



Public Integrity Unit

Case # 14-072

Interview of:
Karen Dickson





LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Investigations Division Public Integrity Unit INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



Type of Investigation Animal Cruelty/Neglect	File No. 14-072	Date of Report: October 21, 2014
Activity: Interview with Karen Dickson	Submitted By Sergeant Chad Kessinger	
	Lead Investigator: Sergeant Chad Kessinger	

Interview with Karen Dickson

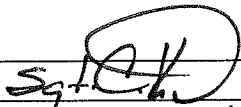
On October 21, 2014, at approximately 1311 hours an interview was conducted with Karen Lee Dickson. Mrs. Dickson is more specifically identified as:

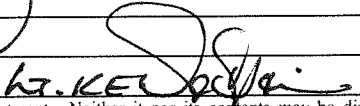
Karen Lee Dickson



The interview was conducted at the office of the Public Integrity Unit located at 810 Barret Avenue. Also present during the interview was Sergeant Andy McClinton. Mrs. Dickson was not employed at Louisville Metro Animal Services during the time frame of this incident. Mrs. Dickson's interview was taken in the form of a sworn statement and the following are the key aspects of the interview:

- Mrs. Dickson was employed with Metro Animal Services in or about September 2008 (volunteering). She was hired at LMAS June 1, 2009, and worked until November 1, 2009.
- Mrs. Dickson works with animal rescues in community.
- Mrs. Dickson was made aware of this incident by Rebecca Eaves, President of the Arrow Fund.
- Rebecca Eaves would not elaborate or discuss who the involved party was.
- Mrs. Dickson said she later determined what agency Rebecca Eaves was referring to after viewing a conversation that was posted on face book the following day.
- Mrs. Dickson submitted four open records request, and provided all paperwork and disc to investigators during her recorded statement.

Investigator's Signature: 

Supervisor's Signature:  11/13/2014

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LMPD # 05-0002 10/05.



LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC INTEGRITY UNIT
OFFICIAL STATEMENT

CASE NUMBER: 14-072

Today's date is October 21, 2014 The time is 1311 hours.

This is an interview with Karen Dickson (R/S)

This interview is being conducted at:

☒ Public Integrity Unit, 810 Barret Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204

☐ Other Location: N/A

Present during this interview is:

N/A (Title) Sgt. Chris Kessinger, Sgt. Andy McClinton (Name)
Dickson

- Q1 ☒ Are you aware this interview is being audio and/or video recorded?
Q2 ☒ Has anyone threatened you in order to obtain this interview?
Q3 ☒ Are you giving this interview of your own free will?
Q4 ☒ Please, state your full name, and spell your last name. What is your date of birth? [REDACTED]
Q5 ☒ State your home address including the zip code.
Q6 ☒ Is this the same as your mailing address? (If no) Mailing address? [REDACTED]
Q7 ☒ State your home telephone number with the area code. [REDACTED]
Q8 ☒ State your mobile and an alternate phone number with area codes. [REDACTED]
Q9 ☒ Are you employed?
Q10 ☐ State your employer and the position you hold there.
Q11 ☐ What is your work telephone number?
Q12 ☒ Are you aware the following interview will be a sworn statement? yes

PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND

Do you, Karen Dickson, solemnly swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

I UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE OATH THAT I HAVE TAKEN.

Karen Lee Dickson
Signature

10-21-2014 1:19
Date Time

A. McClinton
Witness signature

10-21-2014 1:13
Date Time

Subscribed and sworn to me by

Karen Dickson

This 21 day of October, 2014

[Signature]
Notary Public, State at Large

Notary Public, State at Large, KY
My Commission Expires Mar. 29, 2015
My Commission Expires

November 3, 2014

This is Sergeant Chad Kessinger of the Louisville Metro Police Public Integrity Unit. This is going to be an official statement in regards to Case #14-072. Today's date is October 21, 2014; the time now is 13:11 hours. This is an interview with Karen Dickson. This interview is being conducted at the Public Integrity Unit office, located at 810 Barrett Avenue. Present during this interview is myself Sergeant Chad Kessinger and Sergeant Andy McClinton.

Kessinger Miss Dickson, are you aware that this interview will be audio recorded?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Has anyone threatened in order to obtain this interview?

Dickson No.

Kessinger Are you giving this interview of your own free will?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Please state your full name; and spell your last.

Dickson Karen Lee Dickson. D-I-C-K-S-O-N.

Kessinger And what is your date of birth?

Dickson 

Kessinger And please state a home address including the ZIP code.

Dickson 

Kessinger And is this the same as your mailing address?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Please state your home telephone number with area code please

Dickson

Kessinger And are you employed?

Dickson No.

Kessinger And please state your mobile or an alternate phone number with area code.

