

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File #:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	LEAD #:
16-11765LS	4/7/16	Sgt. C. Monroe #4561		

Title:	Case Agent: ID#	Office:	Typed by:	Date:
JAMES L. STRAND	Sgt. C. Monroe #4561	Z3/LS	CM	4/12/16

Purpose:

To document interview of LaSalle Police Chief Robert Uranich and LaSalle Detective Mike Smudzinski.

On March 11, 2016, Illinois State Police, Zone 3 Investigations was requested by LaSalle County Assistant State's Attorney Brian Vescogni to conduct an investigation into alleged Solicitation of a Prostitute by LaSalle Police Officer James L. Strand, (M/W, DOB [REDACTED]) Sergeant Monroe was requested to follow-up on the investigation.

On April 7, 2016 at 11:58 AM, (I) Sgt. Monroe #4561 interviewed LaSalle Police Chief Robert Uranich at the LaSalle Police Department, located at 745 Second Street, LaSalle, IL 61301. The purpose of the interview was to obtain any and all information from Chief Uranich which would aid the aforementioned alleged Solicitation of a Prostitute investigation.

According to Chief Uranich, sometime in early February 2016 LaSalle Police Detective Mike Smudzinski informed him Detective Hocking from Peru Police Department advised a female (later identified as Jillian M. Sherman, F/W, DOB [REDACTED]) had information about one of our detectives, and that we should meet with her.

Chief Uranich stated they interviewed Sherman who stated she was contacted by text from someone who claimed to be a Police Officer and that he wanted to meet with her. Chief Uranich stated Sherman informed Peru detectives that she was on "Backpage" using an alias name. Chief Uranich mentioned Sherman stated she just offer "back rubs and conversation".

Chief Uranich stated Sherman informed her the guy texted he wanted to meet her. Chief Uranich stated Sherman informed the guy her fee to talk was \$100.00. Chief Uranich stated he was told by Sherman, she and the guy made arrangements to meet at Beck's Gas station in LaSalle, IL. Chief Uranich advised Sherman stated the text also said the guy was willing to pay \$100.00, and that he was also a Police Officer. Chief Uranich stated Sherman claims not to know the identity of the guy.

Chief Uranich mentioned, Sherman stated she met with the Police Officer who was in full uniform and driving a Black Ford Taurus. Chief Uranich stated Sherman told him the two talked for a minutes and laughed when the guy gave her \$100.00 for just five minutes of talking. Chief Uranich stated he asked Sherman, why did she meet a Police Officer and Sherman stated why not. Chief Uranich stated she asked Sherman if the Police Officer asked for sex and she said "no" and that she wasn't reporting anything illegal. Chief Uranich stated Sherman advised she just thought it was weird and they should know.

Dissemination:

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Chief Uranich advised, that morning Peru Police Detective Hocking got a "Critical Alert" of a person impersonating a police officer. Chief Uranich stated the Critical Alert had a picture of an unmarked, Black Ford Taurus and picture of a white/male name "Derek". Chief Uranich stated they asked Sherman, how she could not remember the name of the guy she met. Chief Uranich stated Sherman got flustered, and stated the guy's name started with a "D", then said Derek. Chief Uranich stated Peru Police Detective Hocking showed Sherman the "Critical Incident" picture and she said that was the guy, because she remembered those eyes.

Chief Uranich stated they took Sherman into Detective Smudzinski's office to look at pictures of the Officers who work nights, which included a picture of Sgt. Strand. Chief Uranich stated Sherman asked if they could make the pictures larger at which they did. Chief Uranich stated Sherman advised none of the pictures were of the officer she met with.

Chief Uranich stated he called Sgt. Strand to advise him of what was going on, and he voluntarily came in. Chief Uranich stated before he interviewed Sgt. Strand he asked him what was his cell phone number, and it matched the number from the text on Sherman's phone. Chief Uranich stated he told Sgt. Strand a female said you met with her and gave her \$100.00. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand advised he didn't give anyone \$100.00.

Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand mentioned he did go on "Backpage", because he wanted to catch people for Prostitution. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand told him while on "Backpage" he identified people who were involved in Prostitution and Drugs, and sent out text messages to several people. Chief Uranich advised Sgt. Strand told him if they had phone numbers on "Backpage" he would send a message to that number. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand told him he found out Sherman's true identity and she was the only person that answered him. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand never told the department what he was doing.

