

Brandon Strickland Statement during meeting on 03/11/2025 at 1:14 PM

On 03/11/2025, Sgt Kelly was notified by Chief Leonhardt that DC Strickland was possibly going to tender his resignation and that he had requested to review the recordings between him and Boyd. Sgt. Kelly and I met with Chief Leonhardt, DC Strickland, and DC Wyatt at the Chief's conference room. This meeting was recorded on Sgt. Kelly's body-worn camera. DC Strickland was provided a Garrity Warning Advisement, which he acknowledged and signed. DC Strickland was not questioned at this time because the matter was referred to SLED for possible criminality issues, but Strickland did freely provide a brief statement for clarity. (Inv. Note: This meeting is further covered in an Officer's Report completed by Sgt. J. Kelly.)

Strickland states that "this was the statement that he wanted to provide". He begins by noting that he understood the optics of the recordings. Still, any statements or comments he made to Boyd were intended to put his mind at ease, and he did not in any way interfere in the investigation. He advised that he had spoken to Det. Alan Jones the next day because he wanted to be interviewed by Det. Jones, while everything was fresh in his mind, and get him his statement so that he would have it. Strickland stated that any comment he made, such as "you're going to be alright" or "I'm here," was just an attempt to give Boyd comfort as a friend, but he had not accessed a single document or looked at any evidence related to the shooting case.

DC Strickland stated that he was trying to put Boyd's mind at ease, something that he would do for any of us sitting in the room because he considered us all friends. He stated that he would do that for anyone in that situation, but he understood the optics 100%, and he hated the situation unfolding, as it looked bad on the surface. Still, there was nothing there, and he had not done anything. He stated that upon returning from his Gatlinburg trip, he had sat down with then-Chief Hill in his office to discuss the matter, and the Chief had inquired if he had spoken to Boyd. He told the Chief that he had and that he was doing okay. That he was trying to put his mind at ease.

DC Strickland continued that Boyd was ten or eleven years younger than him, and that Boyd had a lot going on, and from his perspective at the time, taking the cloud around the shooting away, or pulling that away from him now, then interjects; that from his perspective of what he saw now, that he did not know what Boyd did in his personal life, that he thought he had only been around him one time when he had stopped by to see a piece of property that he was going to buy. Still, if you took that away from him, from his perspective, and looking at the core of what he saw in Boyd, he saw a guy who was pro-police, pro-public safety, and pro-community, and he was a genuinely good guy. That he had struck it off with Boyd when he had first met him, and that they had spoken back and forth, and different things like that.

Strickland stated that he had nothing to gain by telling Boyd that stuff and that he gained nothing. He was just trying to put him at ease, and felt that with what he knew of the situation, and with doing this job for a long time, he believed that it was going to be a justifiable homicide, based on what he knew. Strickland stated that we all heard in the recording him telling Boyd that he couldn't get involved, but he tried to make him feel better about the situation because he knew that Boyd was a military veteran, and knew that he cared about his self-image. He was trying to put his mind at ease. Strickland stated that he understood that perception was reality, and that he recognized it looked bad when he was talking to Boyd. However, regardless of who was interviewed, he had not done anything to jeopardize his career or be perceived as a dirty cop.

Sgt. Kelly advised Strickland that he had just received the audio recordings, so he hadn't had time to review any other material related to the investigation, except for the audio recordings. At this time, there were no questions for DC Strickland, but he appreciated his statement. Strickland advised that he appreciated it, stating that the incident had been a year and a half ago. He couldn't remember every phone conversation or interaction he had with people, pointing out that on the majority of the calls, it was clear that Boyd was contacting him, not the other way around, and that he had only called him once or twice. We all had been policing for a while, and we all knew people. When those people experience something in their lives, who do they turn to? The cop they know. They want advice that makes sense. Strickland says that he never told Boyd not to talk to the police. He told him, Hey, the police are there, you need to speak to him. Strickland states again: the perception is bad, I was just trying to make him feel better. Addressing the room, Strickland apologized for the situation, explaining that he had not interfered with any investigation, done anything wrong, or driven anything. He could only tell that what he knew about the case was what he had seen on the news and what Boyd told him. He stayed out of it, and that when he met with Chief Hill, and he was asking him about it, they had made the decision, in the office that day, that Mickey, referring to then-Captain Mick Kathman, and then-Lt Greg Lent, would go straight to the Chief and cut him out of it completely. He was not involved in any decision-making, having attended zero meetings or roundtables. He distanced himself. Strickland stated that he had tried to maintain a friendship

with a guy because based on what he knew at the time, it sounded like everything he did was justified, and that he wasn't going to throw him down, for a lack of a better way to put it, when he was going through a hard time in his life. DC Strickland was asked if he had any questions for us, to which he replied, No. This concluded the meeting. (Video Recorded)