Dickson

Kessinger And are you aware the following interview will be a sworn statement?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger If you would sir, please raise your right hand. Do you, Karen Dickson, solemnly swear to affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Dickson Yes. I do.

Kessinger If you would please, next to the X, please sign your name. And next to that if you would, date it. Today's date October 21st. And the time is 1:13. Thank you.

Okay. And you're here today to discuss an incident in regards to a pit bull by the name of Sadie.

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger And are you familiar with the dog Sadie?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger And can you tell me—well first what was your responsibility or role umm I take it you were an employee of the Louisville Metro Animal Services? Or you volunteered?

Dickson No. Neither. Umm I do animal rescue work.

Kessinger Uh-huh

Dickson In the community. And I—do you want to know how I first became aware of it?

Kessinger Yes. Yea.

Dickson Okay. Umm, I was at a fund raiser. Uhh I believe it was maybe March 1st of 2014.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson I think that was the date, but I'm not positive.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson Uhh I ran into a lady by the name of Rebecca Eaves from The Arrow Fund. And she told me that umm she had just been dealing with this case about an abused pit bull. It was the worst case she'd ever seen. And she didn't want to talk about it. She said it was just absolutely awful. And umh for a rescuer to tell another rescuer that something was absolutely awful. We see some pretty awful stuff. And I asked her well who was the involved parties? And she wouldn't say. And she said I can't talk about. So I just left it at that. And then the next day on her umh Face Book page she had that little—little umh conversation about Sadie. And—but she never identified who the rescue was.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson Or the agency. She kept referring to it as an agency. So at that point I knew it was LMAS. So I umh filed an open records. I started asking around but nobody would talk to me about—about the case. So I knew it

must be something. Umm, so I even asked some people I knew that worked at LMAS. Cause I did use to work there.

Kessinger

Okay.

Dickson

I worked there from 2000 and uhh, let's see umm, I was a volunteer first. For six months. ~~I started volunteering in about September maybe of 2008. And I was hired June 1, 2009. And I worked until November 1st of 2011.~~

Kessinger

Okay.

Dickson

So I know—I still know a lot of people there and things. So I started asking people about umm about this dog. And I said just give me the I.D. number and I'll find out the rest. Ya'll don't have to tell me anything. Because everybody there is so afraid of getting in trouble. Which I understand. Because they operate in an environment of fear. And umm, but nobody would even give me the I.D. number. So I went through open records. I knew the general time frame where the animal would have come in. So I asked—I sent in four open records request. And my first one was a fishing expedition to the find the animal's name and I.D. number. Which I bought. I was, you know, saw the I.D. number. And then my second open records request, I requested—well I have them in there so I can tell you exactly what I requested. But mostly it was uhh the Chameleon notes on the dog. Which should have included all the medical notes.

Kessinger.

Uh-huh.

Dickson

And I requested the comments. Umm, I requested emails about the dog. And medical umm medical records. And where the dog was treated. Umm, you know, just cause I wanted to find out. Nobody would talk about him. So when I got back, and I can show you if you'd like to see. Would you like to see?

Kessinger

Yes. And in what you doing, you brought a folder containing...

Dickson

Yes.

Kessinger

...it looks like numerous papers.

Dickson Yes. And I got it broken up into my different requests. First, second, third and fourth. Now like I said, my first request was this. It was—this is what my open records request looks like. I sent them my four dollars so I could get a C.D. And I got pictures. Because like I said, I didn't know which dog it was.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson So as soon as I saw that, I knew which dog it was. Besides it says pit bull and Sadie. So that was pretty much it. And—but I got pictures of maybe twelve other dogs that went to rescue. That's what I asked for. That was my first one. And here is my second one. And I asked—I have to be very specific with them because they're not always helpful.

Kessinger Now when you say specific with them?

Dickson With my request. What am I looking for.

Kessinger Okay.

McClinton Just for the record, who did you send the request to? Do you remember?

Dickson Uhh yes. To Dee Allen, Open Records.

McClinton Okay.

Kessinger Thank you.

Dickson So I am requesting any and all email correspondence, text messages, medical records, Chameleon records, including comments regarding a dog named Sadie. I gave the I.D. number. From the time period 2-13, which when I—according to these—when she first came in—to 4-4-14. I thought that would cover everything I needed to know.

McClinton Just something. I don't mean to interrupt you again.

Dickson Uh-huh.

McClinton But what are the Chameleon records?

Dickson Chameleon is the umm it's the program, the shelter program that they use there. Every animal that comes in gets an I.D. number. And uhh it's—everything about that animal is in Chameleon.

McClinton Okay. Thank you.

Kessinger Now is that updated? Do you is that updated daily?

Dickson Uhh it's...

Kessinger Monthly?

Dickson ...it's updated every time an animal comes in or goes out. If it goes out to rescue or something. I mean just by putting information it's—it's updated hourly.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson You know. It's completely up to date. You—you don't have to do anything to it to prompt it to get it to you know continue...

