



**Garry E. Lucas**  
*Sheriff*

**CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT**

**Internal Affairs Investigation:** #IC11-010

**Investigated by:** Sergeant John Horch

**Date received:** March 16, 2011

**Date completed:** May 10, 2011

**Complainant(s):** Chief Mike Evans

**Involved employee(s):** Detective Ryan Taylor

**Allegation(s)/Finding(s):**

#1. Detective Taylor has been using his Clark County issued unmarked Ford Expedition for personal use from approximately March 2009 – March 2011. This use far exceeded the G.O. pertaining to "De Minimus personal use of county vehicles while on duty". **SUSTAINED**

#2. Detective Taylor has been transporting his children around in his work vehicle beyond what the G.O. allows for in "De Minimus personal use of county vehicles while on duty". **SUSTAINED**

#3. Detective Taylor has been using his county issued cell phone for personal calls for the past two years without following the G.O. regarding cell phone use. **SUSTAINED**

#4. Detective Taylor engaged in off duty conduct which would discredit the Sheriff's Office by using information he gathered on Michael Melton (ex-wife's new boyfriend), to visit Melton's residence on and off duty, including taking family members by this residence. **SUSTAINED**

**Policy Violation(s):**

- #1. G.O. 01.16.010 PURPOSE (VEHICLE USAGE)  
G.O. 01.16.052 DE MINIMUS PERSONAL USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES WHILE ON DUTY
- #2. G.O. 01.16.037 UNAUTHORIZED PASSENGERS
- #3. G.O. 01.35.090 CELLULAR PHONE
- #4. G.O. 01.29.310 OFF DUTY CONDUCT

**Summary:**

On March 16, 2011, the IA Unit received information that Detective Ryan Taylor had possibly been using his county issued unmarked patrol vehicle for personal use over the past two years. After receiving this information, Det. Taylor was served with a "six part" complaint and an investigation was initiated to look into this matter.

Through the process of analyzing Det. Taylor's vehicle mileage, fuel reports, actual hours worked and witness statements, the IA unit has come to the conclusion that Det. Taylor has in fact, been using his county issued unmarked police vehicle for personal use beyond what the county allows for "De Minimus Use". The mileage reports show Det. Taylor drove 52,914 miles for a two year span since he joined the traffic unit in March of 2009. During that time, his co-worker and predecessor in the traffic unit averaged 26,081 miles on their vehicles for a two year span. It was also discovered that Det. Taylor has been transporting his two children around in his work vehicle beyond what is allowed in the "De Minimus Use" policy. A complete break down of hours worked and miles driven are listed in this report.

While investigating the misuse of the county vehicle, the IA Unit also discovered that Det. Taylor's county issued cell phone bills were extremely high for several months over the past two years. Many of the phone calls made and received, were on non working days. During his interview, Det. Taylor admitted that he has used his county cell phone for personal calls over the past two years. He also said he knew the policy about reimbursing personal cell phone calls, but made no effort to follow this even though, according to him, he has done so in the past.

This investigation also found that some of Det. Taylor's behavior during the month of March 2011, is in direct conflict with our policy regarding "Off Duty Conduct". Det. Taylor recently found out that his ex-wife was seeing another man and used the WSP ACCESS system to run a check on this person and their vehicle plate. (The ACCESS policy violations were investigated in IA case # IC11-009). Det. Taylor continued to "investigate" this person on and off duty. He used the information he obtained from his computer checks to go by this person's house on numerous occasions while on and off duty and, at one point, even walked up to this person's residence and attempted to peer into the windows. Det. Taylor also made a concerted effort during this time to keep "tabs" on his wife after learning she was dating another person. He would constantly drive by her residence on and off duty in order to find out what she was doing.

His ex-wife recently reported to a mutual friend, who is a Commander with the Vancouver Police Department, that Det. Taylor had been showing up to her house “uninvited” and she was becoming a little concerned.

### **Recommended Findings:**

After thoroughly analyzing all the documentation, data, witness statements, including Det. Taylor’s own admissions, the IA Unit has come to the conclusion that Det. Taylor did in fact violate our Vehicle Use policies regarding G.O. 01.16.010 PURPOSE VEHICLE USAGE; and G.O. 01.16.052 DE MINIMUS PERSONAL USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES WHILE ON DUTY and recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED**.

The evidence also shows that Det. Taylor also violated our Vehicle Use policy regarding G.O. 01.16.037 UNAUTHORIZED PASSENGERS and recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED**.

The IA Unit also believes the evidence shows that Det. Taylor violated the G.O. regarding Cell Phone usage G.O. 01.35.090 CELLULAR PHONE and recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED**.

This investigation also discovered that Det. Taylor engaged in off duty conduct that would discredit the Sheriff’s Office and is in violation of G.O. 01.29.310 OFF DUTY CONDUCT and the IA Unit recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED**.

### 01.16.010 PURPOSE (VEHICLE USE)

The purpose of this general order is to establish a policy and a set of uniform procedures dealing with the use of motor vehicles by employees of the Clark County Sheriff’s Office. The proper use of a motor vehicle represents a responsibility of the Sheriff’s Office and its personnel extended to and expected by the people of Clark County. Misuse of or negligent disregard for this responsibility will not be tolerated by the Sheriff’s Office. It is imperative that the Sheriff’s Office and its personnel operate motor vehicles in a manner worthy of the trust and respect of the people of Clark County. Except as allowed by law, employees operating motor vehicles shall conform to all laws regulating traffic and set an example of good driving to each other as well as to the public. Each employee of the Clark County Sheriff’s office shall be responsible for adhering to this policy concerning motor vehicle usage. The policies and procedures of the Clark County Sheriff’s Office are intended to be consistent with the requirements of RCW 46.61.035.

### 01.16.052 DE MINIMUS PERSONAL USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES WHILE ON DUTY

The Sheriff’s Office recognizes that providing take-home vehicles provides a benefit to the community, this agency, and the employee. The assigned vehicle shall not be used for personal gain. However, it is further recognized that due to the length of shift hours and days of work, there may be times in which employees may need to utilize a County vehicle for personal business while on duty. Personal use that is permissible should be restricted to brief stops to conduct essential personal errands which do not deviate significantly from the normal route or distance to and from work or current beat assignment. Examples of permissible use may include, but not be limited to; taking children to and from day-care or school while the employee is en route to and from work, picking up a prescription or other essential medications, minor routine banking, etc.