Strickland-Boyd Audio and Message Summary

The following is a summary assessment of the calls and SMS messages that occurred between Charles Weldon Boyd and Deputy Chief Brandon Strickland between the dates of 09/10/2023 and 09/13/2023, on the date of and shortly after the initiation of Boyd's shooting investigation. At the time of the conversations, Strickland held the position of Deputy Chief of the Administration Bureau at Horry County Police, overseeing the Criminal Investigations Division.

➤ Android SMS_MMS-9_11_2023 9_38_16 AM (2)

Call Summary

- This is an SMS message between Brandon Strickland and Weldon Boyd. Boyd is asking Strickland if he has heard anything from Detective Jones. Strickland tells Boyd he has not and that he should hear from him that day or the next. Their conversation continues as they discuss the media and rumors circulating about the incident. Strickland advises Boyd that he does not need to pay attention to the rumors and should refrain from using social media.

Assessment

- I did not observe Strickland tell Boyd to do anything, act in any particular way, or direct him regarding the shooting investigation.

➤ Strickland Android SMS_MMS-9_12_2023 8_44_18 AM

Call Summary

- This is an SMS message between Brandon Strickland and Weldon Boyd. This conversation again involves Strickland advising Boyd that if it were him, he would hold off releasing any statement until the case is determined. This could give the appearance that Boyd may have inside information or that he knows more than "they" do. Strickland

advises Boyd that he wasn't going to tell Boyd whether to send it out, and that was a decision that he and his attorney would have to make.

Assessment

- I did not observe Strickland tell Boyd to do anything, act in any particular way, or direct him regarding the shooting investigation.

➤ **Android SMS_MMS-9_13_2023 12_53_46 PM**

Call Summary

- This is an SMS message between Brandon Strickland and Weldon Boyd. Strickland tells Boyd, I know it's tough right now going through this, and you are ready to declare your innocence. That time will come once the case is finished, and there are documents supporting your innocence that the media can put their hands on. Even when the case is done, there will still be negative people talking.

Assessment

- I did not observe Strickland tell Boyd to do anything, act in any particular way, or direct him regarding the shooting investigation.

➤ **18437421643_1_1694298565653 (9/9/23 – 6:31 pm - 1:34 min)**

Call Summary

- This is an outgoing call to Brandon Strickland from Weldon Boyd. The audio begins with Boyd appearing to speak to someone with him. Due to the date and time of the call, it is believed to be Bradley Williams (on the shooting scene). Boyd is heard stating that he has people; I've got a county judge. I've got Brandon with the SWAT team. Phone rings.

At the 00:09 mark, Strickland answers the phone. Based on the audio call, this appears to be the initial call by Boyd to Strickland on the evening of the shooting incident. Boyd asks Strickland where he was. Strickland replies at home. Boyd asks Strickland if he can come to Camp Swamp Rd. as fast as possible. Strickland asks Why? What's wrong? Boyd replies that he had to shoot somebody. Strickland asked what he had to shoot somebody for. Boyd gives him a rundown of the incident. Strickland asks him if he called 911.

Boyd states they are all here and again starts telling Strickland what happened. Strickland asks if the person was dead, and Boyd states yes. Strickland tells Boyd that he had to be really careful with that because it's in my jurisdiction and we are an investigative agency, so he had to be careful not to show, and is interrupted by Boyd. Boyd states that he had witnesses and that his actions were self-defense. Strickland then states that he would slide out there, but he had to be really careful, and tells Boyd to be calm. This ends the call.