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson ...to take in information. Uhh medical records should include who provided treatment if not provided by LMAS. I'm also requesting information regarding donations made to this animal's care, including the amount of donation, donor's names and amount donation. Who collected the donation, where and how much of the donations were spent on the animal's medical care.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson I thought I was pretty thorough. So here's what I got. I got one receipt for two hundred dollars. Oh wait. Yea, okay. This is the—these are the originals things I got. The documents. And lots of redactions. So that was one receipt. And this would have been from Chameleon.

Dickson This is the uhh Sadie's medical history. There we go. Because she came in originally in February of '13. I'm sure you know that. This is a uhh this is a copy of the—of a veterinarian's report. But it was not—it was the foster's private veterinarian.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson So that's why there's so many redactions. As you can see. Well I disputed a number of redactions. These redactions were done because this—this was about—in the black areas—it was about the foster's personal dogs. So I didn't need to know that.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson I didn't dispute that. I did—these are two emails—and this is kinda important. Because these are the only emails I got. When I asked for emails. It's a total of seven. If you count the "to" and the "from."

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson But as you can tell, I can't tell who it was from, who was to, what it was about. Umm, and I mean it was pretty worthless. And some of them—there were a total of seven, there were two that are just copies of each other. And there was one that has no text. And I think these would be the copies. Now this was from—let me just do the emails first. Okay? This is another email I got and this is from—well at the time I didn't know who it was from or who it was to—it talks about Sadie. Umm when she—this would have been uhh when she first came in. And basically informing someone at LMAS that it was a dog that kinda had special issues.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson So it wouldn't be a straightforward adoption.

 And then, uhh, I got—this is another email I got with everything blanked out. Including who made the copy of it. I don't know who it's from. I don't know who it's to. And I don't know who the foster is.

Dickson And don't know—I don't know much of anything. It's just saying that this is the dog with the gimpy—this is blank's foster dog with the gimpy front leg. Blank said we were just waiting on some supplies to actually do the surgery. Thanks.

So that's what I got as far as emails.

Umm, and I'll go back to this other thing I got. This is from Jefferson Animal Hospital, which is a con—LMAS contracts out to Jefferson.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson And so at some point the date should be on here somewhere. But at some point the dog would have gone in. And this is about examination.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson Yea, this is—this would have been when she first came in. The very first time. Saying that the dog has a bad leg and the leg needs to be amputated. I think that's what it says. I can't read upside down. But if memory serves, that's what it says. The Rx, lameless (Inaudible) something da da da da. But it does say amputation.

McClinton Yes, it says it may require amputation if permanent defects especially if self-traumatizing. Okay.

Dickson Alright. So that was from Jefferson. And that is all I got with my second records request. Umm, but looking through here, I was angered by the fact that I couldn't read most of it. And a lot of things look like they were redacted. I totally understand redacting things like people's phone numbers or home address. I don't—I'm not interested. But I do—I would like to know when it's a government person, who they are. You know. Who the employees were. And things like that. So at that point I asked Miss Allen, who does the open records, to please send them to me unredacted.

And I have another file. Basically at this point, I got—I wrote to the Attorney General to ask if they would please compel them to send me copies that are unredacted. Umm, LMAS sought help from Mike

O'Connell's office. And at which time they explained to me the reasons for their redactions. Which I never, you know, I didn't ask for people's home addresses and things like that. Umm, but they also said, someone LMAS said, and this is just a part of this,

"Although the LMAS understands that the names of its public employees do not enjoy protect from public scrutiny. Concerns have been raised as to possible risks of retaliation against LMAS and its employees by Miss Dickson upon the release of information identifying the public employees that care for the dog in question."

And they reiterate that about three times in this letter. Which I found really offensive.

Kessinger

And that letter came from who?

Dickson

Umm, this letter comes from Brianda Rojas with the Mike O'Connell's office. The Jefferson County Attorney's Office.

Kessinger

Okay.

Dickson

And at that point, I knew if they were using something as ridiculous as retaliation by me that uhh I thought they had something to hide. That they would—they just didn't want anybody to know who took care of that dog. Or what happened. And they were going to hide about that.

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

So! That went back and forth a little bit. And you all are more than welcome to copy anything you like.

Kessinger

Thank you.

Dickson

Umm, I wrote a letter back saying that umm I wrote to the County Attorney, I mean to the Attorney General and basically said I wasn't an attorney nor am I somebody with a violent past. I'm 53 years old with no criminal background. And there is no reason for Miss Allen to think that these employees would be in any danger from me or anyone else I might

share this information with. Uhh until 2011 I was an employee and so they knew me.

