] played an audio recording by Ari Pilcher, noting that Mr. Pilcher alleged to have seen the accident and accused [REDACTED] of running a red light and going 100 mph. Mr. Pilcher is just a member of the Borough Park community who knows [REDACTED]

At 27 on the digital recording, the mediation process was discussed with [REDACTED] He again stated that he wanted to think about it. He noted that he is "very known" in the community.

Off of the record, [REDACTED] requested that a complaint be filed against [REDACTED], who constantly uses illegal traffic lights to bypass lights, drives recklessly, and handcuffs people like he is a cop since he is part of City Wide Safety Patrol.

Interview Details

January 14, 2015
09:22 a.m. – 9:49 a.m.

Subject Officer: SGT. JOE CHEN

- *Sgt. Chen was 38 years old at the time of this incident. He is a 5'5" tall, 165-pound Chinese man with black hair and brown eyes.*
- *On December 24, 2014, Sgt. Chen worked from 11:05 p.m. to 8:02 a.m. on December 25, 2014. He was working as the 66th Precinct Patrol Sergeant with PO Sean Chow as his operator. Both officers were in uniform and assigned to marked RMP # [REDACTED]*

Memo Book

At 1:16 a.m., a vehicle accident (10-53) occurred at [REDACTED]. At 1:47 a.m., there was a crime in progress (10-39) at [REDACTED].

CCRB Statement

Sgt. Chen was interviewed at the CCRB on January 14, 2015.

On December 24, 2014, at approximately 1:16 a.m., Sgt. Chen was canvassing for another crime when he received a radio run regarding a precinct condition at [REDACTED]. He heard a unit state the call was in relation to a 10-53 (vehicle accident). He did not know the voice of the reporter and he was short on manpower. Central asked the unit to identify themselves, but the unit never responded. Sgt. Chen informed all of his units to be very cautious, as the two police officers were just killed (Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu reference).

There was another call nearby about a "pin job," which means a job involving a car accident where someone is pinned between two cars or against an object by a car.

Sgt. Chen arrived at the location with PO Chow alone. PO Miskowitz (66A) and his partner arrived shortly thereafter. A plainclothes unit, which Sgt. Chen believed to be anti-crime members PO Thomas Polosky and PO Dave Williams, also arrived at the location. Dave Williams is a black man.

Sgt. Chen spoke to the FDNY and looked around the scene to identify all the vehicles at the scene were crushed except for a black SUV. The woman in the Mercedes was injured and removed by ambulance. An eye witness informed officers that the black SUV was going fast and ran the red light, causing the collision. The eye witness pointed out [REDACTED]

Sgt. Chen noted that [REDACTED] nickname is [REDACTED] and they have known each other for over three years. [REDACTED] attends many NYPD functions and Sgt. Chen has personally given him two of his own NYPD SBA cards. [REDACTED] comes to the Christmas party and hangs out at the precinct and Sgt. Chen has gone to his East Midwood residence. [REDACTED] lives by himself and him his father run an auto shop. [REDACTED] is a volunteer medic for the area in Midwood. Sgt. Chen knows [REDACTED] through medic school and that is how they became friends. Sgt. Chen knows [REDACTED] is Jewish, and he learns a lot about the Jewish culture through [REDACTED]

Sgt. Chen knows that [REDACTED] has an unauthorized police radio in his vehicle. He has told him to remove it on at least one prior occasion. [REDACTED] drives recklessly when illegally responding to police jobs. His partner's name, who is also a medic, is named Ishwell.

Sgt. Chen yelled at [REDACTED] to "come over here," and asked him what happened. Sgt. Chen believes he was the first officer to speak to [REDACTED]. At this point, Sgt. Chen was concerned and asked [REDACTED] whether he had injuries. [REDACTED] who was uninjured, informed Sgt. Chen that he was in front of the 66th Precinct speaking to some officers when the "pin job" came over the radio. [REDACTED] informed Sgt. Chen that he rushed over here to see what was going on. [REDACTED] was "acting very cool," and smoking a cigarette. Sgt. Chen responded, "[REDACTED] you can't do this. How many times do I have to tell you this? You have to stop. Are you not going to stop until someone gets killed from an accident that you caused?" Sgt. Chen informed him of the eye witness.

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Sgt. Chen got “emotional and upset” and began yelling at [REDACTED]. He yelled, “You can’t do this. You know, you can’t do this. This is no good. Somebody is going to get hurt.” [REDACTED] responded with a little smirk that meant to Sgt. Chen, “what are you going to do about it?” At this point in the interview, Sgt. Chen noted that they were friends, and [REDACTED] used to be a good guy, but he got arrogant and overzealous. [REDACTED] then walked away and Sgt. Chen walked the other way. They only spoke for a couple minutes.

After hearing [REDACTED] explanation of events, Sgt. Chen recalled saying something to the effect of, “This is bullshit.” By that, he meant that [REDACTED] should not be coming to the job when illegally using his lights and sirens.

Sgt. Chen denied stating, “I am tired of you fucking Jews.” Sgt. Chen noted that he stated, “I am tired of your bullshit.” Sgt. Chen stated the “loves his religion.”

Sgt. Chen never referenced [REDACTED] religion during the conversation and did not recall using the word “fuck,” noting that “I was loud.” He never used the word “Jew” or “Jewish.”