Chief Uranich mentioned, Sgt. Strand told him he sent Sherman a text message advising her he was a cop and to meet with him at the Beck's Gas Station. Chief Uranich stated somehow Sgt. Strand realized Sherman wasn't showing up at Beck's in LaSalle, IL, so he goes to the Beck's in Peru, IL. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand tells him he sees Sherman pull up, but she wasn't driving. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand said to himself he's screwed because she wasn't driving. Chief Uranich stated, Sgt. Strand informed him, he walked over to the car Sherman was in advising her she was lucky she wasn't driving. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand told him he and Sherman had a brief conversation, but he didn't pay her \$100.00.

Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand didn't know there was no video footage, but he told him they were going to check video footage. Chief Uranich stated he asked Sgt. Strand again about giving Sherman \$100.00. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Strand said "no, I didn't pay her anything and I'm not worried about any video". Chief Uranich stated Peru Detective Hockings checked the Beck's Gas Station in Peru for video which had none, and the Beck's Gas Station in LaSalle was checked but had been overwritten.

Chief Uranich advised he told Sgt. Strand why didn't he tell him what he was doing before-hand. Chief Uranich stated he told Sgt. Strand his (Chief Uranich) problem is that as a police officer he understands, but a jury wouldn't understand. Chief Uranich stated he informed Sgt. Strand he is to have no contact with Sherman and not to send her any text messages.

Chief Uranich advised he contacted Utica Police Chief Jay Stachowika and told him the story regarding Sgt. Strand and the phone, and Chief Stachowika thanked him for the information but wasn't sure what he did with it.

Chief Uranich stated a few weeks later he got a call from Peru Detective Hocking, advising Hocking informed him Sherman called him stating she has a friend who was contacted by a police officer. Chief Uranich stated he subsequently spoke with Officer Strand and asked him if he had any other contact with Sherman or anyone else. Chief Uranich stated, Officer Strand told him "No, I haven't made contact with anyone".

Chief Uranich advised there was a rumor going around of Officer Strand in uniform hugging another woman who wasn't his wife on a Utica Police Department's computer. Chief Uranich stated he asked Peru Detective Hockings where the rumors came from, but he didn't want to say. Chief Uranich mentioned he heard the Mayor of Utica was investigating it.

Chief Uranich stated he saw Utica Police Officer Zebron and asked him regarding pictures of Strand on his (Zebron's) phone or on a computer at the Utica Police Department. Officer Zebron told Chief Uranich he didn't have on his phone or seen pictures of Officer Strand on a computer at Utica Police Department.

Chief Uranich advised he called Chief Bernabei of Peru Police Department for him and LaSalle Detective M. Smudzinski to meet with him and Detective Hockings. Chief Uranich stated during the meeting they discussed the details of the interview with Strand and the investigation. Chief Uranich stated Detective Hocking denied he told LaSalle Officer Buffo to directly go and talk to LaSalle Assistant State's Attorney Brian Vescogni. Chief Uranich stated Detective Hocking stated he told Officer Buffo that if he was that upset he should go and speak with Asst. State's Attorney Vescogni. Chief Uranich stated they all discussed the case and they all agreed there were no criminal charges.

Chief Uranich mentioned Officer Buffo and a few other officers around the LaSalle Police Department are upset Officer Strand got promoted. Chief Uranich implied Officer Buffo and the other officers have no right to be promoted, and Officer Strand earned that promotion. Chief Uranich stated some LaSalle Police Officers tried to vote Strand out of the Union. Chief Uranich stated Strand was first on the Promotion List and he feel Strand was doing everything he could to help the department. Chief Uranich stated those other officers aren't productive.

Chief Uranich stated Officer Strand and Brian Zeron were in the running to be picked as Chief of Utica. Chief Uranich stated the Mayor wanted to appoint a Police Chief, but the City Council didn't like his selection. Chief Uranich advised he was told the City Council wanted Officer Strand but the Mayor wanted Jay Stochowiak.

Chief Uranich stated approximately two weeks ago he received a call from LaSalle Sgt. Minicki advising he heard something disturbing. Chief Uranich stated Sgt. Minicki advised Dana Slaughter who had been arrested for causing a disturbance is at Peru Police Department with Detective Jones. Chief Uranich stated Slaughter is a drunk and prostitute. Chief Uranich advised at some point a female officer walked by, Officer Amy Sines and Dana Slaughter said "Hey Amy your husband has been fucking my friend Laura every Friday. Chief Uranich stated Officer Amy Sines is married to LaSalle Officer Pete Sines. Chief Uranich stated Laura Phillips was interviewed by Detective Smudzinski.