Nothing in the section allows for the use of a County vehicle as transportation to any tavern, bar, saloon or similar establishment unless it is in the course and scope of their official duties.

#### 01.16.037 UNAUTHORIZED PASSENGERS

Deputies should not transport persons in department vehicles unless such transportation is in connection with official department business or prior approval granted by the Sheriff or his designee.

#### 01.35.090 CELLULAR PHONES

The purpose of the cellular phone is to increase communication availability for employees and for the citizens we serve. Radio air time is limited at times and cellular phones provide an alternative method for employees to communicate with citizens, law enforcement departments and other agencies. This also provides employees the ability to return phone calls promptly, contact citizens directly and communicate directly with staff.

The following will be the guideline for the use of cell phones:

1. Cell phones will only be used for department business and will not be used for **personal** use, except to make emergency/priority calls to the employee's residence. Refer to Reimbursement Policy for Personal Use of Cell Phones 01.35.095.
2. Lengthy conversations shall be kept at a minimum. If a long conversation is anticipated, employees should not use cell phones.
3. Employees are reminded that calling from one cellular telephone to another results in double charges to the department. The department is charged for the employee making the call and for the employee receiving the call. Therefore, employees shall restrict the use of cellular telephone calls to **priority** department business only.
4. Employees are restricted from making long distance phone calls on cellular phones. Long distance phone calls should be made from precinct or other county offices. In the event employees are traveling out of county, and are unable to utilize a standard telephone and billing card, cellular telephones may be used. However, any long distance call time should be kept to a minimum.
5. Except in extreme circumstances, employees are prohibited from using County Cell Phones for the purpose of text messaging.
6. Sheriff's Office blue tooth devices should only be synced and used with County Cell phones.
7. The Property/Logistics Manager will provide copies of cell phone bills to employee supervisors to review for excessive calls and abuse.

#### 01.29.310 OFF-DUTY CONDUCT

All employees shall maintain the highest standards of conduct and will avoid any conduct which would discredit the employee or the Sheriff's Office. Off-duty deputies should perform necessary police service in Clark County whenever public safety is urgently required. While off duty and within the jurisdiction of Clark County, deputies should carry official identification when in public.

## **Investigation:**

This investigation was initiated on March 15, 2011, after the IA Unit received notice that Det. Taylor had possibly been using the ACCESS system for his own personal use. After this ACCESS allegation came to our office, other possible policy violations surfaced resulting from that investigation and have lead to this investigation.

This investigation is separated into four sections:

- A. Vehicle Use / AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locater)
- B. Cell Phone Use
- C. Off Duty Conduct
- D. Other

## **Vehicle Use**

On March 15, 2011, I spoke with Sgt. Alex Schoening regarding some of Det. Taylor's behavior and actions while they had worked in the traffic unit together from March 2009 – March 2011. Sgt. Schoening was a detective during that time and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2011. Sgt. Schoening and Det. Taylor were the only two traffic detectives for the last two years and he had a close working relationship with Det. Taylor and also considers them to have a "friendly" relationship.

Sgt. Schoening had initially contacted me regarding a possible ACCESS violation that Det. Taylor might have committed. This ACCESS issue has already been investigated by the IA Unit (IA case # IC11-009).

After talking about the ACCESS issue, Sgt. Schoening told me he suspected that Det. Taylor had been using his work vehicle for personal use for the past two years. He said when Det. Taylor had joined the unit in 2009, his work vehicle mileage was significantly lower than that of Schoening's. Sgt. Schoening said he had recently noticed that Det. Taylor's mileage had surpassed his by a large amount. Sgt. Schoening also told me that on a weekly basis, Det. Taylor would ask him what his vehicle mileage was. Sgt. Schoening thought this odd, and would sometimes comment to Det. Taylor that he was putting a lot of miles on his vehicle and, in a round about way, suggested that he should not be using his vehicle on his days off for personal use. Sgt. Schoening said he would see Det. Taylor on his days off driving his vehicle to the office and would mention to him that he shouldn't be working on his days off.

Sgt. Schoening said he was aware that Det. Taylor only had one personal vehicle, and this was used by Taylor's wife since she is a realtor. Sgt. Schoening said he knew Det. Taylor had sold his BMW soon after joining the traffic unit in 2009. Sgt. Schoening suggested to Det. Taylor several times that he should buy a vehicle and even offered to let Det. Taylor use his truck if he needed transportation. Det. Taylor never used Sgt. Schoening's personal vehicle.

Sgt. Schoening said he "deduced" that Det. Taylor was using his work vehicle on his days off based off their mileage readings. One time, Det. Taylor told Sgt. Schoening that he was trying to "rack up" his miles, hoping that he would get a new vehicle once his reached the 130,000 mile

mark. This comment was made in reply to Sgt. Schoening questioning Det. Taylor as to why he asked about his mileage all the time.

On April 13, 2011, Sgt. Schoening participated in an IA interview to discuss this and other matters pertaining to Det. Taylor's recent behavior. The following quotes are taken from his interview regarding his suspicions about Det. Taylor's personal use of his work vehicle:

HORCH: *Through that two years did you ever have an opportunity to find out his mileage towards the end, you know, a month or two or three ago, and did you ever have any conversation with him about the mileage?*

SCHOENING: *Uh, again, never firsthand knowing what his mileage is. I remember having multiple conversations with Ryan about his mileage and they were initiated by him. He would ask what his ... what my mileage was in my car.*

HORCH: *Would he ask you on a weekly basis?*

SCHOENING: *Oh, yeah.*

Later in the interview –

HORCH: *Okay. Did you ever question him about his mileage, like, "You're driving a lot of miles," or, "I see that you're driving a lot of miles?"*

SCHOENING: *I did, I told him, "It looks like you're driving," you know, "you're putting a whole lot of miles on."*

HORCH: *Seriously or jokingly or kind of both?*

SCHOENING: *Oh, both.*

Later in the interview –

HORCH: *Were you concerned after he sold the BMW, um, that he was possibly using his county vehicle for personal use, also?*

SCHOENING: *I believe that he was ... I assumed that he was doing a lot of driving that could incur personal use, based on the amount of miles he was driving, but I would ... I would weigh that against ... I think I would have an argument inside my own brain, "Well, he is working a lot of OT and driving a lot --"*

Later in the interview –

SCHAUB: *Did he have any other vehicle other than the BMW?*

SCHOENING: *His wife's ... his wife's car. I believe they had a Tahoe. Yeah.*

HORCH: *Do you know if he drove that on his days off or do you know -- did you ever see him driving it?*