Assessment

- As noted, this appears to be a call on the night of the shooting incident to Strickland while Boyd was on scene. Strickland asks some brief questions about what happened and tells Boyd that he needs to be cautious due to the jurisdiction of the incident and because HCPD is the investigating agency. Ultimately, Strickland tells Boyd that he will respond, but again has to be careful. (Note: Upon review, it was known that DC Strickland had not responded to the shooting scene.)

It was not observed in the audio call that Strickland had advised Boyd to act in any specific way, other than to be calm. No direction, advice, or counsel was observed in the call by Strickland to Boyd.

- 18437421643_1_1694299246351 (9/9/23 – 6:42 pm - 1:16 min)

Call Summary

- This is an outgoing call from Weldon Boyd to Brandon Strickland. At the 00:04 mark, Strickland answers the call and states, Hey, Weldon. Strickland says to Boyd that he has the right, but I've got people coming who need to come, and I need you to listen to me and understand me for a second. It might not make sense now, but it will make sense later. I don't need to come out there, ok? Boyd states that he understands.

Strickland states that it keeps it clean. If what you're telling me is a case and a self-defense thing, you will be fine. It's got to go through the process. They're going to ask you questions and probably take you to Conway to sit you down and talk to you, alright? I'm right here. The call ends with Strickland telling him he'll be alright.

Assessment

- Strickland tells Boyd that he has the right people coming, but there is no indication that Strickland had knowledge of or advised Boyd of who was coming or that he had directed any specific people to respond. There was nothing observed in the review of this audio that suggests Strickland advises or directs Boyd in any way. He does provide Boyd with a brief possible chain of events that may be involved in the immediate investigation and states that he was not present at the scene, but does not offer counsel to Boyd. (Note: It is not uncommon for the command of a specific investigative division to be consulted and briefed on a major crime incident that has taken place, who would be responding, and on the resources needed.)

➤ **18437421643_1_1694350776190 (9/10/23 – 9:10 am - 10:40 min)**

Call Summary

- This is an outgoing call from Weldon Boyd to Brandon Strickland. At the 00:05 mark, Strickland answers. Strickland tells Boyd that he did not come out to the shooting scene; he did that for him. He did not want anyone from the family to be able to come back and say that he was friends with the Deputy Chief and he was out there directing the investigation.

Boyd tells him he understands and that all the cops who were out there seem to think it's self-defense. Boyd tells him that apparently, he (Spivey) had pointed the gun at other people, and Strickland states that he did. (Note: This was already known to Boyd at the time of this conversation.) At the 00:55 mark, Strickland tells Boyd that he'd tell him what happened after he had called him.

Strickland states, This is Brandon and Weldon talking, never to be spoken of again. He states that he called his people, and the Detective who met with you last night was Alan Jones, right? Boyd states he thinks so. Brandon states Country guy, good old boy? Boyd says Yeah, well, that's who I sent out there, and I called the captain over investigations and told him who you were. He says his next call was to Jimmy Richardson, because we always call him out on stuff like that. I told him, "Look, here's the deal, " and he said, "Like, ok, let me send, interjecting, We call him, and he sends somebody from his office. He said Jimmy replied, OK, let me work on something, and he's the one who sent George Debusk there last night, who is a Solicitor. I don't know if you saw him or not. Boyd says, 'Yeah, we spoke.' Strickland says, 'Okay, well, you were taking care of.'

Boyd tells Strickland that people were already saying that he shot him because he was dating his ex-girlfriend. I didn't even know the guy. Strickland states the best thing

you can do right now, because that's how people are, the age of social media, don't pay that any attention, don't respond to nothing, don't put nothing on social media, don't do anything because that's all people try to do is troll, make up stuff to get something going.

Brandon states that even in a shooting that he was involved in, they tried to claim that she was killed because she was sleeping with an officer, and he was a friend of mine, and I directed them to take her out. It's just people, man, the world his just a fucking horrible place.

Strickland states that I'll tell you what I was told, well what I heard, not from my people, but from somebody else who knew who this guy was, he must be a pretty big dude because he said he was roiding, he was on roids real bad, he might have been having some roid rage shit. Boyd states that hopefully they will do a tox screen, and Strickland states that they will.