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

And I had no blemish whatsoever on my work history with them. None. Uhh, in addition, I'm not aware of shelter employees being targets of retaliation anywhere in the U.S. So I'm not sure where this overriding concern for their safety comes from. And I just came out and said I believe this is nothing more than stonewalling attempt to protect the upper management of the LMAS who are aware of the medical condition of this dog, collected money on its behalf and used the money for another purpose. Had the dog euthanized when it self-mutilated the umm after several months of going without treatment. Umm, and I basically said that I think that she's misapplying—that Miss Allen was misapplying the rules of the open records—in an attempt to protect them. Not from physical danger, but a possible criminal complaint for the misappropriation of funds and animal abuse.

And that's not all of the letter, but it's the pertinent part. Umm, the odd thing was that as these letters were going back and forth in the mail, uhh Metro—I mean Miss Allen, did release. Before the Attorney General had an opportunity to make an opinion on that, they just came to me in an email unredacted. She turned them over. All of them.

So, at that point, it was the same emails. These. No, not these. Those. But without all the black junk. Except for if it had someone's personal address or something. Which, like I said, was fine by me. I don't care.

Umm, however, looking at this I knew that there were a lot—there was a lot more information. And at this point around this time of let me see, the date of this was uhh around April 4th of this year. I knew that umm I had been in contact, somebody called me that use to work at LMAS, and said I know that you're trying to get open records. I know that a lot of emails exist about this dog. So I told them what I had. And they said, oh no. There's a whole—a whole bunch of other emails that implicate uhh Margaret Brosko for as knowing about it. And uhh mainly Margaret Brosko. And they said it was—they were between Heather Adkins and Margaret Brosko. So I didn't know Heather Adkins. So I said well can

you ask her if I can have them? So all of April, May, through that time period, I was just told, oh yea she's got 'em. You know. She's not trusting of anybody. But you know she'll—she'll probably turn 'em over. In the meantime, I knew that there were more out there. So I sent another records requests specifically for emails.

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

And here's what I sent. And this is what I got.

I would like any—now I sent this on—when did I send it—6/20—uhh June 20, 2014. And I wrote, I would like any and all email correspondence between Metro Animal Services employee Heather Adkins and the following individuals: Kim Ward, Margaret Brosko, Alisa Oerther and Tabitha Gray, for the period of June 1, 2013 to May 10, 2014.

Umm, I got an email back from Dee Allen saying that they needed more time. She sent out an acknowledgement within three days saying that they have received it.

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

And I got one back saying that they needed more time. That they were going to have to get the I.T. Department to look into some of it. Which was okay with me. Umm, I believe she wrote that on June 24. She told me that I.T. still needed some more time to look into it. Umm on July 2nd she wrote me and said we—we finished. I can send you the CD Rom. It'll be four dollars. So it was kinda funny because the next day, I had sent her—I realized that I had left Donald Robinson out of the equation. And I wanted emails from Donald Robinson. So on July 3rd, I wrote I would like any and all email correspondence between Metro Animal Services Margaret Brosko and I repeated these people.

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

Because I still had not gotten this. And I—Kim Ward, Alisa Oerther, and Donald Robinson. So he was added to this. For the same time period. And she wrote me back saying well I made the CD Rom available to you

and you have not availed yourself of that. But she only had told me the day before. So I guess I was supposed to run down here and go get it. Umm, she told me to review this, see what's not on here and then let her know basically.

Dickson I had never gotten the emails from Donald Robinson. She's never fulfilled fourth request. I did point out to her that the parties were different. So what's on here would not necessarily be fulfilled unless she fulfilled this one specifically.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson Does that make sense? Oh here we go. I did keep my letters to her. So on—this is July 3rd where she's telling me that—that I have not—you have not availed yourself of the opportunity to go get that which she told me was available the day before. Umm, and then I point out to her uhh as you can see this request, the fourth request, is different people. Therefore, it would produce different emails. That Donald Robinson was not included. And I was still waiting on the CD to arrive from her department. Umm, and then literally six minutes after I had sent this, she writes me and say we've received your payment and you can come get it.

Umm, but anyway so the long and short of it is I never received any of the ones from Donald Robinson. Umm...

McClinton Did you get an answer from them about Donald Robinson request?

Dickson No. No.

McClinton Did you follow up at all? I'm just curious.

Dickson No. I did not. Because what I'm going to do uhh is I'm going to when this is all said and done, I'm going to file a complaint with the Attorney General because his last umm letter to me stated because I did I kept saying at that time because I didn't have these I said there are other emails that they're not providing. And basically his position was well we have no way of proving that they had those emails.

McClinton Uh-huh.

Dickson

So you just have to take them at their word. But between I would say between the 3rd and the 4th requests, I think by the 4th requests I had the Heather Adkins emails. Somebody did forward those to me. I was beginning to think that she was just feeding me a line. And you know I finally said look I got nothing. If you don't come up with these emails all I can do is just keep asking them and they're gonna keep sending me a bunch of garbage. But umm I got the emails so you know my 4th request because wanting that—I was giving them another opportunity to come clean with them, to turn them over.