SCHOENING: *Well, they were ... they were separated a lot of the time. I know that after they decided or, I don't know if it was mutually, but the marriage wasn't going to work, he was living at home while she was living at home and I don't know if he drove the car then, but I do know that he -- I don't know he drove the car a whole lot.*

HORCH: *Did you ever suggest to him that he should buy a car?*

SCHOENING: *Yeah. Yes.*

HORCH: *Why ... why did you do that?*

SCHOENING: *Because it seemed like he needed to get around. And I ... I remember having just a side conversation with ... with Deputy Luque and again, just, "Yeah, Ryan's borrowing my car." And I know that ... knew that, you know, he'd go visit family members and I think they live in Tri-Cities or Wenatchee or somewhere. And I offered ... I even offered him my truck to borrow one time. I said, "I'm sorry, it doesn't have a bunch of seats in it, but any time you need to borrow my car." You know.*

HORCH: *Did he ever borrow it?*

SCHOENING: *no.*

Sgt. Schoening went on to talk about some of the other problems Det. Taylor was having at work. Some of these included, not being able to prioritize his work and the amount of stress that Det. Taylor would put on himself. Some of these comments are included in the "Other" section of this report.

On April 12, 2011, Deputy Chris Luque participated in an IA interview. Deputy Luque became involved in this investigation since he has been discussing some of his observations about Det. Taylor with Sgt. Schoening. Deputy Luque and Det. Taylor are good friends and Det. Taylor even lived with Deputy Luque for a few months last year while he and his wife were having problems. The following excerpts are Luque's observations about Det. Taylor's county vehicle use.

HORCH: *But you've had discussions with Alex Schoening about him, Ryan, using his vehicle in the past?*

LUQUE: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Which would entail what? Which ... what did you guys discuss?*

LUQUE: *It's more just him using his vehicle, but him not having another vehicle to use, so --.*

HORCH: *Are you, are you saying that, are you saying you thought he was working ... using his work vehicle?*

LUQUE: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *On -- for personal business?*

LUQUE: *Yes, sir.*

Later in the interview –

HORCH: *Did he ever bring any other vehicles over to your house?*

LUQUE: *No.*

HORCH: *Did you ever see him come over to the house with anybody else in the vehicle, like his kids?*

LUQUE: *At that time? I don't ... I don't remember.*

HORCH: *You mean, at that time that he was living with you?*

LUQUE: *Yes.*

HORCH: *Okay. Have you ever ... has he ever --*

LUQUE: *Yes.*

HORCH: *-- done that?*

LUQUE: *Yes.*

HORCH: *Before or after that time that he lived with you?*

LUQUE: *After for sure. I don't remember if it was before.*

HORCH: *Was he in uniform?*

LUQUE: *No. On some of the occasions, no.*

HORCH: *How many occasions do you think there were?*

LUQUE: *Um, God, I couldn't even begin to guess. More than just a couple. You know, more than one or two, I should say.*

HORCH: *At least three or four?*

LUQUE: *Yeah.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *Yeah.*

HORCH: *Did you ... do you know what he was doing? Did he ... did he -- why did he come over there to say hi or what was the purpose?*

LUQUE: *Eh, you know, I don't even remember why. I mean, it was for probably to say hi or maybe he was picking stuff up for me at the time or --*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *-- I don't remember, but it wasn't ... I don't remember the reason.*

HORCH: *He wasn't on his way to work and dropping the kids off --*

LUQUE: *No.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Okay. So with your discussions, you said you did discuss with him about purchasing another vehicle?*

LUQUE: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *And why was that?*

LUQUE: *I knew he didn't have one. And obviously, had nothing to drive. So it was kind of forcing him to use his work vehicle, I'm sure, more than I can only anticipate, just based on what ... the few times I saw him, and I know that me personally, I know you have to go to the store, you have to go places, so --.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Did ... did you ever give him kind of a friendly warning or anything like that, like, "You shouldn't be driving your county vehicle," if that's what you thought, or anything like that --*

LUQUE: *You know --*

HORCH: *-- discussion?*

LUQUE: *-- like, we talked about, I insinuated on it. I don't think I was very clear on it. Um, you know, it's kind of, well, I think like we said, you're talking about a guy that's been on a year and half telling a guy that's been here ten years that knows --*

Later in the interview --

HORCH: *Okay. In your mind, though, not saying it, what were you thinking when you were insinuating this? Did you think he was doing things he shouldn't be as far as county policy? Did you think he was making a mistake?*

LUQUE: *Yeah. I mean, I knew that -- I know the vehicle use policy and I know that it's forgiving on certain circumstances as far as, you know, technically some people use it to go do their dry cleaning and use it -- I mean, far beyond what I use it for. But again, I know ... I have ... I could only*

*assume that the car had to have been used more than ... than needed, obviously.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *Because again, I know what I have to do on a daily basis as far as going to the store and going to here and going to there.*

HORCH: *Did you ever see him drive to the store or to the movies or anything other than --*

LUQUE: *No. I never --*

HORCH: *-- bringing his kids over?*

LUQUE: *I never saw that. And to be honest with you, he never mentioned it to me. I mean, it never came up in a conversation, "By the way, I drove my car here."*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *But yeah, I'd see him showing up with the kids several times.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *Enough to go, you know, it's -- he's using it as a transport.*

The following chart is a break down of the miles driven and the averages of three traffic units for a two year period. The “days worked” calculation comes from adding up all of their regular hours, call back hours and overtime hours for this two year period and dividing that number by 11.75 (which is a work day). It should be noted that I researched and looked up every single work day, to include all overtime hours for Det. Taylor, Sgt. Schoening and Deputy Harada for a two year period. I also researched all of their mileage readings and fuel fill ups from the county shops computer system.