At the 3:16 mark, Strickland states that originally the coroner, "and this is all me and you talking, this isn't a county police talking to you, ok", initially they weren't even going to do an autopsy on the guy. I was like, 'No, you all need to do one to cover it in case a civil suit comes down the line, just to cover you.' Because the autopsy will tell you how somebody died, we know how he died; he was shot. Boyd asks, Do they know how many times he was hit or anything. Strickland states that they would do the autopsy either today or tomorrow; he didn't know, but he was up through it last night, talking. I was in the shadows last night. I wasn't there, but I was in the shadows. I told Jada last night, and I talked to Daniel. I said it's one of the hardest things I think I've ever dealt with, having a friend of mine go through something like that, and I can't be there for them. Boyd replies You were there for me, and that he fully understood what he was saying.

At the 4:57 mark, after telling Strickland more about what had happened, Strickland asked Boyd what gun he had shot him with. Boyd tells him, and Strickland states that he will get his gun back to him, just give him some time for it to be processed. Boyd then asks if he was allowed to, would it be bad if he bought another pistol to carry? Strickland tells him No, you're good, and if you don't want to buy one, I'll give you one to carry.

At the 5:30 mark, Strickland states to Boyd; That I can't officially tell you this, but I'm going to tell you, ya'll are good to go. It's just got to go through the process, and that he (Strickland) had to be interviewed that day because Boyd had called him the night of the incident, and they're going to interview me on the road today over the phone, and I got you, you're good.

At the 6:00 mark, Strickland tells Boyd how it ate him up that he couldn't be there for him last night, but when he called, he got up and started getting dressed and thought, hold on, I don't need to go out there. He didn't have his dad's number, and I didn't want to bother you, but I wanted to tell your dad that you were fine, we got you. Strickland tells Boyd that he was a friend who would always be there for him and didn't want him to think, or it looked like he didn't come out there for him, but it was for him.

There is further conversation about not worrying about it, social media, staying off of it, etc., bad shit happening to good people, and doing what he needed to do that night to go home to his family. The guy put him in a bad situation.

Strickland explains to Boyd the process of searching the vehicles, not in detail, but only in relation to obtaining a search warrant. Strickland tells Boyd that they towed the vehicles with Spivey still in his. Boyd stated that he thought that was odd. Strickland states that it can be done in some situations. Still, when they are trying to dot every 'I' and cross every 'T' to clear you, they do it that way, so when they do a search warrant on his truck, they can take stuff out piece by piece. No evidence is lost, so there is nothing that can, so like, if they pull him out of the truck and a gun is in a specific location or a certain amount of shell casings or whatever, you don't want to lose that on the side of the road. It's better to take it somewhere and slowly do it, removing his body under light, so you can document it as you go and paint the picture in a better light. This ends the call.

Assessment

- Strickland tells Boyd, "This is Brandon and Weldon talking, never to be spoken of again", then proceeds to say that he called his people. There appears to be no reason for this other than to be subversive in the information he would reveal to Boyd. While Strickland is speaking to Boyd about Det. Jones. I did not observe Strickland telling Boyd that he had sent a good old country boy out to him. He asks Boyd about Det. Jones, and if he had spoken to him. Then appears to describe Det. Jones as a good old country boy, and Boyd confirms yes after the description—the wording of how Strickland asked Boyd about speaking to Det. Jones could easily be perceived as having sent a good old country boy to the scene as the investigator. Still, when listening to the actual wording, it was clearly a question with a follow-up description of who was coming out to which Boyd, then confirmed it was the person Strickland was referring to.

Strickland then refers to calling the captain over investigations and "telling him who you were". There is no other context to this statement given by Strickland, only that he called the captain and told him who Boyd was, whether he told him that they were

friends, or something else, but again with the leading subversive statement foreshadowing any following information it again could be easily perceived differently than just advising the captain of their relationship.

Strickland then speaks of making Jimmy Richardson his next call after the captain. He states that he tells Richardson, "Look, here's the deal." Again, Strickland provided no further context for the meaning of this statement, only that Richardson was going to "work on something," and ultimately, Deputy Solicitor Debusk was sent to the scene. As Strickland states, this is a normal standard of practice in major crime shooting incidents resulting in death, and, commonly, a solicitor would be present or available to investigators during the investigation process. Whatever Strickland meant by "here's the deal" is unknown, but as stated in the preface of keeping it between Strickland and Boyd, the perception of this action is deceiving. As well as the statement of Strickland telling Boyd that he was "taken care of." Again, Strickland stated no further context of how he had "taken care of" Boyd. Still, this statement alone could easily be perceived as indicating that Strickland had taken some action to guide, direct, or lead the investigation, no matter how minor or contrary to the underlying tone of the statement.