But umm I will show you the difference between the Heather emails. Now the emails that are here were not on my first request. And they should have been. I mean my 2nd request. When I asked emails. They should have been on that very first one. And they weren't. It wasn't until I started specifically stating. They were just blanketing making general request of people's emails and then I could pull them out of there. So I'm not sure why they just didn't turn them over to begin with.

Okay. So these are copies of the ones that I got from Heather. So these are the ones that I started looking for on here.

Kessinger

Okay. Where you're point at, you're saying on here the disks.

Dickson

The disks. The uhh third request from the open records third request. So when I would find it, I would check. So I got that one. And those two. And most of them are from Kim Ward who was the foster coordinator and handler.

Kessinger

What's Heather's role?

Dickson

She was the foster of the dog.

Kessinger

Okay.

Dickson

So most of them I did find. With the exception of three of them. And a lot of these—this CD, and you're welcomed to make a copy of it, is the most convoluted CD you have ever seen.

There would be a file and then you have to go in each file and there maybe six other files. You really gotta work for your answers here.

Kessinger

And who provided you with that disk?

Dickson

Dee Allen. Umm, I have a feeling because there is a file on here that says K. Dickson ORR590. I think she tried to fulfill it and then realized oh my gosh you know there's a whole lot of stuff here. So that one she thought she had most of them—most of the emails but didn't realize that you know there was way too much stuff so she turned it over to I.T. and said can just put everything on here that you can find. And that's exactly what they did. Because a lot of these emails are in several different places.

Kessinger

Okay.

Dickson

And different files. The interesting thing about this C.D. is that on Margaret Brosko's file, first of all, I went back up just for a second, on the second request, no that's fourth, okay on top when this gets unredacted...

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

...it's the name of Donald Robinson. He fulfilled these.

McClinton

Uh-huh.

Dickson

So he just kinda looked around and grabbed couple. It's his name on the top. He should have easily gone to Margaret's email and gotten hers and everything off of there. Because they're not on here. And her—they are in there but they're in a file called it's—it's in Margaret's file but it's Heather Adkins, it's under Heather Adkins. Margaret's are gone. Which makes me wonder if she did not—when she got—when they got this at Metro, when they got the 2nd request and they knew now what I was looking for, if Donald did not tell her, you know you need to help me out with this or whatever he told her, because uhh and I'm saying this because the—the man uhh Mr. Rowland who is over open records, stated that when get an open records request they send it to the department heads first and then if there's more stuff or something they'll send it to I.T. if it looks like a little bit more.

Those emails were available to him easily. He just chose not to send them. And with hers being just gone, it makes me wonder if at that point when they knew what I was looking for they start hitting the delete button. Because I.T. found them. They found them. And they're the ones umm apparently the story goes that when something's deleted it get sent to like a quarantine file for 30 days. And then after that they're gone forever. So but I.T. found them. And it was much more than 30 days after that. But I think that they thought they were home free.

Kessinger Do you have the ones from I.T. that they did provide you? So you have them all?

Dickson All but three.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson All but three.

Kessinger Now is Donald's on that disk?

Dickson There is one from Donald and it is something about uhh it's not anything about Sadie. See on this disk is gonna be—there's over two thousand things on this disk.

Kessinger And is Margaret's emails included on the disks as well?

Dickson Margaret's are—let me—cause I made notes. Hold on one second. I think I got it here. Margaret's—excuse me—are not in a sent folder. They're in somebody else's folder.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson It's like she got rid of her own, but didn't realize that they would remain in other people's folders.

Kessinger Uh-huh. Okay.

Dickson They are not there. Okay? That's the best way I can describe it. It's very convoluted to look in it. But there is a pattern. And the pattern is that they're not there. And I think they had the heads up right there and it was, you know, it was time to give Karen a couple of stupid little things. They know me there. And—and it was after this time that they told—they brought Heather in to the office and said, if, you know, now we got this. You know. And you're in trouble basically. Because people are nosing around now about this dog.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson Umm, didn't get this email. But it's basically just an acknowledgement. It was from Margaret to Heather. And it is not on here. Uhh Heather gives Margaret her personal vet's name and number. And Margaret says thanks. And it's not—it's not on here. Umm, this one's not on here either. Umm it basically says any decision—this one is from Heather Adkins asking Margaret any decision on amputation yet? My vet is willing to do it ASAP and cover—uhh and if need, to cover some of the surgery costs uhh to get this done I will happily do it. Umm, Margaret responds soon. And the other one that is not on the CD and never was, is this—this one. And it is from Margaret Brosko to Heather Adkins. And she is telling Heather, we can make the donation to our Spot Board and they can pay for the surgery. Let me double check and make sure they approve. And it is not on there either. Not on the CD.