Vehicles driven for two year period	1. Ryan Taylor Vehicle # S19-989 Ford Expedition Mar. 1, 2009 - Mar.1, 2011	2. Alex Schoening Vehicle #S19-959 Ford Expedition Mar. 1, 2009 - Mar.1, 2011	3. Doug Harada Vehicle #S19-989 Ford Expedition Mar. 1, 2007- Mar. 1, 2009
Miles driven	52,914	28,602	24,567
Days worked	436	356	367
Miles per day	121	80	* 67
Gallons consumed	4,851	2,441	1,898
Total cost	\$13,174	\$6,538	\$5,660
Fuel fill ups on days off	32	9	4

- Taylor miles = 28.7 % above average of ALL three vehicles
- Taylor miles = 50.3% above average of Schoening & Harada
- \* Harada lived 7 miles closer to traffic office than Taylor and Schoening
- Taylor and Schoening both live equal distance from traffic office (18.5 miles)

On April 21, 2011, Det. Taylor participated in an IA interview held at the Sheriff's Office Headquarters. Also present was Det. Rick Buckner as guild representation. Det. Taylor read his employee rights and his Garrity warnings and acknowledged that he understood them. This interview covered numerous topics, and when it came time to talk about his work vehicle usage, I started off the questioning as follows;

HORCH: *-- that we have here, okay? It's been alleged that for the past two years you've been using your county vehicle for personal use. That's one of the main allegations that we're talking about here.*

TAYLOR: *Okay.*

HORCH: *Do you have anything to say about that? Beyond what you just read here, beyond what would be considered normal in our work functions, other than going to the bank, dropping kids off on the way to work, returning a movie while you're working, you understand all those, right?*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. Beyond that, that's the allegation for the past two years within the past two years, that is the allegation. Have you been using your county vehicle for personal use?*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *Okay. How much ... how many times, if you can come up with a number, or how many miles, just a ballpark figure if you can figure it out, and from when did you start using your Expedition that was assigned to you in March of '09?*

TAYLOR: *Um, I couldn't give you, uh, miles. Um, I've always attempted to, uh -- well, in 2009, when I got into the unit, um, uh, I still had ... I still had a personal car for, um, I'm not sure exactly when --*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Okay. May, June. You go down to one vehicle, you and Deanna are still together*

TAYLOR: *Still together*

HORCH: *Living at the house. So from May or June, 2009, until you move in with Chris Luque in April of 2010, how much do you think you drive your county vehicle outside of our policy or did you drive the county vehicle for personal use?*

TAYLOR: *Um, I ... I don't want to say that I didn't, but I didn't much. I mean, it was, I, uh --*

HORCH: *Outside of the policy, correct? You're reading it right here.*

TAYLOR: *Right.*

HORCH: *Okay. So there were some times, you just don't know how many?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah, uh, because --*

HORCH: *And what would you do? Did you --*

TAYLOR: *Uh, well, for example, I know for example, um, if, uh -- I would, I mean, like, uh, I'd go to the kids' function at school since it was so close, but if ... if my wife, if she couldn't ... if she couldn't come pick me up, I remember that happened one time, because she's like, "Can you meet me there?" And I'm like -- I remember that happened once. That's -- it was two miles from my house, but I did that. Um, but honestly, I was, uh, you know --*

HORCH: *If she was gone with the Tahoe and you needed to do something, would you take your county vehicle?*

TAYLOR: *If I was in a bind. Well, here's what -- if ... and here's where I know that this is still considered personal use. I would call Chris and say, "Hey, I need to," you know, "do something. Can I borrow your truck," and he would say yes. Or Maxfield or my in-laws. And I would have to drive from my house to that location to get the car. I would -- yeah. So I know that --*

HORCH: *How many times do you think you did that from --*

TAYLOR: *Um --*

HORCH: *-- 2009 to 2010? June 2009 to --? Several or --*

TAYLOR: *Yeah. Yeah.*

HORCH: *Okay. Any other places?*

TAYLOR: *Um -- (sighs).*

HORCH: *There's some you just can't remember?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *I know I ... I, you know, I ... I ... I really, um, tried to show my wife the sacrifices I was making in order to, um, so that's why I didn't go get another car, because we were still doing okay up until April. Um, but, uh, but I know, yeah, I mean, I tried to be as good, you know, like I said, I used ... I used my in-laws, I live really close, I'd go over there and grab a truck.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Okay. Did you ever put ... did you ever fill up the car, then, with your own personal credit card?*

TAYLOR: *I have, yes. Well, I've put --*

HORCH: *You have?*

TAYLOR: *I've put gas in it, yes.*

HORCH: *Okay. When did you do that? How many times have you done that?*

TAYLOR: *Um, well, not that often, but, uh, I did it a couple of times. Uh --*

HORCH: *During that year, do you remember doing it?*

TAYLOR: *Well, I don't know if it was that year --*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *-- or this last year.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *I don't remember.*

HORCH: *Do you, do you think you have receipts or would they be on a MasterCard statement or a Visa statement?*

TAYLOR: *No, I don't -- I, uh, I always pull money out because of working the desk. I ... I --*

HORCH: *You pay cash?*

TAYLOR: *I pay cash.*

Later in the interview --

HORCH: *How many times do you think he (Luque) talked to you about buying a personal vehicle?*

TAYLOR: *A couple of times. But honestly, I think it was he asked what I was driving, but --*

HORCH: *He asked what you were driving as far as your personal vehicle?*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *And what would you say?*

TAYLOR: *Uh, I would say, you know, I'm borrowing my in-laws or, you know, I was, like I said, until, you know, being back with Deanna, I would ... I would use her car again. I mean, when we moved back together in August, I mean, it was ... I knew it was coming, but we ... I would still use her car. Um --*

HORCH: *When you guys were separated, when you were living with Chris Luque when it was your days off and you would go home and stay and Deanna would live with a girlfriend?*

TAYLOR: *Right.*

HORCH: *What would you drive during that time?*

TAYLOR: *I would, if I needed to borrow a car, I'd borrow my in-laws or I'd borrow Chris's truck or Tom Maxfield's truck. But I ... but I still had to drive from, you know, to one of their places. Um --*

HORCH: *How far does Chris Luque live from you? An estimation.*

TAYLOR: *Ten minutes.*

HORCH: *So --*

TAYLOR: *Ten miles.*

HORCH: *-- five, six, ten miles?*

TAYLOR: *Ten miles.*

HORCH: *Your in-laws?*

TAYLOR: *Two ... about two miles.*

HORCH: *And Tom Maxfield?*

TAYLOR: *Almost identical to Chris's. Um --*

HORCH: *Another ten miles. Okay. Anybody else --*

At one point in the interview, Det. Taylor said that some of his additional miles might be from a trip he took to Kennewick Washington for training. He said that last September, he and Deputy Luque went to Kennewick for a traffic school. Det. Taylor said that he drove back and forth to Kennewick three times that week. I asked why he did this and he said it was to pick up materials for the class they were attending. This excerpt is from that part of his interview.