Detective Smudzinski stated he interviewed Laura Phillips and asked her if she knew Officer Strand, at which she said yes they were friends and he was a good cop. Detective Smudzinski advised Phillips showed him her cell phone with all her text messages. Detective Smudzinski advised all the text messages backed up Phillips story that her and Strand were just friends. Detective Smudzinski stated one of the texts Phillips asked Strand to run someone and he told her no, he couldn't do that. Phillips wanted to know if her boyfriend Connor (identifiers unknown) had a valid D.L. Detective Smudzinski stated Phillips told him once she needed money for her cell phone and again for

cigarettes and Strand gave it to her. Phillips informed Detective Smudzinski, Officer Strand on occasion would give her a ride to places. Detective Smudzinski stated Phillips provided info on drug dealing to Officer Strand. Detective Smudzinski stated Phillips admitted they kissed at one point.

Detective Smudzinski advised, he had a chance to interview Phillips boyfriend Connor. Detective Smudzinski asked if he was having problems with any police officers and he said Officer Strand. Connor informed Detective Smudzinski, Officer Strand was always texting Phillips. Detective Smudzinski asked Connor if there was anything going on with the two of them. Connor mentioned to Detective Smudzinski, there had been a time or two when he and Phillips were walking and Officer Strand drove by them.

Detective Smudzinski stated he went back to Phillips house and she got mad saying "nothing is going on with her and Strand or Sinse.

Detective Smudzinski stated he interviewed Dana Slaughter and asked her about telling-off Amy Sinse saying her husband and Phillips were screwing each other. Detective Smudzinski asked Slaughter what proofed did she have. Detective Smudzinski advised all Slaughter said was give her a computer, she could put something together. Detective Smudzinski had nothing further to provide.

Chief Uranich stated he called Strand and told him Laura Phillips had been interviewed. Chief Uranich stated Officer Strand told him he never had sex with her. Officer Strand admitted he did give her money for a pack of cigarettes and money for her phone because she had given him information on drug deals. Chief Uranich advised he asked Strand about giving Phillips rides, and told him she said she kissed him twice. Chief Uranich stated Officer Strand told him he took the kiss as a thank you for the ride and it wasn't a sexual kiss.

Chief Uranich mentioned he spoke with LaSalle Asst. State's Attorney Vescogni, who stated he had not talked with anyone from the Utica Police Department. Chief Uranich stated Asst. State's Attorney Vescogni agreed with him that if there is an investigation, he's not getting involved.

Chief Uranich advised Officer Strand did violate some policies – self assigned police violations. Chief Uranich stated Officer Strand felt bad and accepted whatever punishment he had coming. Chief Uranich mentioned he spoke with LaSalle State's Attorney Brian Towne regarding the case and he too advised, why the Illinois State Police is getting involved when there's no crime.

Chief Uranich provided me with a copy of Officer Strand's Policy Violations which resulted in a two (2) day suspension and a copy of the interview conducted with Jillian Sherman on DVD Format. A copy of the Policy Violations and Jillian Sherman interview on DVD Format was placed in an ISP Exhibit 1-A Envelope and will remain a part of the case file.

Attachment: A copy of Officer Strand's Policy Violations which resulted in a two (2) day suspension.

pc 4594



LASALLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

745 Second Street - LaSalle IL 61301  
[815] 223-2131 - FAX [815] 223-6395

Rob Uranich  
Chief of Police

Detectives  
Lt. Mike Smudzinski  
Ptl. Jason Quinn  
Ptl. Curt Martin

03-30-16

To: Sgt. James Strand

Badge #: [REDACTED]

Current Assignment: Midnight Shift Supervisor (6:00pm – 6:00am)

Ref: Alleged on-duty misconduct in and outside the City of LaSalle on various dates and times ranging from 12-13-15 through 02-16-16

Policy Violations (Rules and Regulations)

- Unauthorized Self-Assigned Police Actions
- Unauthorized Prohibited Associations
- Unauthorized Persons in Police Vehicles
- Unauthorized Personal Business
- Conduct (inappropriate)
- Unauthorized Leaving the City of LaSalle
- Unauthorized Personal Use of Cell Phone

As we discussed, the internal investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations of the complaints. As I indicated in our discussions, while I consider most of the infractions to be relatively minor in nature, their cumulative sum proved to be much more serious. As a result, based upon you actions, admissions and your position as a supervisor, I have no choice but to issue you a two day suspension. The suspension dates shall be your scheduled work days on 03-31-16 and 04-05-16.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please contact me,

