

12/8/08 CSLEA Disciplinary Hearing Minutes for Guy Chrisos
Written by Guy Chrisos

The Arrival

I arrived at my hearing on Monday with a friend, who was to act only as a witness to the proceedings, at 1329 hours. We were asked our names by a large but pleasant fellow, probably the sergeant at arms. He asked if we had any weapons. I told him that I was a peace officer and was carrying my off-duty weapon. He said that would not be allowed. He said I could leave it in my vehicle. I told him my vehicle was on the next block and I would not. He said again that they were not allowed and that I could park in the CSLEA lot even though it was full. If necessary my friend could move my vehicle. I retrieved my vehicle, parked it out front and locked all weapons and ammo inside.

Prior to going in, I explained to the guard that my friend was a private citizen and businessman, not employed as a reporter and in no way associated with law enforcement or this case. My friend and I were told that I had to go in first, they would ask me some information about myself and my friend and that my friend would wait outside until they called him. He was ushered to the lobby well away from the door to the hearing and offered drinks and snacks.

While I went inside, the guard kept talking to my friend and prying for information (who are you with again?). The guard kept trying to get him to sit down. After about a ½ hour past, my friend thought they had allowed me to use my tape recorder, which is why he had not been brought in. He asked the guard if they were going to let him in, otherwise he would go see his daughter who was down the street. The guard said that "He did not know and that he was not even allowed in there." My friend said, "Can you ask them?" The guard went toward the door (which was out of eyesight) and my friend presumed he went inside. [I do not recall anyone entering the room during my hearing] The guard came back about 4-5 minutes later and said "They're just wrapping it up. He'll be right out." About 2-3 minutes later I came out of the room.

The Hearing

I entered the room and was directed to the chair at the head of the table near the door. Carrillo asked that I remove my gum so he could hear me. At this point I truly was trying to be cooperative and removed my gum. The CSLEA attorney, Kasey Clark, then began talking and stated that he was just the mediator of the hearing. Clark said that this was a hearing to determine if I had violated the CSLEA constitution. He made comment about how it was not to punish people who had signed the cards, but rather those who had furthered the severance. The group did a round robin introduction from right to left; Kasey Clark, Ricardo Sanchez, Tina Brazil, Richard Carrillo (who appeared to be smirking throughout the hearing), Bruce Hotchkiss, and Alan Barcelona. After their introduction I requested that my friend be allowed in. Ricardo Sanchez said that he would not. I said that I requested an open hearing. Carrillo said that I did not request any witnesses. Clark stepped in and clarified that my friend was not a witness, but an observer. Both Carrillo and Sanchez said that it would not be allowed. I said fine, pulled out my recorder, and said that I would record the event. Sanchez said "I'm a

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peace officer and I do not wish to be recorded." I said "So, I can't have an observer and I can't have a recorder either." Sanchez again said that he did not wish to be recorded. He asked if I had been recording already. I told him no. I told him that I would turn the recorder off. I turned it off, held it up and said "I'm turning it off. You can come over here and check it if you like." He said he would take my word for it.

I asked where my accuser was. I was told by Carrillo that the complainant did not wish to file a complaint and that they were just investigating my possible furtherance of the severance. I asked for clarification, stating "So I am not allowed to have any observer or recorder at the hearing, and you are going to try me on paraphrased hearsay from a complainant who is not even here for me to refute." Clark said that the rules of law have no bearing in this hearing. I asked if there was an official complaint form or if the original notice was the form. I did not get an answer.

Clark began speaking and I interrupted him. I said that if I could not have a witness and could not record that I would have to take notes. I advised that I wrote slowly and they would have to do the introductions again. Each repeated their name until I reached Barcelona. I looked at him and said "And your name?" He said "I'm Alan Barcelona, president of CSLEA. My picture is at the top of the CSLEA website." I apologized for not recognizing him as I was busy watching the right side of the table due to the angry stares I was getting from Sanchez and Carrillo. Of course, I was unarmed, but I did not know if they were or not.

Carrillo began the questioning. He asked if I had contacted the complainant during the time in question. I said that I had. He asked about the content of the conversation. I said that we talked about various things. He asked if I asked her if she was adamantly opposed to the severance. I said that I asked her if she was aware of the current situation regarding the severance. Carrillo asked if I asked her to fill out a severance card. I said that I suggested that she look at information from both sides and educate herself to make an informed decision. I was asked if I left her a message why she had not sent me her card. I told the group that their charge was bullshit as I have never asked anyone to send me their card, only to view the information and make an informed decision. Carrillo asked if I made the statement: "Only a fucking idiot would not support the severance." I said that I did not recall the exact statement, but that I only suggested that she review both sides of the argument. Carrillo again asked if I used the words "fucking idiot." I said that the complainant and I knew each other and if I did indeed use profanity, it was not to chastise or intimidate, but only an expression. I said that if I did use the preface "Only a fucking idiot," it was followed by "would not educate themselves and allow themselves to choose.