SCHAUB: *Okay. Kennewick's about three and a half hours one way?*

TAYLOR: *It might be three hours, yes, sir.*

SCHAUB: *Three hours?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah.*

SCHAUB: *A long drive. You were authorized a hotel, correct?*

TAYLOR: *Right.*

SCHAUB: *For that time period?*

TAYLOR: *With Chris Luque, yeah.*

SCHAUB: *Okay. Did Chris stay there?*

TAYLOR: *He did.*

SCHAUB: *Okay. Uh, did you make any arrangements to make that trip back and forth with your supervisor? Did he even know that you were coming back every day?*

TAYLOR: *No, I think like I said, I'd just been talking with Alex and I know one -- I came back the first night for equipment, um, went back, um, came back the next night -- I stayed ... I stayed one night there, I think I stayed Thursday night there because I had -- it was, we both went up early on ... on Monday morning, so I was there -- I drove home Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.*

SCHAUB: *And why is that?*

TAYLOR: *For -- 'cuz I, um, uh, I had, uh, my task that I was given was pretty detailed, um, and I was coming back for photographs and reports from the Kerry Brown and Steven Dobbs fatal to use in my presentations. Um, I came back for equipment, I worked on the presentation, gave the presentation, came back and worked on another presentation, um, and Alex had helped me, um, on the one ... on those ... on that stuff. So I used ... he was a resource for me, uh, so I could -- I just wanted to do an excellent job. Um, the SFST instructor class is really, really important to me. The DUI stuff is extremely important to me and, um --.*

HORCH: *Did the instructors know you were coming back?*

TAYLOR: *I think -- yeah, yeah. Sergeant McCullough.*

HORCH: *Three ... three times you came back that week?*

TAYLOR: *I think was three.*

HORCH: *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday?*

TAYLOR: *I think it was Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.*

According to Map Quest, these Kennewick trips would have totaled 1,750 miles for the week.

Throughout his interview, Det. Taylor admitted to driving his work vehicle during off duty time over the past two years. In reading the entire transcript, there does not seem to be any plausible explanation as to why his mileage rose so fast compared to that of Sgt. Schoening's and Deputy Harada's, unless he had been driving on his days off. Near the end of the interview, I again ask Det. Taylor for an estimate of how much he thought he used the county vehicle for personal use. The following is his response.

HORCH: *Okay. So you've read those. Let's go for the ... for the 21 months that you only had one car, how many times or how many mileage do you think that you went outside of the policy and how many times do you think you had unauthorized people as far as not taking your kids to school on your way to work. Can you give us a ballpark figure?*

TAYLOR: *(Ten second pause) I ... I ... I did it. I just ... I don't have no idea how I could put a number on --*

HORCH: *Well, I think we have at least -- I don't want to put words in your mouth -- at least mentioned eight, nine, ten times and, and several different things you'd done, so we're at least looking at ten times that you can remember, would that be fair to say?*

TAYLOR: *Oh, yes.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *"Oh, yes" means, is it a thousand times?*

TAYLOR: *No.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *Well --*

HORCH: *So --*

TAYLOR: *But --*

HORCH: *Fifty times, a hundred times?*

TAYLOR: *I'm trying to think of how many times I would have gone to Tom's to use his truck or I --*

HORCH: *How many times did you use Tom Maxfield's truck?*

TAYLOR: *Oh, um -- heck.*

HORCH: *I mean, just the time that we talked about in the beginning of March, it sounds like you used your vehicle, county vehicle, four or five times just in that span for personal use, when you were going back and forth to*

*Deanna's, to the store, over by (unintelligible). And you had a personal vehicle at that time, correct?*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *I mean, just in that span, unless I'm missing something, it was almost all the way through March 14th until you took the Tahoe over there, that you were using the county vehicle, correct? Outside of the county policy.*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *Is that correct?*

TAYLOR: *Yes. Well, I, um, I will say that I ... I really did make, uh, a ... a big -- I mean, I would ... I would use my in-laws truck, I would use, you know, Tom's truck, I would Chris's truck.*

HORCH: *We're talking about just what you told us here.*

TAYLOR: *Right.*

HORCH: *And you -- when we clarified with you, you told us you were using your county vehicle for all --*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *-- those trips.*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *That's what I'm talking about.*

TAYLOR: *Okay. Yeah.*

HORCH: *Right here in March, we're talking four or five or six times that you've mentioned that ... those days, even though you had ... you had a bought a new Chevy Tahoe. Or, a Chevy Tahoe.*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *Is that correct?*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *So just in March we're talking, you know, three or four or five times. At the minimum.*

TAYLOR: *Okay.*

HORCH: *Looking -- is that right?*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *Okay. And you have no explanation why you wouldn't use your own vehicle on those times? When you were at home, you have your Tahoe in the garage and you have your county vehicle and you know you're going to go do ... you know what you're going on is not work-related, but you still took the county vehicle. Do you know -- can you give us an explanation?*

TAYLOR: *Um, uh, I have some, uh, I have some -- when things get really -- and this doesn't happen, but it's happened certainly this week, um, when things get really difficult, um, my ... I have some things that kind of help me stay ... my OCD type of things and I have -- (sighs). And if ... if I don't do these ... some things, then, um, I believe bad things are going to happen.*

*And, well, every time I get in my patrol car, I'm doing certain things that I have to do in order for me to think things would, you know, would be all right. And in doing this, it was, I just wanted things to be all right.*

HORCH: *I ... I think I understand some of that, but I just want to clarify a little bit. Would you say it's a comfort zone? Is ... is that what you're trying to say or is that? Is --*

TAYLOR: *Every time I --*

HORCH: *Can you explain a little bit more? I mean, I'm trying to understand.*

TAYLOR: *Um, (unintelligible) say -- and I don't want you to think that I'm nuts or loony, um, because I'm doing so much better now with my counseling and I wasn't under this kind of stress all the time -- but when things get like that, um, if I don't kind of follow a certain regimen, then, mm, things will just -- I just felt things were more than I could deal with.*

This was for the most part, the end of the questioning when it came to Det. Taylor's county vehicle use.

The following is a synopsis of this county vehicle use issue:

Sgt. Schoening and Deputy Luque are co-workers and friends with Det. Taylor. They both suspected that he was using his assigned work vehicle for personal use – hence the reason they mentioned helping him look for a personal vehicle to purchase. During Deputy Luque's interview, he mentioned several times when Det. Taylor would come over to his house on non work days driving his work vehicle. He also said Det. Taylor would bring his kids along with him. Det. Taylor also admits to this in his interview that he would drive to and from Deputy Luque's and Tom Maxfield's (another friend of Taylor's) house while off duty. Both of them live approximately 12 miles from Det. Taylor's residence.