Respectfully,

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Robert Uranich  
Chief of Police  
LaSalle Police Department

03/30/16 16-1176525

**ILLINOIS STATE POLICE  
CASE ACTION REPORT**

File #	Case Title	Case Agent	I.D. #	Office	Court or Activity Date
16-11765LS	James L. Strand	Sgt. C. Monroe	4561	Z3/LS	5/5/16

County	Court/ Hearing	Docket No.(s)	This Action Closes Case
LaSalle			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Proceeding Codes	Action Codes
A. Complaint (16,17)	1. Bound Over
B. Preliminary Hearing (1,4,5,6,7,20)	2. True Bill
C. Grand Jury (2,3,4,20)	3. No True Bill
D. Information (16,17,25,26)	4. Waived
E. Plea (10,11,12,13,20)	5. Nolle Prosequi
F. Bench Trial (8,9,10,11,12,13,16,19,21,22)	6. S.O.L.
G. Jury Trial (8,9,10,11,12,13,18,19,27)	7. Dismissed
H. Civil (7,14,15,20)	8. Acquitted
I. Steward Hearing (7,14,15,20)	9. Mistrial
J. Other (5,6,7,19,20,25,26,30,33)	10. Felony Conviction
K. Pending (2,17,18,19,21,22,23,24,28,29,31,32,33)	11. Felony Conviction (Reduced)
	12. Misdemeanor Conviction
	13. Misdemeanor Conviction (Reduced)
	14. Civil Finding for State
	15. Civil Finding Against State
	16. Warrant Issued
	17. Summons/Notice Issued
	18. Juvenile Hearing
	19. Motion Hearing
	20. Continued
	21. Bond Hearing
	22. Forfeiture Hearing
	23. Sentencing
	24. Case Under Appeal
	25. Arrest Without Warrant
	26. Arrest With Warrant
	27. Hung Jury
	28. Fugitive
	29. Prosecution
	30. Reassignment of Case Agent
	31. Corrected Copy (Explain in Remarks)
	32. Investigation
	33. Other (See Remarks)

Defendant	Date of Arrest	Charge(s)	Crime Code	Proceeding Code	Action Code	Sentence/Fine/Action
1.		1.	6007	J	33	See Remarks
		2.	3920	J	33	See Remarks
	Arrest #	3.				
		4.				
2.		1.				
		2.				
	Arrest #	3.				
		4.				
3.		1.				
		2.				
	Arrest #	3.				
		4.				
4.		1.				
		2.				
	Arrest #	3.				
		4.				

STATUS	REMARKS
<b>OPEN</b> 1A <input type="checkbox"/> Active (30 days) 1B <input type="checkbox"/> Active Confidential Source (180 days) <b>PENDING</b> 2A <input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 (90 days) 2B <input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 Disposition of Evidence (180 days) 2C <input type="checkbox"/> Level 2 (365 days) COLD CASES <b>CLOSED</b> 3A <input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded (Require Remarks) 3B <input type="checkbox"/> Complainant/Victim Refused to Cooperate 3C <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptionally Cleared (Require Remarks) 3D <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to Another Agency (Require Remarks) 3E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Closing 3F <input type="checkbox"/> Case Declined by Prosecutor 3G <input type="checkbox"/> Adjudication Completed and Evidence Disposed	Evidence Being Held <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  LaSalle Police Chief Robert Uranich suspended James Strand for Two (2) days for Policy Violations due to self assigned police violations. Case closed.

APPROVALS		
Date	Agent:	Supervisor:
5/5/16	Sgt. Monroe #4561	<i>[Signature]</i>
		Case transferred/reassigned to _____
		Crime victim notified of case status _____



LASALLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

745 Second Street - LaSalle IL 61301  
[815] 223-2131 - FAX [815] 223-6395

Rob Uranich  
Chief of Police

Detectives  
Lt. Mike Smudzinski  
Ptl. Jason Quinn  
Ptl. Curt Martin

03-30-16

To: Sgt. James Strand

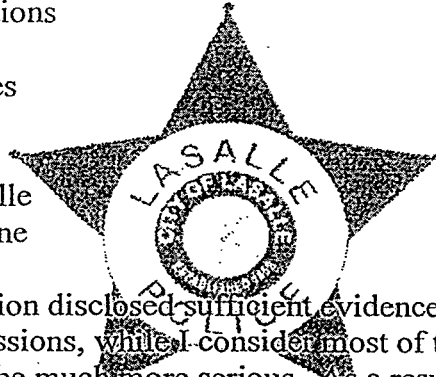
Badge #: [REDACTED]