Kessinger And you don't mind if I make copies?

Dickson Sure

Kessinger Of all your requests.

Dickson Yea.

Kessinger Also a copy of the CD that you have. Is that the only CD? That you have?

Dickson No, I had umm, on my very first one, they sent these to me on a CD also. But those are the dogs.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson They were pictures of the dogs and kennel cards.

Kessinger Okay. And I'll just make copies of your first request.

Dickson Okay.

Kessinger So the first request is just going to be paper copies only.

Dickson Right.

Kessinger The second request is going to be you have paper copies here.

Dickson Yep.

Kessinger Dated 4-4-14.

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger And then I believe you have the envelope there that contained the disks.

Dickson This is the third—for the third request.

Kessinger Okay. So the disk is for the third request.

Dickson Yes it is.

Kessinger And then your fourth request is what you have.

Dickson That I never got.

Kessinger That you—okay. If it's okay with you, I'd like to make copies of all four requests. And a copy of the CD.

Dickson Uh-huh.

Kessinger Does that meet with your approval? Is that okay?

Dickson Oh absolutely. Yea.

Kessinger Okay. And also, you have in front of you, some emails that we were just going through.

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger That I would like to make copies of.

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger With your approval.

Dickson Yes. That's fine.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson Do you want any letters to the Attorney General?

Kessinger Uhh...I'll look at those and see. I know you got a lot of letters.

Dickson Uh-huh.

Kessinger It looks like in here. So I will take a look at these.

Dickson I want to show you something else on here. These umm there are also two more receipts here that I got from another individual that did an open records request that were never sent to me about the monies that were umm donated. And this also. Because remember I got the one that—for two hundred dollars. And these were just ten dollars. And I believe this goes with that. And then fifty dollars under that. So they should have been included when I asked for umm when I asked for them on the second request.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson So all of these should have been on the second request. Everything in here. And it wasn't.

Kessinger Okay. And I have a few questions I would like to ask you.

Dickson Sure. Yea.

Kessinger Now, you were referring back to umm I guess the young lady—you received paperwork from the young lady who fostered Sadie.

Dickson Uh-huh.

Kessinger Do you know who that is?

Dickson Her name is Heather Adkins.

Kessinger Have you ever spoke with Heather Adkins?

Dickson I have spoken with her on the phone. I've never met her in person.

Kessinger Now have you ever received any paperwork from Miss Adkins?

Dickson Uhh those emails.

Kessinger Okay. Those emails we are referring to are the ones that have the title "Animal House" on them?

Dickson Well not all of them do. Just this one happened to.

Kessinger Okay. The front page.

Dickson Yea.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson But they're all from either Kim Ward or they're—I don't mean they're from Kim Ward, I mean the emails are all...

Kessinger Right.

Dickson ...from the umm...

Kessinger But that was provided to you by Miss Adkins?

Dickson Yes. And she had looked and looked for her copies. Umm, she said she had the hard copy because when—before she left—cause she quit in the first week of May I believe—but she made copies of them. And there was another employee there that also made copies. Umm, Heather couldn't find her set of copies. And got them from a umm an employee that works there now by the name of Amanda Wolfe. And she sent me, I think they, I did not get hard copies, they sent them to me uhh email. Amanda gave Heather the copies and Heather sent them to me. I believe that's the way that went. But Amanda doesn't want to be involved with this cause she's scared to death of losing her job.

McClinton So obviously she's currently employed?

Dickson Yes.

McClinton Employed. Do you know what her title is?

Dickson No. And I've never met her.

McClinton Okay.

Dickson She—she started working there after I left. Almost everybody there has been employed within the last two years.

Kessinger Now have—did you ever see Sadie?

Dickson No.

Kessinger And when you spoke with Miss Rebecca Eaves, and I believe she is the—she runs the Arrow Foundation.

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger And I believe her—her role umm is President?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Now when you spoke with her, did she ever elaborate on seeing Sadie?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Or seeing the injuries to Sadie?

Dickson Yes. She said it was just horrible. The dog was gasping for breath. And uhh just in terrible, terrible condition. Uhh when she, I believe she got the dog directly from Heather who had picked Sadie up from her vet. And umm I believe it was during the night and they needed the umm they needed to contact the rescue coordinator for LMAS to get permission to take it out of LMAS' possession so that they could get treatment. Umm the rescue coordinator, they didn't have her phone number. So they had to call her mother and get that. And she said fine. You know. Yea, we'll do it. Cause she knew it was an emergency. And then Rebecca took Sadie. She said she was just in a terrible, terrible state.

Kessinger Okay now is that where the Louisville Metro Animal Services gives the dog over to The Arrow Fund?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Correct? Now they take possession of the dog.

Dickson Uh-huh.

Kessinger So to speak. And now they provide treatment.

Dickson Right.