During his interview, Det. Taylor reviewed the mileage chart. He seemed somewhat surprised after seeing it, and said he had not realized he had driven that many miles more than Sgt. Schoening and Deputy Harada. He did say that he worked more hours, however, I pointed out that his extra hours were a moot issue since all of their hours were calculated, including call back and overtime, and were averaged into this equation. Obviously, since Det. Taylor worked more days his mileage would be higher. But the average per day is the number that is the most

significant. A quick calculation shows that if Sgt. Schoening and Deputy Harada had worked the same number of hours as Taylor for a two year span, then their mileages would be around 35,002 for Sgt. Schoening and 29,190 for Deputy Harada.

Another factor in this equation, is that Det. Taylor said he would come into the office at least one out of his four days off to work. He even indicated that it might have been as high as two of his four days off. Det. Taylor's residence is 37 miles from the traffic office round trip. By taking 37 miles and multiplying it twice a week for two years, then subtracting that from his mileage of 52,914, still leaves 45,218 miles. This is still 15,722 miles above the average of Sgt. Schoening and Deputy Harada. (\* See Conclusion on page 44 for cost analysis.)

I also calculated Det. Taylor's last year working as a Patrol Deputy before going into the traffic unit. I was only able to research from Jan 1, 2008 - Jan 1 2009. During this time, Det. Taylor put 19,901 miles on his patrol vehicle. Det. Taylor's average miles per day while working as a regular Patrol Deputy was 93 miles per day.

Det. Taylor said he would sometimes drive to Tom Maxfield's house, which is 23 miles round trip, in order to borrow Maxfield's car. He also said he drove to Deputy Luque's with his children in order to go boating. Deputy Luque's house is also 23 miles round trip. Det. Taylor would also stop by Deputy Luque's house several times with his children while in plain clothes on non work days.

Det. Taylor sold his personal vehicle (BMW) in May of 2009 and did not purchase another vehicle until the end of February 2011. Det. Taylor was married during this time and they only owned one vehicle, which was driven primarily by his spouse, who worked as a real estate agent. I have attached an "all vehicles registered" printout from the Department of Licensing which shows that he purchased his new Tahoe on 02-28-2011.

Even after Det. Taylor purchased this Tahoe at the end of February 2011, he still drove his county issued car when doing personal business. In March 2011 alone, there are at least six days in which he uses his work car for personal business. He even starts from his residence and takes his children with him in his work vehicle.

Det. Taylor was asked at the end of his interview as to why he would take his work car, instead of his own personal car, when he left his house on non work days, but he could never give any plausible explanation. He gave a long pause for the first time he was asked and then spoke about his "Obsessive Compulsive Disorder", and how he has to be in total control of everything. I again asked why he would take the work car over his own car and he said that it made him feel better, thinking he was at work.

The mileage that is entered into the gas pumps computer on his last work days, compared to when he would start work on the next cycle, differs several times in the fuel reports. There are several dates in which one hundred to three hundred miles more are added onto his mileage readings during his days off. Obviously, there could be times when Det. Taylor might go to training or other functions, but there is little, to no documentation on Det. Taylor's part to show this. There are even fuel fill ups in the middle of his Bereavement Leave in June of 2010. Det. Taylor could not remember how this would have occurred.

One possible explanation, according to Det. Taylor, as to why there were so many fuel fill ups recorded on his days off, was because he sometimes used his fuel key to gas up the EVOC cars when they were at PIR (Portland International Raceway) for training. This practice is not

allowed by the county shops, but in an emergency, there might be times when this might occur. However, when Det. Taylor worked as an EVOIC instructor, he put in for overtime on his time sheets. I looked at every time sheet for the past two years, and if there was recorded time, I counted that as a work day. Even if the amount of hours were minimal, I still counted that as a work day. When looking at the fuel fill ups on days off, no work time is recorded for any of these days.

Det. Taylor told Sgt. Schaub in a phone call the day after his interview that he had left for Texas on June 12, 2010, for a funeral, and returned on the 15th. His time sheet indicated that his Bereavement Leave continued for another two days, (16th & 17th of June) and he came back to work on the 23rd. The county shops fuel log shows a fill up on June 17th and again on the 22nd. Det. Taylor last worked before his Bereavement Leave on June 9<sup>th</sup>. He then returns back to work on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. According to Det. Taylor, no one else used his vehicle during this time.

The following fuel chart is taken from the county shops automated fuel log.

**#1. FLT SHER S19-0958(vehicle #)5522 06/08/2010 19:01 (time) Mileage/113,006 24.4 9(gallons)**

Det. Taylor works on June 9<sup>th</sup> (last day before Bereavement Leave).

Det. Taylor takes Bereavement Leave starting June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Det. Taylor leaves for Texas on June 12<sup>TH</sup> - returns on June 15<sup>TH</sup>.

Det. Taylor takes June 10<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup> as Bereavement Leave (according to time sheet).

Det. Taylor's regularly scheduled days off are; June 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup>, 19<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup>, 21<sup>ST</sup> and 22<sup>ND</sup>.

**#2. FLT SHER S19-0958(vehicle #)5799 06/17/2010 22:00 (time) Mileage/113,293 16.3 (gallons)**

**#3. FLT SHER S19-0958(vehicle #)5904 06/22/2010 14:24 (time) Mileage/113,393 21.0 (gallons)**

Det. Taylor returns back to work on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**#4. FLT SHER S19-0958(vehicle #)6012 06/25/2010 15:16 (time) Mileage/113,548 16.2 (gallons)**

This was just one example of Det. Taylor's vehicle showing up on the fuel log system on his days off. There is another one in July of 2010 that is very similar to this one. All fuel reports for the last two years are attached with this report. It should be noted that I also looked at the "I NET VIEWER" log which shows when employees actually log onto their computer through 911 Dispatch. This was done just to be sure that even though there was no time recorded on his timesheet for these days, he still might have logged onto the computer to do some work. The "I NET VIEWER" did not show any activity for Det. Taylor from June 12<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

It should be noted that Det. Taylor's work vehicle is an "unmarked" Ford Expedition (SUV), silver in color. There is a spotlight mounted on the driver's side. Other than the spotlight, there are no

visible large police antennas and no markings on it whatsoever. Attached to this report are photographs of his vehicle.