Current Assignment: Midnight Shift Supervisor (6:00pm – 6:00am)

Ref: Alleged on-duty misconduct in and outside the City of LaSalle on various dates and times ranging from 12-13-15 through 02-16-16

Policy Violations (Rules and Regulations)

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- Unauthorized Prohibited Associations
- Unauthorized Persons in Police Vehicles
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- Conduct (inappropriate)
- Unauthorized Leaving the City of LaSalle
- Unauthorized Personal Use of Cell Phone



As we discussed, the internal investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegations of the complaints. As I indicated in our discussions, while I consider most of the infractions to be relatively minor in nature, their cumulative sum proved to be much more serious. As a result, based upon you actions, admissions and your position as a supervisor, I have no choice but to issue you a two day suspension. The suspension dates shall be your scheduled work days on 03-31-16 and 04-05-16.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please contact me,

Respectfully,

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Robert Uranich  
Chief of Police  
LaSalle Police Department

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File #:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	LEAD #:
16-11765LS	03/15/16	S/A Novotney 5110, Sgt. Monroe #4561		

Title:	Case Agent: ID#	Office:	Typed by:	Date:
JAMES L. STRAND	SGT. MONROE #4561	Z3/LS	csn	04/11/16

Purpose:  
To document interview of Aaron J. Buffo.

On March 11, 2016, Illinois State Police, Zone 3 Investigations was requested by LaSalle County Assistant State's Attorney Brian Vescogni to conduct an investigation into alleged Solicitation of a Prostitute by LaSalle Police Officer JAMES L. STRAND, (M/W, DOB: [REDACTED]). Sgt. Monroe was requested to follow up on the investigation.

The following investigative report documents the interview of Aaron J. Buffo on March 15, 2016 at approximately 3:20PM at District 17 headquarters. Sgt. Cornelious Monroe assisted with the interview. **The purpose of the interview with Buffo was to get insight into his claims that some inappropriate things may be going on within his department involving an officer (SGT. JAMES L. STRAND) and a local prostitute.**

We advised Buffo the interview would be audio and video recorded and he did not have a problem with it. He has been with the LaSalle P.D for a little over 9 years. He is currently on the midnight shift. He was recently at a wine tasting event and ran into James Clesson, a former officer with LaSalle P.D. now with the Bloomington Police Department. Clesson is close friends with STRAND and Curt Martin, an investigator with LaSalle P.D. Clesson started talking about an internal investigation within the LaSalle P.D. involving STRAND. He told Buffo he could not believe STRAND had actually contacted a prostitute **while on duty**. Buffo had not heard anything about the investigation up to this point.

The next day Buffo contacted Sgt. Mark Manicki with the LaSalle Police Department and asked him about it. Buffo believes this would have been February 28<sup>th</sup>. Manicki wanted to meet Buffo for lunch somewhere and said he had more information from Lt. Smudgzinski. Manicki confirmed a departmental investigation on STRAND had begun a month prior to the winetasting event. He went on to tell Buffo that Peru Police Department Detective Dennis Hocking had received a phone call from a female (prostitute) claiming to had met an officer while he was on duty. **The number that she was contacted from was traced back to a North Utica Police Department cell phone where STRAND also works part-time. The phone was apparently assigned to him.**

Buffo said there was also an issue at the North Utica P.D. where STRAND is a part time officer. Supposedly another officer there had come across some pictures on a work computer that depicted **STRAND with a couple different females. One picture apparently had a female in various stages of undress and another picture was of a vagina only.** There might have been a video also. Buffo said the pictures were supposedly in the recycle bin on the computer. **The North Utica officer was afraid to come forward but was friends with LaSalle P.D K-9 Officer Brian Zebron.** Buffo said Officer Zebron told him he would fully cooperate with us if we needed to speak with him regarding what he knows about the situation.

Dissemination:

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Buffo advised STRAND is good friends with the Jay Stachowiak, the North Utica P.D. Chief. Buffo contacted Matt Jereb, the Utica Mayor, and told him about the information he had received regarding the laptop at the P.D. He then contacted Detective Hocking with Peru P.D. to give him some more information and at that time Detective Hocking advised him to go to Brian Vescogni at the LaSalle County States Attorney Office. He spoke with Vescogni and relayed what he knew to him and Vescogni recommended that he contact Jeff Padilla with the Illinois State Police.