Ricardo Sanchez asked how I knew that P.O.C. needed only 9-10 signatures from the 60 or so who did not sign severance cards. I told him that I did not recall where I had heard those numbers. Sanchez kept questioning me and I repeated that I did not recall exactly, perhaps from an overheard conversation. He then asked me if Richard Bergstresser gave me the information. I told him again that I did not recall, but that Richard and I rarely communicate and had not discussed this issue with him personally. At this point Carrillo questioned my knowledge of these numbers and accused me of being a "major player" in P.O.C. I could only laugh at that point because it was so ridiculous. Carrillo asked if I had

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called and left a message a few days later asking why I had not received her card yet. I pointed out to the group that the information in the e-mail thread and the information on their charge were different. I stated that I had not asked her to send her card to me. I was only inquiring if she had received the e-mail. I told that she asked me to e-mail her the info and she would look at it. I said that if she had stated that she was not interested that I would have accepted her decision and left it at that. Carrillo asked if I had sent information to anyone else. I did not recall as it was quite a while ago. Carrillo then asked me "Who are you with?" I said "What do you mean?" He repeated his question and I repeated my answer. Carrillo rephrased the question as "Are you with P.O.C. or CSLEA?" I said "As of today, I am a paying member of CSLEA." He asked who I sided with. I told him I am a member of CSLEA. I have no other options at this time. I will make my decision when the opportunity presents itself. *(In regards to counsel (Clark) talking to Carillo-(to the best of my recollection I believe it to be during the "Who are you with" phase of Carillo's questioning.)*

During the above conversation I said that in the e-mail thread I was made out to be a stranger to the complainant. I told the group that she and I worked together for two years and were not strangers, even having beers together prior. I said that I travel down south on occasion and that a mutual friend had invited her to a barbeque at his house under the guise that I would be in town (remember this statement as it will resurface later). The BBQ in question was back in June or earlier.

Hotchkiss then began participating in a rather unprofessional manner. He stated that he was "...just a stupid non-peace officer." He asked if I had ever gone to a CSLEA meeting. I said that I had not. He inquired as to why, if I was preaching to self-educate, that I had not called or spoke to CSLEA. I said that I utilized their website. Carrillo asked if POC had a website and I said, "Yes". He asked if they had By-Laws and I said I did not know. He asked if they had an office and I said that I did not know. Hotchkiss asked if I got my information about P.O.C. from a website and I said, "Yes". He expressed his displeasure with this, as if websites have no validity. I began to question him about the CSLEA website and he spoke no further.

Barcelona, quiet until this point, began to speak. He made reference to my earlier statement about the BBQ "under guise." I told him that he was misunderstanding my reference to the barbeque, but he interrupted, beginning to raise his voice. He said that all peace officers understand the meaning of "under guise" and insinuated that it was to lure the complainant to a place where I could confront her. I told him that I had misspoke and that it was simply a BBQ at a mutual friends house. He interrupted again and became louder. He then yelled "You're a liar! Be a man and admit it!" I said "Admit what?" Barcelona yelled "You're being dishonest and deceptive, dancing around this whole case!" I told him that this whole case, myself against six people with no representation or observation, predicated on paraphrased hearsay, is bullshit and is the definition of deceptive and dishonest. Barcelona then yelled "You're a coward! Be a man and admit it!" I said "I'm not going to let you goad me into admitting or saying what you want to hear." Barcelona yelled again "You're a coward!" He and I began to raise our volumes. I stated loudly "You are trying to intimidate, antagonize and goad me." Barcelona yelled again "You are a coward, just admit it!" He then asked "Are you intimidated?" I leaned toward him, stared into his eyes and said "No, but a lesser man might be by your actions." Barcelona began yelling again. Someone in the group said "I think we

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should end this meeting." Someone else agreed and I gathered my things. Someone in the group said "We'll inform you of our decision." I said "Like you haven't made it already" and walked out the door.

It should be noted that, although I do not recall exactly when, but during questioning, Clark got up from his seat, walked over to Carrillo and whispered in his ear. Carrillo then asked me a rephrased version of a question he had just asked twice. So much for Mr. Clark being in attendance solely as a mediator.

In Closing

Please know that I had every intention of remaining calm and professional. I should have walked out when I was not allowed to record the proceedings, but I could not overcome my curiosity to see how these CSLEA Board Directors would conduct themselves. I only wish I had a video of the event to show to the troops, something that would aptly and adequately demonstrate the self-imposed sense of omnipotence demonstrated by Barcelona and his minions. "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."