\* Correction Note – During Det. Taylor's interview, I showed him the mileage chart that is listed on page 11 of this report. I asked why there might have been "38" fuel fill ups on of his days off over the past two years. I misspoke, and should have said "32" instead of "38". The chart on page 11 is correct with "32" showing as the number of fill ups on days off. When I was listening to his interview for the second time, I realized this mistake. I sent the CCSO guild a notice about this error. At this time, I do not believe this error is significant enough to re-interview Det. Taylor about this matter. There was not much of an explanation the first time I asked him about this.

### **AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locater)**

Another issue that came up while talking with Deputy Luque was that at one time, within the past year or so, he was riding with Det. Taylor when he noticed his AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locater) system was not working properly on his MDC computer. The AVL system is basically a GPS for the vehicle and it allows 911 Dispatch to know the location of each patrol vehicle when they are logged onto the system and working. This is mainly for officer safety reasons and also to locate the closest units to high priority calls.

After noticing his AVL was not working properly, he tells Det. Taylor he could "fix it" since he knew how to update the AVL. Det. Taylor told him not to, and made a comment insinuating that the department didn't need to know where he was. Deputy Luque said he actually tried to physically move the MDC so that he could look at fixing the AVL, but Det. Taylor moved the computer back and said he did not want it fixed.

Deputy Luque went on to say that one of the reasons he wanted Det. Taylor's AVL system to be working correctly and turned on, was because it might help set up some barriers or "fences" for Det. Taylor. He thought Det. Taylor might not be making good choices in his life, especially by using his county vehicle so much, and thought the AVL might make him more accountable. The following is Deputy Luque describing his AVL conversation with Det. Taylor.

HORCH: *Okay. Talking about his vehicle, did you have an opportunity to drive with him in his vehicle and did you notice that his computer system, that the AVL -- which for the record, is basically our GPS system.*

LUQUE: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *That his AVL was not working?*

LUQUE: *Yeah, I did. I was trying to remember when I was in it, and I've obviously been in his car several times, but I know we were going to do a search warrant up at TLC.*

Later in the conversation -

LUQUE: *And I told him I would fix it or, you know, "Oh, your AVL's not working," and I know when I swung the computer towards me, "No, no, leave it alone, leave it alone," and he pulled it back, because I have a, from the MDC group, I have the ... the drive that turns on ... restarts our AVLs.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *And I know we have to ... we had to do to that to every single car, we had to restart the AVL when the new system came on, so --. But he had pulled it away from me and told me to leave it alone and didn't need to do it or whatever. Didn't want me touching it.*

HORCH: *Did he say anything that, "They don't need to know where I'm at," or anything like that?*

LUQUE: *Yeah, I think I remember, "They don't need to know," or, "It doesn't matter," or --*

HORCH: *Was he serious or joking or do you remember the context it was said in or --?*

LUQUE: *Eh, if it makes sense to you, seriously and joking --*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *-- in that he wasn't mad at me or, you know --*

HORCH: *Sure.*

LUQUE: *-- telling me but he's basically serious enough that don't touch the computer.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *Pulling it back and kind of -- I think he kind of laughed at me about it, you know, like, "Leave my computer alone," and this and that, because again, it was hand in hand with me --*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Sure. Did you try to start it or do it again? Did you ever have another conversation about his AVL?*

LUQUE: *You know, I know I was in there again and had brought it up or something, and said, you know, I think I told him, "I'm going to turn it on when you're not paying attention. One of these days I'm going to get it turned on for you."*

HORCH: *And why did you -- what's the purpose of the AVL?*

LUQUE: *You know, to be honest with you, in my mind it was ... I was trying to help him in two ways. One, it's --*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *So there was two purposes, kind of you were saying about why you were discussing his AVL with him.*

LUQUE: *You know, one was that ... the seriousness of safety, that it's ... I think it's important to have the AVL. It gets frustrating when we're looking for somebody that their radio's not working and you can't find them and the AVL isn't on. And then two, I think it was subconsciously me trying to help a friend of mine.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *And I know that unfortunately, and that's the human nature that sometimes, you know, when human nature starts to deviate a little bit there's that fence right there that goes, you know, "The fence is up, I'm not going to jump it." And I think without the fence -- I use the fence as another term -- without the fence up it's easier for us to just keep drifting maybe. And so I thought by ... by turning that on and ... and making sure the fence, the fence was there, it would help maybe.*

*And again, I personally never knew specifically if anything ever was happening. As far as I'm concerned, the guy goes to work and he's trusted to carry a gun and do this job. I'm sure he does his job. But subconsciously I'm going, you know, this'll help ... help him if it's --*

HORCH: *You had suspicions and you were trying to set up a boundary. Is that --*

LUQUE: *I think that -- yeah.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *I think it was just an easy way for me to ... to help him, you know, if there ever was that thing of --*

HORCH: *Sure.*

LUQUE: *-- deviating in the back of your head, "My AVL's bubble's on, I know where I'm going."*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Sure. Did you ever ... did you ever mention his AVL problem to anybody else? Any other deputies?*

LUQUE: *You know, I don't remember, to be honest with you.*

HORCH: *Did you happen to mention it to Todd Young?*

LUQUE: *Actually, yes, I did.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *Yes, thank you. I had myself and Todd were -- had the thumb drives. We were literally going around and touching every single computer and raising the (unintelligible) rate to make them work. And I think I told Todd, you know, "If you get a chance, get to Ryan's computer. I noticed his wasn't working." I didn't have my thumb drive on me. My -- I think my reasoning behind me was I thought maybe if Todd calls him, and Todd's persistent saying, "Hey, I need to get your thing on, I need to come see it," it'd be harder for Ryan to go -- I didn't know if Ryan would tell him no.*

HORCH: *Okay. I see.*

LUQUE: *You know? Because he wouldn't want people to start knowing.*

HORCH: *Sure.*

LUQUE: *Uh, that was kind of my theory, maybe, that if ... if Todd was on him about it, he'd have to finally break and go, "Okay. Geez, I've got to bring my thing in and get it done, you know, because they keep calling." You know.*

HORCH: *Did Todd ever contact him, do you know?*

LUQUE: *I don't know.*

This concluded Deputy Luque's interview regarding the AVL issue. During Det. Taylor's interview, I asked him about this AVL issue. The following is his response.