We asked Buffo about the latest round of promotions at the department and he said STRAND promoted to Sgt. about 6-7 months ago. He stated there are certain guys at the department on the same shift as STRAND that are afraid to respond to calls with him because they don't want to get caught up in something that may jeopardize their future. The interview concluded and we informed Buffo that we would contact him for anything further.

**PERSONAL DATA:**

James L. Strand, M/W, DOB: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Aaron J. Buffo, M/W, DOB: 10/03/82  
745 Second Street  
LaSalle, IL 61301  
TX: 815-223-2131  
815-252-4784 (cell)

**ATTACHMENT:**

ISP 1-A envelope containing DVD-R interview of Officer Aaron J. Buffo

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File No:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	Lead No:	
16-11765LS	04/06/2016	S/A Mike Galletti	5411		
<i>MSA</i>					
Title:	Case Agent:	ID#:	Office:	Typed By:	Date:
James L Strand	Sgt C. Monroe	4561	Z3/LS	MG	04/15/16

Purpose:  
To document the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interview of Aaron J. Buffo

The following investigative report documents the Wednesday, April 06, 2016 9:00 a.m. interview I, S/A Mike Galletti #5411, conducted with of Aaron J. Buffo (M/W, Dob: [REDACTED] at the Zone 3 Investigation's Office in LaSalle, IL. On March 11, 2016, Illinois State Police, Zone 3 Investigations was requested by LaSalle County Assistant State's Attorney Brian Vescogni to conduct an investigation into alleged Solicitation of a Prostitute by LaSalle Police Officer James L Strand, (M/W Dob: [REDACTED] **Buffo requested to not be recorded.** Buffo related, in summary, the following:

Buffo is a Police Officer for the City of LaSalle. He originally reported the allegations against Strand to the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office and was previously interviewed on March 11, 2016 by Zone 3 Investigations. His main reason for contacting Zone 3 again was to check the status of the investigation. Additionally, he provided names of other people who may have information about the case. He informed me that Peru Detective Sgt Hockings had additional information about known prostitutes in the area who may have knowledge of Strands involvement. He requested that we contact Utica Police Chief Stachowiak and request to look at his department computer and officer assigned cell phones. He believes there are pictures of Officer Strand in uniform with an undressed female in the computer's Trash Files.

Buffo also informed me his department knew that he was speaking to the State Police about Strand's allegations. He has told a few people in the department about his involvement and has discussed it with his Chief. He has been in contact with his union representative and may have consulted with an attorney.

The interview ended.

Identifiers

Attachments:

Dissemination:

*J. C. [Signature]*

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

File #:	Reporting Date(s):	Reporting Agent(s):	ID#:	LEAD #:
16-11765LS	4/7/16	Sgt. C. Monroe <i>CM</i>	#4561	

Title:	Case Agent: ID#	Office:	Typed by:	Date:
JAMES L. STRAND	Sgt. C. Monroe #4561	Z3/LS	CM	4/11/16

Purpose:  
To document interview of Peru Police Detective Dennis Hocking.

On March 11, 2016, Illinois State Police, Zone 3 Investigations was requested by LaSalle County Assistant State's Attorney Brian Vescogni to conduct an investigation into alleged Solicitation of a Prostitute by LaSalle Police Officer James L. Strand, (M/W, DOB: [REDACTED]) Sergeant Monroe was requested to follow-up on the investigation.

On April 7, 2016 at 11:15 AM, (I) Sgt. Monroe #4561 interviewed Peru Police Detective Dennis Hocking at the Peru Police Department, located at 1503 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Peru, IL 61354. The purpose of the interview was to obtain any and all information from Detective Hocking which would aid the aforementioned alleged Solicitation of a Prostitute investigation.

According to Detective Hocking, Peru Police Department had received a Crime Stoppers Tip, January 21, 2016 regarding Prostitution going on at the La Quinta Inn, Room 321, located at 4389 Venture Drive, Peru, IL 61354. Detective Hockings stated he and Detective Atkins made contact with a female/white, who denied any type of Prostitution and all she did was "rub downs".

Detective Hocking stated the female white was subsequently identified as Jillian M. Sherman, (F/W, DOB: [REDACTED]) Detective Hocking stated he was told by Sherman she had been at the La Quinta Inn, Room 321, since November 2015. Detective Hocking stated he and Detective Atkins couldn't prove Sherman was Prostituting so they departed from the hotel. Detective Hockings did state before leaving he gave his business card to Sherman advising if she has any information on any type of illegal activity to give him a call.