At the conclusion, the anti-crime officer came up to Sgt. Chen and said, “Sarge, we don’t need this conversation in the street,” and walked him away. Sgt. Chen admitted that he was maybe a little bit too loud.

At 21:35 on the recording, video footage was discussed. Aside from the dash cam video, Sgt. Chen did not know there was video footage regarding this incident and had not seen the video footage of this incident. The video located in IA #12 was played once through. This was the only video presented to Sgt. Chen.

After seeing the video, Sgt. Chen acknowledged that it was an accurate representation of the interaction we had been discussing. He confirmed that that was him saying “bullshit” on the video.

The video was played from 10 – 16 seconds on the digital recording marker and Sgt. Chen was asked to repeat what he said during this time. He confirmed that he “thought” it was his voice talking at the time. He believed he said, “I am tired of this shit over here.” The video was played from 10 sec – 16 sec a third time. When asked to repeat what statement he made at 10 seconds into the video, Sgt. Chen stated that he heard himself stating, “I am tired of your fricking shit over here.” When asked whether he used the word “fricking” or “fucking,” he stated that he used the work “fricking.” The video was played a fourth time.

At 25:22 on the digital recording, Sgt. Chen was asked whether he wanted to add or amend anything about his statement, and he said that [REDACTED] had to stop being reckless because he could get people hurt or killed. Sgt. Chen then asked the investigators, “I don’t know where you guys live, but do you want to see an off-duty volunteer ambulance worker driving his own personal car around the neighborhood? And maybe your family member might be crossing the street or driving and he’s going to crush them, do you want to see that?”

Sgt. Chen noted that his job is public safety and he does not want to see anyone get hurt or killed.

Interview Details

February 4, 2015; 10:11 a.m. – 10:22 a.m.

Witness Officer: PO DAVE WILLIAMS

- PO Williams was 39 years old at the time of this incident. He is a 5'10" tall, 220-pound black man with long brown dreads and brown eyes.
- PO Williams worked from 6 p.m. on December 3, 2014 to 2:35 a.m. the following day as an anti-crime officer. He was working with PO Tomasz Pulawski in unmarked vehicle # [REDACTED]. Both officers were in plainclothes.

Memo Book

PO Williams does not have any entries in his memo book regarding this incident.

CCRB Statement

PO Williams was interviewed at the CCRB on February 4, 2015.

On December 24, 2014, at approximately 1 a.m., PO Williams and PO Pulawski received a radio run regarding a motor vehicle accident at [REDACTED] in Brooklyn. PO Williams and PO Pulawski arrived alone, and were the first officers on the scene, though EMS and FDNY were already at the location. PO Williams saw one of the two individuals involved in the crash, who he identified by name as [REDACTED] and asked him if he was okay. [REDACTED] was uninjured. It appeared that a two car accident had taken place and PO Williams walked over to the ambulance to see the other involved party, female civilian, being placed inside the ambulance. PO Williams spoke to EMS and the woman for a minute.

Behind him, approximately 25 feet away, PO Williams heard a commotion. He turned around and realized that Sgt. Chen and an additional unit had arrived about three minutes after him and Sgt. Chen was speaking to [REDACTED]. He did not hear the words they were exchanging, but knew the commotion involved [REDACTED] and Sgt. Chen arguing and yelling. There was other noises, as RMPs were responding. [REDACTED] is known to the precinct since he is a volunteer ambulance driver and he is "always driving around like a freaking crazy person." [REDACTED] responds to every incident that comes over the radio.

During their argument, PO Williams did not hear Sgt. Chen yell at [REDACTED] "Bullshit, bullshit!" PO Williams did not hear Sgt. Chen use the word "bullshit" at all on that day. PO Williams approached them and began to walk Sgt. Chen away from the incident. He did this because Sgt. Chen was yelling at [REDACTED] and he just wanted to deescalate the situation. As he walked Sgt. Chen away from [REDACTED] Sgt. Chen turned around and started yelling at [REDACTED] again. PO Williams was unable to recall what, specifically, was said by Sgt. Chen.

When asked whether PO Williams heard Sgt. Chen state, "I am tired of you fucking Jews," PO Williams responded "no definitely not." PO Williams denied that Sgt. Chen ever made any comments about "Jews" or "Jewish." PO Williams did not hear Sgt. Chen state, "I am tired of this shit over here." PO Williams reiterated that he did not hear what Sgt. Chen stated when he turned around.

At one point, PO Williams realized that Sgt. Chen had gone back to argue with [REDACTED] and he had to pull him away a second time.

[At 7:15 on the digital recording the video footage in IA #12 was played for PO Williams. The recording was paused to address technical difficulties related to playing the video footage. The recording was inadvertently not resumed, and the first two times the video was played for PO Williams were off the record. While off the record, PO Williams stated that he did not hear what was on the video].

10:21 a.m. back on the record.

The video was played for PO Williams again and he stated that he did not know whether Sgt. Chen stated, "I am tired of you fucking Jews," or "I am tired of this shit right here." PO Williams reiterated that he did not know what Sgt. Chen said in the video.

PO Williams confirmed that Sgt. Chen speaks in a heavy "Asian-Chinese-mandarin" accent. PO Williams knows that Sgt. Chen knows [REDACTED] but he does not know anything else about the context of their relationship.