

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 08/19/2021

On 8/3/2021, [REDACTED], date of birth (DOB) [REDACTED] was interviewed at the United States Attorney's Office (USAO), 1 Saint Andrews Plaza, New York, NY 10007. Present for the interview was, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) [REDACTED], AUSA [REDACTED], Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED], SDNY SA [REDACTED], Defense Attorney [REDACTED] and Intern [REDACTED]. After being advised of the identities of the interviewers and the nature of the interview, AUSA [REDACTED] briefed [REDACTED] on the terms of the proffer agreement. [REDACTED] then provided the following information:

[REDACTED] stated that he was born at St. Vincent's hospital in Manhattan but grew up in The Bronx. He received his high school education from [REDACTED] Academy and attended [REDACTED] college in 2004 where he earned 9 credits. [REDACTED] worked many jobs including part-time construction, Eckard pharmacy, NYPD homeless services in 2005-2006. [REDACTED] began working for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) after. [REDACTED] started working at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in July 2011. MCC is the only facility that [REDACTED] has worked at. [REDACTED] recently served as a Senior Officer Specialist (2015-16) but was a Corrections Officer (CO) before. [REDACTED] also served as a member of the Disturbance Control Team (DCT) (2013-2014) and became a DCT instructor (since 2014-2016). Responsibilities as a DCT member includes cell extraction, riots, escorting and fires. Working on the DCT is a voluntary collateral duty with no extra pay. [REDACTED] recalled when he was out for almost 2 years. [REDACTED] had come back in 2017 after having 2 knee surgeries. [REDACTED] does not remember the Warden's name at that time. When [REDACTED] returned to MCC, there was no longer any DCT training and many of the COs had stopped volunteering. In 2019, there were about 8 or 9 COs on the team. [REDACTED] served on the DCT with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] could not remember the rest of the members. [REDACTED] was the team leader and Officer [REDACTED] was squad

Investigation on 08/03/2021 at New York, New York, United States (In Person)

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by [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] leader/ assistant team leader. [REDACTED] role as team leader was to arrange training and speak to the Warden. The team leader role was more of an admin type position.

While at the MCC, [REDACTED] mostly worked the 4pm-12am shift (2019-2020) doing transport on the elevators. [REDACTED] stated that he worked a lot of overtime hours. [REDACTED] assisted with counts, food trays and escorting visitors. [REDACTED] explained that COs always conducted count with another CO present unless there were less than 4 inmates. When contraband was seized, a chain of custody was created for the items. [REDACTED] has found shanks, scapels, cell phone, K2, marijuana and suboxone. Inmates would drop notes to the COs telling them which inmates had phones. COs were required to conduct 5 searches a day. Certain inmates that worked as cadre were able to go outside, drive and take out trash. Contraband would be in the trash cans outside for the inmates to bring into the building. [REDACTED] recalled a cell in 7 south that had a hole in the window with a rope and basket attached so that people on the outside could put contraband inside.

[REDACTED] stated that in 2019-2020, he would work in the SHU for overtime. The rules in the SHU were to have the inmates designated as DS (disciplinary), cuffed at all times. 2 guards were required for inmates to go to the shower. Inmates received less shower time and had less items inside of the cell. Inmates in the SHU designated as AD (protective custody) were able to have more items in their cells. All inmates in the SHU received larger food trays.

In 2015-2016, [REDACTED] worked permanently in the SHU. [REDACTED] explained that only items that were provided from a CO were allowed to go into the food slot. Inmates would pass paper if an inmate wanted to write a letter to their family. [REDACTED] stated that he would check the items before passing them off.

On the day of the gun lockdown, [REDACTED] was working overtime on day watch (8am-4pm). [REDACTED] stated that there was a lot of chatter over the radio and around close to 4pm, he had noticed a lot of officers had shown up from other prisons. When [REDACTED] asked what was going on, he did not receive an answer. [REDACTED] had received a call from a CO that was transferred saying that there was a gun in the building. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] not to worry about it. [REDACTED] was planning to go home so he told Lt

_____ that if he wanted the DCT members to stay, then tell them at that moment. _____ told _____ to leave. _____ stated that when he got home, less than 2 hours later, the DCT was activated. _____ initially told everyone that he was not going in. _____ called _____ and asked him if he could come in because _____ and _____ were the only 2 at the MCC. _____ stated that he spoke to _____ and told them he was going to go. _____ was sick so he did not go in.