Detective Hocking advised the next day he received a telephone call from Sherman stating there was something that had been bugging her and she wanted to meet. Detective Hockings stated himself, Detective Jones and Detective Atkins met with Sherman. Detective Hockings stated Sherman informed them a police officer had contacted her saying he was looking for someone to have a conversation with and wanted to meet with her.

Detective Hockings stated Sherman informed him they eventually met at the Beck's Gas Station in LaSalle, IL. Detective Hockings mentioned Sherman informed him, she had a friend of hers drive her to the Beck's Gas Station. Detective Hockings stated Sherman advised a Black, unmarked Police car pulls up and the two talk alongside of the car. Detective Hockings stated Sherman stayed in the car and the Police Officer stood alongside of the car. Detective Hockings stated he was informed by Sherman, the Police Officer gave her \$100.00 to answer her phone and text messages because he needed someone to talk to. Detective Hockings stated, Sherman told him she received a text message the next day from the Police Officer asking her "how was she doing?"

Dissemination: *[Signature]* *PJC 4/8/16*

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Detective Hockings stated he contacted the LaSalle Police Department and inquired about the phone number that was used to text Sherman. Detective Sherman stated it was a Utica Police Department's telephone number. Detective Hockings mentioned LaSalle Police Chief Robert Uranich, requested to speak with Sherman.

Detective Hockings stated Sherman told the same story to Chief Uranich. Detective Hockings stated that same morning Sherman was showed a picture of a possible police impersonator, who had been driving around in a Black, unmarked squad car. Detective Hockings stated Sherman identified the subject as the person she had met with who had previously been arrested by the Chicago Police Department. Detective Hockings stated at this point, it wasn't looking like Officer Strand was the subject of their investigation.

Detective Hockings stated, he was told by Chief Uranich to drop Sherman back off at which he did, and when he returned to the LaSalle Police Department, Officer Strand was there. **Detective Hockings stated Strand admitted to meeting with her, in an attempt to catch people suspended.** Detective Hockings stated the Utica Police Chief, Chief Jay Stachowiak was contacted and made aware of what was going on.

Detective Hockings stated two week ago, Detective Jones from the Peru Police Department spoke with a LaSalle Police Officers wife who spoke of another female who may have knowledge regarding Officer Strand. **Detective Hockings stated the other unknown female has known Strand for a few months and the two have met, but have only kissed.** Detective Hockings advised he heard through the grapevine that there were photos of Strand on a computer and phone. Detective Hockings stated he heard Strand subsequently was suspended for two (2) days by LaSalle Police Chief Uranich. Detective Uranich had no further information to provide and the interview concluded.

Detective Hockings provided me with copies of his report and LEADS printout of Sherman and her boyfriend David M. Wheeler, (M/W, DOB: [REDACTED], consisting of seven (7) pages. A copy of the report and LEADS printout is an attachment with this Investigative Report. The original copies was placed in an ISP Exhibit 1-A Envelope and will remain a part of the case file.

**Attachments:**

A Copy of Peru Detective Hockings report and LEADS printout of Sherman and Wheeler, consisting of seven (7) pages.

1/21/16

La Quinta Inn  
Am 321

Jillian Sherman

[REDACTED]

Been in room since 11/15/15

pd in cash daily \$80-\$100

Advertisal on Back Page gives Act down, parties,  
parties on, no nudity or sex, companionship

Amber Rose [REDACTED] Having issues w/ her,  
will do whatever it takes to get rid of her