Kessinger So it's no longer the responsibility of Louisville Metro Animal Services.

Dickson Right.

Kessinger Is that correct?

Dickson Yes. And there's a procedure for doing that. Because as soon as that's done, the rescue coordinator will go into—like or the very next morning, if she's home, she will go into the computer and—and take it out and put it

in as a transfer. And it means that it's been transferred out of possession of Metro Animal Services. And at that point, they have no say so about what happens. As long as you're an approved rescue, they don't do that for everybody.

Kessinger

Right.

Dickson

You know. You have to be approved. And they have to know. Umm so I found it a little bit umm odd that Mrs. Reynolds, when she was giving umm testimony or whatever to the ADHOC Committee, made a big point about acting as if the dog had been euthanized without the permission of LMAS. Which they didn't need permission. Because once you handed over to a higher being, so to speak, they use their best judgment. They took that dog to Blue Pearl specialists there. They determined that nothing could be done at that point. But umm it is a little bit of a—I—I don't know whether she was just speaking because she didn't know how it's done. Or—but that is—it's a non-issue to say that, you know, that this—this rescue euthanized this dog without LMAS' permission. They didn't need the permission.

Kessinger

Cause once they take control of Sadie...

Dickson

Uh-huh.

Kessinger

The Arrow Fund is who I'm speaking of. Once they take control, they no longer—do they have to answer to Louisville Metro Animal Services?

Dickson

Not at all. You don't ever even. Because I use to run a rescue. Umm, and—and I know how it's done. And they don't—you don't have to tell them basically anything. Because you're supposed to do that kinda work. They're supposed to build that trust before they start even letting you take dogs and cats.

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

You know. They have to know that you're umm reputable, reliable. That you're not just taking animals and selling them at the Flea Market. Or something like that.

Kessinger

Uh-huh.

Dickson

And The Arrow Fund specifically only—only deals with animals that are very, you know, in bad, bad shape. And they spend lots of money on them. You know. They do what they can. It's reputable. And it was not LMAS' concern after that point that the—that the dog was umm was euthanized. That—that was just—I couldn't believe she said that. Because she said it twice. I—I—I watched the thing twice. She said, well you know, we didn't get the opportunity to, you know, no telling what our vet would have done. We didn't get the opportunity to see the dog. Well you had six months of opportunity. That's the way I see it.

Kessinger.

Okay. Sergeant McClinton, do you have anything?

McClinton

Yea, just a few follow-up questions. Have you ever made, prior to these requests, had you ever made any open record requests with LMAS?

Dickson

Yes.

McClinton

Okay. Do you know roughly about how many?

Dickson

Umm well, I tried to umm...

McClinton

And I mean not involving Sadie.

Dickson

Oh right. I know. I know. Kennel—kennel statistics requests. I keep statistics on the number of animals come in and what happens to them.

McClinton

Okay.

Dickson

And I just do the statistics on them.

McClinton

So you're familiar with the process.

Dickson

I am.

McClinton

Alright. Umm, the way this request was handled, was that common practice? Is that normal? From what you experienced in the past?

Dickson Umm in what?

McClinton Was it common practice, what they—the way it was handled on your first request, the way it was all sent to you. Was that seem how it's normally done.

Dickson Well I will say that on occasion, umm, Miss Allen is less than umm forthcoming. And it seems like she likes to umm make things a little difficult sometimes. Umm. You know. One time I asked for the kennels statistics. I do it on a monthly. You can do it monthly. That's the only way to make sense of it.

McClinton Uh-huh.

Dickson Umm and she told me that I needed to go to the public portal. Which is a complete mish-mash of—of thirty thousand animals. And in no particular order. And find the dogs that way. Dogs and cats. And—and then she denied that umm that LMAS used Chameleon. Because I had to point out it's easy to do. I use to work there. You know. Dee, we've done this for the last couple of years. Why is this a big deal now? You just put the dates in, hit the enter button and the report pops out. But uhh she told, you know, she gives me trouble sometimes about we don't have to create reports to you. And I say that there's a difference between creating a report and retrieving a report.

McClinton Uh-huh.

Dickson Umm, and then once you tell her that then she goes ahead and does it. But this one was a little different. In that I could tell that the information was not there. It was not all there. I didn't know whether she knew it or I didn't know whether somebody telling her just give her some stuff. I didn't know what was going on. But I knew that all the information was not there. And she did seem to be a bit more resistant than she usually is.

McClinton Okay. And then now that you have all this information, do you feel that you're missing anything still as of now? Or do you have it all?

Dickson I feel like I'm missing umm the emails between Donald Robinson and Margaret Brosko. Or Donald Robinson and Heather Adkins. Umm, however, I do know from experience that they don't like to put a lot of things in emails.

McClinton Uh-huh.