As for Strickland addressing the information he had received about Spivey having been on or using steroids, this was merely hearsay at the time that would depend on the outcome of a toxicology exam, but as a representative of Horry County Police and not directly involved in the investigation, it would have been better not to have revealed it.

Strickland tells Boyd, "And this is all me and you talking, this isn't a county police talking to you, ok?" Then he proceeds to say that "they" weren't even going to do an autopsy on the guy, and he had advised that no one needed to be done, in case a civil suit came up, to cover Boyd. After conferring with the commander of CID, Capt. Lent, I did verify that in a major crime investigation where the death of a person was a result or possible result at the hands of another person, it was HCPD's standard practice to request the coroner to have an autopsy done. Law Enforcement cannot order the coroner's office to have an autopsy done. The decision to conduct an autopsy lies in the hands of the coroner, who may request one, but in some cases, it is not performed.

At the time of this review, it is unknown to this investigator whether Det. Jones requested the autopsy, or if it was the decision of the coroner's office. The request would usually come from the investigating detective, not the bureau chief. It is unknown why Strickland, before revealing this, felt the need to preface the information he was giving, stating that it came from him, rather than his position as a police officer, other than to provide him with information that Boyd would not have otherwise received.

Strickland, in conversation, tells Boyd that he was up last night talking and interjects that "I was in the shadows last night, I wasn't there, but I was in the shadows", and how hard it was for him to have a friend go through something like this and not be able to be there for them. Again, Strickland provided no further context regarding his statement, "In the shadows." However, this statement could be easily perceived as covert, rather than simply indicating that he wasn't present at the scene for Boyd, but was there for him if needed.

As for Strickland offering Boyd one of his guns versus Boyd purchasing a gun to replace his own, it can be concluded that this was an offer made out of friendship, which adds to the legitimacy that Strickland and Boyd had a more personal relationship than initially represented by Strickland at the onset of this administrative investigation.

Strickland then states to Boyd, "That I can't officially tell you this, but I'm going to tell you, y'all are good to go." It is unclear why Strickland would disclose this to Boyd before the investigation was concluded. Other than that, based on his experience as a police officer and his knowledge of the incident, he was speculating on or giving his opinion regarding the outcome of the investigation.

➤ 18437421643_0_1694354151601 (9/10/23 – 10:04 am - 8:44 min)

Call Summary

➤ This is an incoming call from Brandon Strickland to Weldon Boyd. Strickland starts by asking Boyd how his mom and dad were doing. Boyd mentions that the guy he sent to them (possibly Jones) had spoken to his parents. Strickland responds with Alan is a good dude, and I wanted to send the right person down there to you. Strickland asks if they treated him well. Boyd replies, Yeah, it was fine, and he wishes it didn't happen. Then Boyd notes people making comments and saying stuff.

At the 1:03 mark, Strickland says that he spoke to Nate last night while he was at dinner, and I discussed it all with him, and that when I talked to you, to tell you that he was thinking about you and not to worry about anything. Strickland states they would have to go to him if they were going to charge you with a warrant, and they're not going to, so don't even think anything about that. Strickland then asked Boyd what they had been doing the previous day. Boyd proceeded to explain the events of the day leading up to the shooting incident.

Strickland provides consolation to Boyd and explains that it would weigh heavily on him now or in a few days, but he had to do it to live, and that person has to live with the consequences. Boyd states that he made a choice. Strickland replies that nobody wants to go through that, and he hated that he had to. Boyd said that he appreciated him and thanked him for what "ya'll" did behind the scenes last night. Boyd states they just need to wait and see what happens. Strickland says it's a process, and they have to dot every I and cross every T. It's a process. It's no fun to go through something like that, but it will all work out, and he should not let the rumor mill get to him. Strickland states that it didn't matter if it was the Pope, people would have something to say, so that's the world we live in now.