Advised her to move out of town,  
we will be back in a cpl days

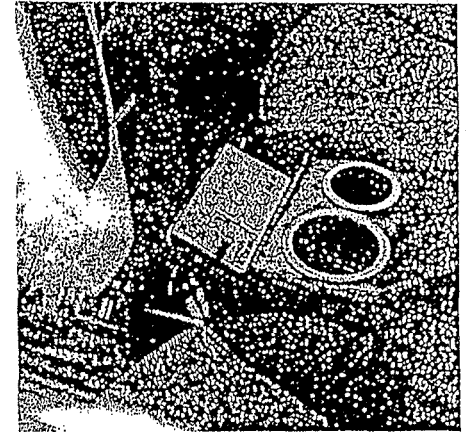
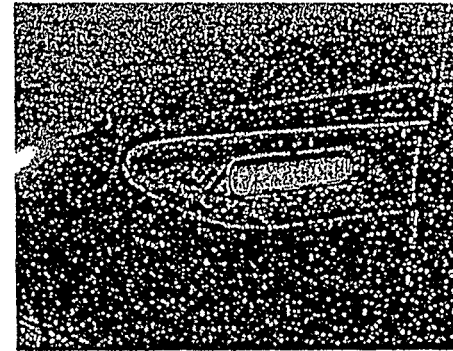
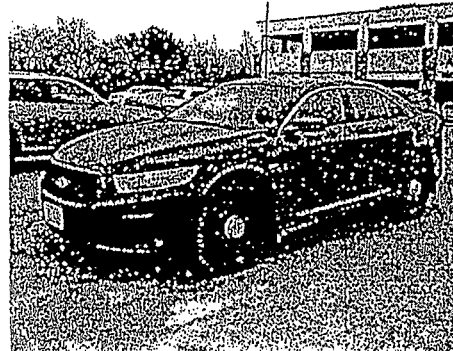
 COPY

# Possible Police Impersonator

Sent: 2016-01-09 @ 12:29

Case: 16-00164

Author: McCune #226



Derek G. Saxton IR#: 1869551

2014 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor

LED Side Marker Lights

Whelen Siren / Light Control Box

## INFORMATION ONLY // NO PC TO ARREST

On 07 JAN 16 at 1316 hrs, this black 2014 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor (IL REG: [REDACTED]) was observed parked in the open lot south of the AMC Theaters (7000 Carpenter Rd, Skokie, IL). The vehicle closely resembles an unmarked police car and had clear LED lights mounted in the front and rear windshields and on both front quarter panels. The vehicle also had a spotlight mounted to its driver side a-pillar and had passenger car plates which register to a private owner, Derek G. Saxton (DOB: [REDACTED]) and not to a police department or other government agency. Inside was also a Whelen brand siren / light control box mounted to the front center console and the vehicle's front doors were also labeled as having "Ballistic Panels."

A LEADS check of Saxton revealed that he was arrested on 23 JUL 07 by CPD for Illegal Use of Flashing, Oscillating, or Rotating Lights, and for DWLS. The I-Clear narrative for his arrest on that date stated that he had been driving a black Ford Crown Victoria outfitted with red flashing lights. Chicago PD 16th District officers stopped him near 5702 N. Miltimore because his vehicle had matched the description of one associated with a police impersonator in that area at the time. Saxton reportedly told CPD officers that he outfitted his vehicle with the flashing lights because he thought police cars "looked cool."

Saxton's vehicle was run by CPD on 31 DEC 15 and 02 JAN 16. It was also run by ISP-Springfield twice on 04 JAN 16.

Anyone needing or having any additional information can contact us via the information listed below.

Skokie Police Department Intelligence Unit

Fric McCune@skokie.org / 847-982-5969

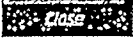
11-17-15

# DL/ID Image Retrieval



DL-ID Image

Driver License/ID #: [REDACTED]  
 Name: JILLIAN M SHERMAN  
 Street: [REDACTED]  
 City: [REDACTED]  
 Zip: [REDACTED]  
 Date Of Birth: [REDACTED]  
 Gender: FEMALE



Only for use as authorized by 625 ILCS 5/6-110.1 and 92 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.140. This information and image cannot be certified to be anything other than the information and image of the individual who presented himself or herself to the Secretary of State's Office with the required forms of identification.

01/44/2016

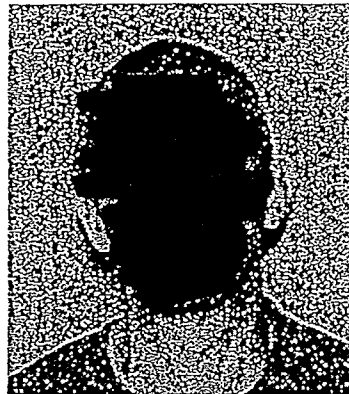
11-117-75

# DL/ID Image Retrieval



DL-ID Image

Driver License/ID #: [REDACTED]  
 Name: DAVID M WHEELER  
 Street: [REDACTED]  
 City: [REDACTED]  
 Zip: [REDACTED]  
 Date Of Birth: [REDACTED]  
 Gender: MALE



Only for use as authorized by 625 ILCS 5/6-110.1 and 92 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.140. This information and image cannot be certified to be anything other than the information and image of the individual who presented himself or herself to the Secretary of State's Office with the required forms of identification.

*Sheaman's B/F*