

SCFD Female Complaint

On June 25, 2010 at approximately 1600 hours I spoke with Assistant Chief Dillon on many subjects regarding my shift this particular day. Chief Dillon informed me as to the direction he was following on another case. I stated he should closely look as to what he is planning to do as I have been informally informed by a couple of my female firefighters that they feel uncomfortable around the chief because he looks them up and down and "talks to my chest". Chief Dillon informed me the chief was out of town and he would have me talk to him then.

On June 28th Chief Dillon and I played phone tag throughout the day. I finished my detail as a reserve deputy and was heading home when I made contact with Chief Dillon. He asked when I was on duty again and I told him Wednesday the 30th. He advised the chief wanted to talk to me regarding the complaint I made. I advised him I was five or six minutes away from his office and would be glad to stop by and discuss this matter.

I entered Chief Dillon's office along with Chief Ellerbe. Chief Ellerbe ask me what these allegations where all about? I advised him I had a couple females firefighters state they "feel uncomfortable around you as they feel you look them up and down and talk to their chest and not them."

The response I thought I would get when I told you was, "I am sorry they feel this way, I don't ever want to make any of my employees feel uncomfortable around me and what can I do to resolve this misconception." Instead, I got, "I check out everything, you have on black shoes and short socks and Chief Dillon has on brown shoes."

I stated that I was informed that the first time he "checked me out" I just thought he was looking at my uniform to see if I had everything in place, but he continued to look at me like that.

He said "It's a part of my heritage to check people out and you can tell them that." I proceeded to ask him, "You want me to tell them that?"

He responded "I haven't seen anything in this department I would want to undress with my eyes anyway, and you can tell them that."

In total shock I stated "You want me to tell them that?" I repeated a third time, "You want me to tell them that?" Chief Dillon interjects that I should not say anything. Chief Ellerbe asked me why the firefighter did not come to him with their complaint.

I stated that you (Chief Ellerbe) have stopped by stations and told the crews that you are a "vindictive bastard" and if anyone ever crossed you that you would see to it they lost there job. These employees feel threatened that they will lose their job. Chief Ellerbe stated that was ridiculous and said he had another meeting to go to, and these employees should have someone else in the room when I talk with them. I stated I'm just telling you what is out there and I have other things. Chief Ellerbe again stated he had another meeting to attend and Director Suarez walked into the office and asked Chief Ellerbe if he was ready to attend the next meeting and both of then went on their way.

I looked at Chief Dillon and asked if he is always like this and Chief Dillon only replied, "Joe how much longer are you going to stay?" I told Chief Dillon I would speak with him next shift.

To say the least I was dumbfounded by Chief Ellerbe's response. Here is a man that has openly threatened to fire anyone who is rude, making statements like this. I feel he may indeed be a vindictive person and will seek retribution against me for bringing forth this charge, as I refused to give the names of the firefighters during this meeting. I felt it necessary to protect them as per 11.03 of the County's Rules and Regulation policy. I am open to meet with any investigative entity to conclude this matter.

Joe Robinson 06/28/10

July 1, 2010

At 0930 hours I received a call from Chief Dillon asking about the meaning of the e-mail I sent him. (See Attached). I advised him I wanted on the record that I in fact followed Regulation 11.03 of the rules and regulations should the complainants move forward. He stated he was doing an investigation and wanted me to give him the names of the complainants. I advised him I would contact them and ask them to contact him. This was done by me before 1100 hours this date.