OFFICE OF DELTA COUNTY SHERIFF

EDWARD L. OSWALD, *SHERIFF*
eoswald@deltacountymi.org

PHILLIP J. GRIEBEL, *UNDERSHERIFF*
pgriebel@deltacountymi.org

08/21/2023,

Sheriff Oswald asked me to look into a citizen complaint involving Sgt. Tom Lewis. I reached out to the complainant [redacted] and asked if she would be able to come down to our office for an interview. I had originally set up a time to meet [redacted] on Thursday the 20th of July but she cancelled. I asked her to contact me the next day when she was free and she came in the morning of Friday the 21st.

[redacted] explained to me that last Sunday the 16th she texted Tom Lewis to give him some information about the ongoing murder investigation. [redacted] said she first texted Sgt. Lewis at about 7:17pm and they texted back and forth for a bit. She then said that Sgt. Lewis asked her to come over and talk about it because he had been drinking and had too much to drive. [redacted] then said she agreed to come over and Sgt. Lewis gave her his address at about 9:44pm.

I asked [redacted] if I could look at her phone and see the messages she was talking about. At this time, I confirmed that the number she was texting was Sgt. Lewis's personal cell phone number. By looking at the messages I was able to see that Sgt. Lewis did text [redacted] back about some information she had and also that he had asked her to come over to talk about it.

[redacted] then told me that she went to Sgt. Lewis's house at about 10:30-11:00pm and she stayed until about 12:45am. While at the house [redacted] could tell that Sgt. Lewis had been drinking and that he had too much to drink. [redacted] also told him that he needed to go to bed. While they were talking Sgt., Lewis made [redacted] a drink and during their conversation he kept telling her that she better not be holding out information on the case from him.

[redacted] then told me that she didn't want him to get into trouble but it really upset her that he was saying he could get her in trouble for dealing cocaine in town if she was lying to him. [redacted] was adamant that she wasn't involved in selling or

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Using cocaine. [redacted] then told me she was telling the truth and it didn't bother her that Sgt. Lewis was asking her if she knew anything about the case. She said that she reached out to him first to give him some information from Facebook.

On Monday the 24th of July I met with Sgt. Lewis in my office along with Sheriff Oswald. I asked Sgt Lewis about him meeting with [redacted] at his house when he was off duty. Sgt. Lewis immediately admitted to having [redacted] at his house and also said she reached out to him by text and he asked her to stop over because he had been drinking and he didn't want to drive or talk over the phone. He then said he never should've talked to her off duty especially when he was drinking but said she had given him some drug information in the past and he thought maybe she had some information on the murder case.

After talking with Sgt. Lewis, I contacted [redacted] and told her that Sgt. Lewis admitted to everything she said he did and that we would be handling this complaint and Sgt. Lewis may get disciplined.

Respectfully,

Phillip J. Griebel
Undersheriff

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09/06/2023,

Administration,

Sergeant Tom Lewis has been suspended without pay for two shifts. The days off will be September 11th and 12th.

Respectfully,

Phillip J. Griebel
Undersheriff

Zimbra **pgriebel@deltacountymi.org**

Complaint

From : Oswald <eoswald@deltacountymi.org> Thu, Jul 20, 2023 02:42 PM
Subject : Complaint
To : Phil Griebel <pgriebel@deltacountymi.org>

Phil,

I am heading out to a meeting in Manistique and I got a complaint I am wondering you could follow up on.

Basically Lewis was texted by a [redacted] and Tom was texting her back in regards to the Murder Investigation and admitting to being home and had drank too much and
then wanted her to come to his house to talk about. When she went there he was telling her she better not be holding back and then tried to get her to spend the night.

This came in through another person for her and that she just did not know who to turn to and is really scared. This is only one side of the story, but I guess she has all the texts.

[redacted] [redacted]

Thanks,
Ed Oswald
Sheriff
Delta County Sheriff's Office
2800 College Ave.
Escanaba, MI 49829
906-786-2054
eoswald@deltacountymi.org

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