Officers from Federal Correctional Institute (FCI) Fort Dix and Danbury were at the MCC. _____ stated that they searched 5 North and 5 South. They were instructed by _____ to pull the inmates out, search them, search their cells, gather any contraband and put it in the command center. During the search, all of the top bosses were in the command center. _____ stated that he could not remember if they searched 7 North or 5 North on the first night. _____ stated that they completed searches on 2-3 units that night. _____ did not leave the MCC until after midnight. _____ told the COs to go home. The next day, _____ worked the night shift. _____ had interviewed an inmate in Receiving and discharge (R&D). The inmate was described as a young kid with dark skin, stock, dark eyes, Bloods member. They felt that the inmate knew about the gun. _____, _____ and _____ sat with the inmate. The inmate said that he had nothing to do with the gun. The inmate was in the room for about 15-30 minutes. _____ stated that he might have seen the inmate back in the unit.

_____ recalled on his last day, he was on 5 North searching cells. _____ had asked _____ to help in 5 South because the inmates were giving her trouble. _____ told _____, _____, and _____ to go. _____ stated that they went and spoke to the inmates about being cooperative. One inmate was upset, so they pulled him out of his cell and took him to the stripe room and spoke to him. _____ knew the inmate by face. _____ stated that they put the inmate back into his cell and that was it. Shortly after, a Captain from another prison said that he needed 10 guys. They all went to 5 south. _____ stated that he was called to R&D but does not remember if it was over the radio. _____, _____, _____ and maybe _____ had went to R&D. _____ was there and they said that an inmate and his cellmate had to go to the SHU. _____ had taken the inmates to the SHU. _____ recalled there was an issue with the cell such as the light or water not working. _____ went to

[REDACTED] the tier with the inmates and maybe passed the inmates off to J tier. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED], the SHU crew was there when this happened. [REDACTED] spoke to inmates on the tier, opened a closet and few cells. [REDACTED] had spoke to inmates as well.

[REDACTED] stated that he would not pass contraband. He would maybe pass a stamp to help out because it could make things worse by not passing items such as toilet paper. [REDACTED] admitted that he would pass items even in heightened situations.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had a vendetta against him. [REDACTED] feels it was personal because [REDACTED] did not have the confidence of the COs. On the same night of the SHU incident, [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was upset because [REDACTED] had told them to go home. Everyone had quit the DCT. The next day while at home, [REDACTED] received a phone call about being placed on administrative leave. [REDACTED] explained that when you are put on admin leave, they make posters that says that certain people are not allowed in the building. [REDACTED] had received phone calls about the posters from the Captain. [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and they had not received a phone call. [REDACTED] said he had received a call from the Captain about being placed on admin leave.

The following weeks, rumors were spread that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had passed a phone to an inmate. [REDACTED] stated that he heard the rumors from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] explained that he and [REDACTED] are very close. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that they were probably after him ([REDACTED]). [REDACTED] stated that he and [REDACTED] met in 2011, [REDACTED] has more time in but they used to work the elevators together.

[REDACTED] lives in Brooklyn and was recently involved in a shooting not too far from his house. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that the shooting had nothing to do with him. [REDACTED] stated that he has spent time with [REDACTED] brother, [REDACTED] but he does not know where he lives.

[REDACTED] stated that he was told by [REDACTED] that the phone that was found in the cell from the night he was placed on leave was vouchered the day before. [REDACTED] stated that someone would have had to go steal the phone from vouchering for it to have ended up in that cell.

[REDACTED] acknowledged that there is contraband at the MCC. [REDACTED]

Continuation of FD-302 of (U) Proffer of [REDACTED], On 08/03/2021, Page 5 of 5

was arrested for allowing visitors to come in with drugs. [REDACTED] stated that from 2011-2020, he never saw contraband passed. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had a Cash app scheme where they would find cell phones and sell it back to the inmates. [REDACTED] stated that he did not really know [REDACTED] because they were rookies but they would come to work together. A chubby CO named [REDACTED] had pulled his "thing" out on camera and had sex with a female inmate. [REDACTED] stated that he had not heard anything else.

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