Brandon then asked if there was anything he could do before leaving town. Boyd stated, "No, just know I appreciate and love you.". At the 5:52 mark, Strickland states he'll still be in touch with his guys while he's gone and then references a cooking that Boyd was going to do for the department, and that they should probably postpone it (laughing). It would be like, damn, he's feeding the people. Boyd laughs and agrees.

Strickland asks Boyd who his attorney is, and Boyd replies, "Ken Moss." Strickland says they told me he was there last night. Boyd stated he had jumped in the truck and come on. Boyd states that they let him through so that he could watch and ensure everything was right, and they did everything spot on; he couldn't have expected more professionalism.

At the 6:53 mark, Brandon states, Well, this is Brandon and Weldon talking, but I'm just glad it was a white male. Boyd states yes. Strickland states that it was one of the first questions he had asked because you know how that shit can go. Boyd says, yeah, that would have changed the narrative. Brandon says, you still would have come out ok, but you really would have had people running their mouths then, white business owner shoots black male, you know.

At the 7:24 mark, Strickland asks Boyd if he is sure he doesn't need a gun because he has a safe full of them that he can give him if he doesn't want to buy another one. Boyd states that he was going to buy a new one. Strickland states that it will work, but it will take a little time to get his truck back to him. He hates the fact that his truck was damaged, and he hopes it wasn't too badly messed up either. Boyd states he doesn't know if he hit the truck or not, but once he started shooting, they started shooting, so he didn't know where his bullets were going. Strickland then told Boyd he would give him \$10,000 for his truck. Boyd said, "I guess so," and they started laughing. Strickland then

tells Boyd, Let's get together when I get back, and get a meal and take a break from the restaurant. We'll have a dude's night; he will get Daniel and Nate and eat or do something. Boyd says, "Okay," and this ends the call.

Assessment

- Regarding the statement by Strickland, "wanting to send the right person down there" when referring to Det. Jones. Det. Jones was the on-call Major Crimes Detective scheduled at that time and would have usually been the Detective sent to the scene regardless of whether the shooting would have involved Boyd or not. It is the standard practice to have multiple Detectives on the scene of a major shooting case. Therefore, it does not appear that Strickland skirted the standard practice by sending a detective who was not on duty, or by hand-picking a specific detective to respond to the call.

In Strickland's comments to Boyd about speaking to "Nate". Strickland was referencing Judge Nate Hutson, establishing some relationship/friendship between the three parties. Upon reviewing the content of this conversation between Boyd and Strickland, it appears that Strickland was calling a friend to console him or put him at ease. Strickland did not state the context of his conversation with Judge Hutson or the reason for calling him.

As for the statement made by Boyd about how he appreciated and thanked Strickland for what "They" were doing behind the scenes, there was no context in the conversation as to what Boyd was referring to when he stated "behind the scenes", and at this point in the administrative investigation I have not reviewed any audio calls that have shown Strickland appearing to insert himself, or direct any parties involved in the shooting investigation, albeit Strickland openly admits in calls to Boyd that he has reached out to at least Chief Solicitor Richardson, and Judge Hutson, which is not uncommon in a significant investigation, and the context of the conversation had between them is unknown at this time.

- **18437421643_0_1694365408053 (9/10/23 – 1:07 pm - 3:43 min)**

Call Summary

- This is an incoming call from Brandon Strickland to Weldon Boyd. They speak of rumors going on about the shooting incident, the consequences of the actions, and how nobody wants to take responsibility for their actions anymore. They discuss Boyd's idea

of issuing a statement. At the 1:19 mark, Strickland advises Boyd that he would probably hold off on issuing a statement and giving it a couple of days to let them complete the process with the vehicles and other matters, until the case is officially closed. Because right now, if he were to push that out, the media sees it, and they are going to reach out to our agency, and our agency is going to say this is an active investigation, we can't comment on it. Once it's closed and is ex-cleared offender-death, then when they call, we will say this has been cleared out as a justifiable homicide, and it will support whatever you put out.

They discuss when the case will be closed, with Strickland giving Boyd his estimated opinion of when this may occur. Boyd asks if it will be closed out this week, and Strickland says, I would think so. It sounds pretty cut and dry. Besides processing the vehicles and the autopsy, I see them making a ruling on it by the end of the week easily. Strickland tells him not to push anything too fast. That's my opinion from the seat that I'm in.

