



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 09/06/2019

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the United States Attorneys Office (USAO), Southern District of New York (SDNY), [REDACTED]. Present for the interview were Special Agent [REDACTED], Task Force Officer Detective [REDACTED], Assistant United States Attorney [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] attorney, Ernest Hammer. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing investigators and the nature of the interview, [REDACTED] provided the following information:

[REDACTED] was in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) at the METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER (MCC), 150 Park Row, New York, New York, from July 16, 2019 to July 26, 2019. [REDACTED] cellmate was HACINTA (phonetic) GARCIA for this entire time period. [REDACTED] recalled that there was a correctional officer (Officer) who was referred to as [REDACTED] that worked the morning shift at MCC, and would remember faces of other Officers, not necessarily names.

[REDACTED] stated that Monday, Wednesday, and Friday were shower days for inmates in the SHU. These days were the only days that the Officers would pay attention to inmates. Any other time, inmates would have to yell to get something from the Officers. The Officers would do counts of the inmates when they wanted to, not regular counts like [REDACTED] knew from previous experiences of being in jail. According to [REDACTED], there were 96 inmates in the SHU and 48 cells.

Before the incident happened, [REDACTED] didn't remember the overnight checks of inmates actually being conducted by Officers in the SHU. [REDACTED] referred to the "incident" as when a "guy" (guy), who's name [REDACTED] could not recall but knew him from being in the news, tried to hang himself. After the incident, [REDACTED] recalled the checks being done at 12am, 3am, and 5am. He remembered the checks because he would be awoken by the Officers doing the checks.

 Investigation on 08/15/2019 at New York, New York, United States (In Person)
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[REDACTED] stated that other inmates would yell things at the guy and that Officers would said things about him, making fun of him. For example, the Officers would say that he could buy his freedom. [REDACTED] recalled that the guy would always be with his lawyers and this would hold up other inmates from seeing their attorneys. [REDACTED] also recalled that the guy's cellmate used to be a police officer.

The incident happened around 1:20am-1:30am. There had been no inmate check at midnight. [REDACTED] was reading a book when he heard a commotion. The guy's cellmate was screaming and banging on the cell door to get the SHU Officers' attention. [REDACTED] could only see the guy's cell door and could not see in the cell. It took Officer [REDACTED] (phonetic) about five minutes to get to the guy's cell but then Officer [REDACTED] turned back around to go get the key to the cell. Officer [REDACTED] came back with a Lieutenant and two other Officers. [REDACTED] described the Lieutenant as middle-aged, white complexion and one of the Officers as black, 6'3", and 260-270 lbs.

The Officers opened the cell door and paid attention to the guy's bunkie first. They handcuffed the bunkie and put him inside the shower area. Then [REDACTED] heard a big thump like something had hit the floor. He could see the guy's hands stretched out and then saw the Officers pull the guy out of the cell facedown. The guy, only wearing underwear, looked dead due to his skin having a blue tone. The Officers did not administer CPR, they were just looking at the guy. There was no doctor around. The Officers put something that resembled a stretcher on the floor and dropped the guy, who was already cuffed, hard onto the stretcher facedown. At that point, all the inmates started screaming and hitting doors. The Officers then flipped the guy over, dropping him again hard on the stretcher that was on the floor.

The Officers and Lieutenant then took the guy away. A while later, around 2:10am-2:15am, the Officers and Lieutenant returned and took the cellmate out of the cell again. They then started to clean the cell. [REDACTED] stated that the Lieutenant had a video camera with her, but had it turned in toward her leg to where the view of the camera would not be that of the cell.

[REDACTED] stated that he saw two orange socks and an orange towel that were tied together taken out of the cell. Once the cell had been cleaned out, the Lieutenant turned the video camera to where the view of the cell would be recorded. [REDACTED] said that according to the guy's cellmate, the cellmate

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was sleeping when the guy tried to kill himself by hanging himself from the ladder of the bed. The cellmate said that he thought the guy had died. [REDACTED] didn't see the guy come back to the SHU before [REDACTED] left on July 26. He heard that the guy was put on suicide watch after the incident.

[REDACTED] stated that after the incident, things changed in the SHU. Officers started bringing books to inmates and inmates didn't have to wait to make a phone call. The Officers started doing more checks with flashlights. [REDACTED] specifically remembered the Officers doing the 12am and 5am inmate checks. He would usually be asleep during the 3am check.

[REDACTED] was shown a picture of Officer [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that she looked a little familiar but was not there the night of the incident. [REDACTED] was then shown a picture of Officer [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] worked in the SHU but was not there the night of the incident.

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