Dickson And they'll now say come to my office because I wanna tell you. Because they don't like to have a paper trail. So I'm not real surprised maybe that—I do think that there are emails from Donald Robinson to some people about this. Because I don't know how there couldn't be. Because this has become such a big deal. So that's what I think I'm missing. And I think that would be about all. Oh and there is one other thing I'm missing. In Chameleon, on the second request, this is the medical history.

Kessinger Now that's the one Louisville Metro Animal Services provided you?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Correct?

Dickson Yes, it is.

Kessinger With their veterinarian?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson Uh-huh. And their Vet techs and things. There are no, even though I specifically asked for comments, because there—there was a field in Chameleon, it's called "comments" and then there's one called "memos" and everything about that dog, every single thing, I mean employees are constantly using those fields. They'll just hit it and make it pop up and write little notes that they need to remember about a dog or something. They even write notes about maybe an adopter that came in for a particular dog. Or just anything that they think would be important. And they use those a lot. I got nothing of that. And I know that there must be.

Kessinger Was it redacted? Or there was just nothing there?

Dickson Nothing. They just didn't print it. No, there was nothing. So I know that exists. And I didn't get it. Umm, and I know that there's probably a heck of a lot of information in it. Because they had this dog for almost a year. So there was probably every time Heather would ask a question or you know.

Kessinger Now if, and I'm just asking based on your knowledge and your time when you worked there.

Dickson Uh-huh.

Kessinger If someone was to call in and foster the dog and inquire about it, (Inaudible) treatment, or brought it for treatment, would that get placed in the Chameleon?

Dickson Uh-huh.

Kessinger Even a question that might be asked or raised to the Vet?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Would they place that in the Chameleon?

Dickson In the—in the comments.

Kessinger Uh-huh.

Dickson Or umm even in here. In this part. In—in the medical. They would commute—they communicate with each other through that. You know. Umm, you know, I've been back in the Vet tech department and they'll be like hmm looking asking about a dog. And they'll hit every single field to make it pop up to see if somebody has put a memo in there about that dog.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson So every time she would have come in, umm, there would have been comments about Heather in there. There would have been comments about raising the money. There would have been, you know, just how much it cost. And there would have been all sorts of stuff. But there was nothing. They didn't send me anything.

Kessinger And when notes or comments are put in there, are the names who put it in there documented?

Dickson Yes. You have to put your three initials.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson You have to put your initials afterwards so people know who—who wrote the comment.

Kessinger Okay. Now have you ever had any communication with anyone employed at Louisville Metro Animal Services about this case?

Dickson Yes.

Kessinger Any the ones that we're discussing right now, that we're talking about?

Dickson You mean present?

Kessinger Yea, Donald—Donald Robinson or Margaret Brosko or Kim Ward. Have you had any conversation with them?

Dickson I have had a conversation, not about this case.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson I have had a conversation with Kim Ward cause I fostered some cats. But she's no longer there.

Kessinger Okay. No, I mean we'll just stay specific to this case alone.

Dickson Uhh, no. I have spoke to the rescue coordinator.

Kessinger And who's the rescue coordinator?

Dickson Amanda Crook. She's a friend of mine.

Kessinger And is she currently the...?

Dickson Rescue coordinator. Yes.

Kessinger Amanda who?

Dickson Crook. C-R-O-O-K.

Kessinger And you say she's the rescue coordinator?

Dickson Yes. And adoption coordinator

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson She has two jobs there. But even Amanda was unwilling to give me the animal's I.D. She did not—she says—and I believe her—she says, you know Karen, I didn't know anything about this dog the whole time that it was—I didn't know it was sick. I didn't know what Margaret and Heather had going about.

Kessinger And she worked at Animal Services at that time?

Dickson Uh-huh. She was the one that Rebecca Eaves had to get in touch with her mother to get in touch with her in the middle of the night. To get possession of the dog. She was the one that gave the approval.

Kessinger Okay.

Dickson And uhh oddly enough umm, I found out later that the day that the dog got transferred and was put to sleep, Margaret Brosko called Amanda's mother and said, I just want you to know that we did everything possible for that dog. Do you understand that? And Vicky Crook didn't even know Margaret Brosko. And said well, okay. She just thought that whole conversation was really weird.

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Date: November 3, 2014

Kessinger

Hmm. Okay.

Are there any questions that we have not asked you or any other information that you have that may be beneficial to this case?

Dickson

I don't think so.

Kessinger

Is there anything that you want to state for the record before we end?

Dickson

Umm, no. I guess not. I have opinions about this case, about what happened, but I don't think that, you know, you all will draw your own conclusions I'm sure.

Kessinger

Is everything you told me the truth to the best of your knowledge?

Dickson

Yes it is.

Kessinger

We will now conclude this statement. The time now is 14:04 hours.

END OF STATEMENT

Karen Dickson / File #14-072 Karen Dickson

/jkc