At the 2:44 mark, Strickland asks Boyd about a ring Boyd is selling and tells him that he is interested if nobody else wants it or if he doesn't sell it. At the 3:30 mark, Strickland tells Boyd to do him a favor and call him if he needs anything, or if something's on his mind. I don't care what it is. If you need somebody to talk to, even if it's 2:30 in the morning, you call me." Boyd says he will, and the call ends.

Assessment

- The overall tone of the conversation is one of Boyd and Strickland discussing the rumors circulating about the shooting incident. Strickland does advise Boyd that putting out a statement on his behalf, by his attorney, would not be preferred at this time, because there had been no determination on the investigation at this point on whether charges would be filed, and that in his opinion he would wait once it was cleared and a disposition made as Ex-Cleared as an offender death or justifiable homicide. Strickland does state this, rather than an estimated outcome. Still, it appears that he makes this assumption based on his knowledge of police procedure and the facts known to him at the time involving the events of the shooting.

I did not observe in this audio conversation where Strickland divulged or discussed any details of the investigation with Boyd. It is worth noting that DC Strickland had a relationship that was more personal than presented to investigators during his brief discussion with OPS in the presence of Chief Leonhardt during the review of the audio provided to HCPD. During the audio review with DC Strickland, he presented a friendship of casual and infrequent interaction with Weldon Boyd. Still, the frequency of which he

contacted Boyd and Boyd contacting him, the tone of the conversation, and the statements made (i.e., I don't care what it is. If you need somebody to talk to, even if it's 2:30 in the morning, you call me), it does appear that the relationship was more than casual and infrequent at the time of the shooting incident. Strickland could have been describing his current relationship, characterized by infrequent contact at the start of the administrative investigation.

➤ **17745738331_0_1694374600325 (9/10/23 – 3:41 pm - 4:35 min)**

Call Summary

- This is a call from Brandon Strickland to Weldon Boyd. The call begins with Boyd answering a call from Strickland, who states that Boyd is not going to want to hear this, and proceeds to tell Boyd to log out of his social media and stay off it. That it was going to get worse, and that people are assholes. Boyd states this shit is just awful, and Strickland says this is just how people are and do the same thing with the police department. The call goes silent at this point as if further conversation is redacted.

At the 00:24 mark, the audio goes silent. At the 3:15 mark, the audio comes back, and the conversation continues. Strickland tells Boyd that the best thing he can do is to log out of Facebook for a few days, even though he wasn't going to listen, and not even look at it. At this point, Boyd advises Strickland that his attorney, Ken Moss, is calling him, and Boyd states he needs to take the call.

The call continues with Strickland and Boyd. Boyd tells Strickland that he's no longer looking at Facebook. He didn't do anything wrong, and it was making him nervous. Strickland tells Boyd he was fine. It happens with anything that we do, where somebody gets killed or anything like that, it's people coming up with their own stuff because they want lights and everything else, so the best thing you can do is log out, low profile for a few days, and you'll be fine. Strickland states that if he thought Boyd had something to worry about, he would tell him, and he's telling him he has nothing to worry about. Boyd states that he would try to sleep, and Strickland agrees. Boyd tells Strickland he will call him if he gets upset. Strickland tells him to do it; he has a phone on him 24/7, call him, which ends the call.

Assessment

- The audio conversation appears to be Strickland checking in on Boyd. Strickland and Boyd's conversation seems like a conversation between friends. The topic of the

conversation hinges around Boyd's social media and the information circulating on the social media sites, particularly Facebook. Strickland advised Boyd to log out of his social media and not to pay attention to it, and that people will form their own opinions.

Strickland advises Boyd that he was fine when addressing Boyd's nervousness about the social media post and tells him that he has nothing to worry about; if he did, he would tell him.

The number used to contact Boyd (774-573-8331) is not a listed departmental number for Strickland. It appears to belong to a female individual from Anyor SC, a number that Boyd has listed in his phone contacts for or as Bre, not Brandon Strickland, or Brandon Spec Ops, as he is listed in Boyd's contacts list. I have been unable to find a connection between Strickland and the Bre person, other than that it appears both have a relationship with Boyd. There is no apparent direct conversation as to the formal investigation involving Boyd's shooting.

➤ **17745738331_0_1694447801081 (9/11/23 – 12:09 pm - 12:37min)**

Call Summary

- This call is an incoming call from Brandon Strickland to Weldon Boyd on 9/11/23, two days after the shooting incident. Strickland advises Boyd that he received a phone call from an official in this, in that county, or our county (correcting his language) that he also knows and is a supporter of, and he told me you can sit back and relax, that you're good to go, just don't let that shit get to you. It will all come out in the wash. It was somebody I came up there with one day and ate lunch with you.

Boyd replies that they're making me out to be a murderer, then the audio cuts out as if redacted at the 00:45 mark. At the 4:10 mark, the audio resumes. At the 4:12 Mark, the audio goes silent again, and at the 12:35 mark, the audio resumes for two seconds before ending.

Assessment

- The number used to contact Boyd is not a listed departmental number for Strickland. It appears to belong to a female individual from Anyor SC, a number that Boyd has listed in his phone contacts as Bre, not Brandon Strickland or Brandon Spec Ops, as he is listed in Boyd's contacts list. It is unknown how or why Strickland's call extends from this phone number or the connection to its listed owner, Bre. This is a second call from Strickland using this number. It is also known that at the time of the calls from the "Bre"

number to Boyd, Strickland had been attending an internal affairs conference in TN and was on his lunch break. Strickland states that he had spoken to "an official" who advised him to relate to Boyd that he could sit back and relax, and was good to go, but appears to be doing this in a subversive manner with an intention on not stating the officials actual name, although describing the official as someone Boyd had met previously and supports. It does not appear that any details of the shooting investigation were discussed in what could be heard of the conversation; however, the content of the redacted audio remains unknown.

➤ **18438580940_0_1694481144738 (9/11/23 – 9:34 pm - 22:30 min)**

Call Summary

- This incoming call appears to be from Brandon Strickland to Weldon Boyd. At the start of the call, a male voice, appearing to be Strickland, tells Boyd that he was just calling to check on him. At the 00:06 mark, the audio goes silent as if intentionally redacted, and at the 00:48 mark, the audio starts and lasts for approximately 11 seconds. Nothing of interest was heard. At the 00:59 mark, the audio goes silent again, and at 22:23, the audio starts again with Strickland and Boyd saying their goodbyes and ending the call. (Note: the majority of this call appears to have been redacted).

Assessment

- For unknown reasons, the number logged for this incoming call (843-858-0940) from Strickland to Boyd is listed as belonging to Boyd's Dad. It was noted in a review of other Boyd calls that when Boyd was on a call and received an incoming call, and then switched to the interrupting call, the call log showed the incoming call number as the person he was previously on the phone with. However, this call appears to be with Strickland from start to finish. Why Strickland would call Boyd from a number listed as his dad's phone number is unknown.

➤ **18437421643_0_1694624037396 (9/13/23 – 12:55 pm - 1:49 min)**

Call Summary

- This is an incoming call from Brandon Strickland to Weldon Boyd. Boyd is telling Strickland that SLED wants to retrieve their cell phones, and he does not want them to have them due to sensitive account information on his phone. He states that SLED is upset with Detective Jones for not seizing their phones.

At the 00:50 mark, Strickland advises Boyd that he was trying not to put himself into a weird situation because of the position that he is in and that he should speak to his attorney about it. Boyd asks if he should not have called Strickland. Strickland replies Yeah, not to put him in that position to answer that question. He was not there and plugged in to any of it, and was trying to stay out of it because of their friendship, so he hasn't been asking or doing anything so that nobody can come back and say anything. Boyd states that he will leave him alone, and Strickland tells him he is still here for him. This ends the call.

Assessment

- In the brief audio conversation, I did not observe DC Strickland give or advise Boyd on how to act, or direct him in any way, regarding SLED's interest in obtaining the phones. Strickland even explains to Boyd that he is trying not to involve himself in any way so that nothing can be said about his position or their friendship.
- **18437421643_1_1694520481811 (00:00 min)**
- This call has no audio recording. Not in Boyd's call log.