HORCH: *Did anybody get in your car and say, "Your AVL's not working," and try to re-hook it up for you and you did not let them?*

TAYLOR: *No. Chris Luque said that, because he was doing the new program and the port opens sometimes and he said that if you ... you have to change something, but it got changed, so --.*

HORCH: *Did he try to change it, when he was in your car?*

TAYLOR: *I don't ... I don't remember. Going to lunch, that was all --*

*(Buzzing noise)*

TAYLOR: *That's your alarm, sorry, for you. Um, um, I don't know. Um --*

HORCH: *When you were going to lunch with him, did he, one time, see your AVL wasn't working and was going to re-hook it back up and you moved the screen or you moved the computer and said, "Don't touch it. I don't want --" "I don't want to hook it up. They don't need to know where I'm at"?*

TAYLOR: *(sighs) I ... I ... I could have. I don't --I honestly don't know. I don't --*

HORCH: *Were you saying in what manner? Was it a joking, was it serious? Was it --*

TAYLOR: *Absolutely. I mean, that's all we do is joke.*

HORCH: *Absolutely what? Which one? Absolutely joking or absolutely serious?*

TAYLOR: *Absolutely joking. We, I mean --*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Why ... why -- if it wasn't working -- and he is pretty computer savvy, from what I know of him, or electronic stuff -- why wouldn't you want him -- because the AVL, one of the main reasons is a safety function, correct?*

TAYLOR: *'Cuz he -- well --*

HORCH: *Is that right?*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. It let's Dispatch no exactly where you at in case something happens --*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *-- and they can relay. That's one of our main functions for the AVL, correct?*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. So if he was trying to hook it back up, why wouldn't you want him to?*

TAYLOR: *'Cuz he's not doing that. He's doing that to mess with my computer. When he ... when -- every time he got in my car I would ... 'cuz he just knows that it drives me nuts.*

HORCH: *Do you think he was trying to screw with you and not hook up the AVL, is that what you're saying?*

TAYLOR: *No, I think he's screwing with me, trying to make me go bananas with -- I mean, he intentionally spills stuff in my car when he gets it and thinks it's hilarious. I mean, it's -- I mean, he knows that my, my --*

HORCH: *Okay. Let's -- well, I want to talk just -- because I want to narrow this down --*

TAYLOR: *Okay.*

HORCH: *-- because we're getting -- it's later in the day.*

TAYLOR:                    *Okay.*

HORCH:                    *The AVL is what I'm talking about. When he tried to, uh, hook up the AVL, did you let him hook up the AVL?*

TAYLOR:                    *I ... I recall when he came in my car and saw the green light wasn't on because -- it's nothing I did, it's the computer not booting. Um, uh, I mean, I'm not afraid of that, I just don't want him touching my stuff and screwing with my crap. I mean --*

This concluded the AVL part of his interview.

Paul Newman, with the Clark County GIS (Geographic Information System) Department, provided me all of Det. Taylor's AVL records from January 14<sup>th</sup> – March 16, 2011. There are over 31,000 records in this AVL file. Paul was not aware of the reason I wanted this data, and said the following to me just shortly after entering his office, "There is something unusual about this particular unit's AVL history." When I asked him what he meant, he told me that it seemed that on several of the records the AVL system would shut off and then come back on a while later. I asked if this could have been from turning the AVL system on and off in the vehicle, and he said yes. There are other factors that can affect this also, but Paul indicated this unit AVL history seemed to turn on and off more frequently than others he has reviewed. All of these records are attached to this report. At this time I have not researched all of these AVL records.

## **B. CELL PHONE USE**

While investigating the vehicle use matter, the IA Unit also discovered some very high cell usage for Det. Taylor's county issued phone over the last two years. Det. Taylor's "allowed" minutes for his county cell plan are 330 per month. There are some months in which his minutes are; 501, 521, 573, 610, 647, 721, and 914. His average minutes used for this time period are 451 minutes per month.<sup>1</sup> There are numerous calls made during his regular days off, including his vacation days and family bereavement leave days. Det. Taylor admitted in his interview that he has used his work cell for personal calls over the last two years. He also said he was aware of the county's cell phone use reimbursement policy and thought sometime in 2005, he reimbursed the county for some calls, but has not done so since.

Det. Taylor said that he receives his cell phone bills, but has not looked at any of the calls over the past two years. Det. Taylor admitted that he takes his county cell phone with him "everywhere" since he might get a traffic callout, but that he also receives and makes personal calls on it.

In looking at each cell phone bill from the past 24 months, I calculated that there were at least 432 calls made on his days off. This excludes all work calls. There were approximately 1,345 minutes used for these calls. Just by counting calls made on days off, does not factor in that even calls made during his work hours, could also be for personal use.

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<sup>1</sup> Note - even though Det. Taylor exceeded the allowed minutes per month, the costs incurred to the county were minimal and totaled out to be about \$6.00 dollars for the two year period.

In looking at some of the numbers that were called frequently, several numbers stood out on his cell statement. On April 29, 2011, I sent Det. Taylor an e-mail requesting that he provide me the information on four cell numbers. The following quote is directly taken from his e-mail;

"The number #607-3546 is for Tom Maxfield for Precision Weld Custom Boats.  
The number #901-7014 is for Jennifer Doctor a friend from high school.  
The number #771-8161 is for Aimee Matson from All-State Insurance.  
The number #608-4735 I do not recall whose number that belongs too."

The first number is a friend of Det. Taylor's. There are a countless number of calls to and from this number. Some of the calls are; 21, 22, 26, 29, and 35 minutes long. These calls are made during work days and days off.

The second number is a friend of Det. Taylor's. Again, there are too many to add them all up. Some of these calls were 24, 25 and 42 minutes long. Calls to this number are made during work days and days off.

The third number, according to Det. Taylor, is an insurance agent with All-State Insurance. I first assumed this number might be work related, since the traffic detectives often speak with insurance companies. However, after seeing so many calls to this number, and the length of the calls, I decided to call this person.

On May 9, 2011, I called this person and spoke with an Aimee Matson. Aimee told me that I had called her cell phone. I explained to Aimee who I was and that I wanted to know if she knew Det. Ryan Taylor. Aimee said that she and Det. Taylor are friends and they have been talking while Det. Taylor has been going through his divorce. I never asked her what they talked about or why he called. She then said on her own, "*He's been calling me about getting a house quote for insurance, that's why he's been calling me*". I thanked Aimee for her time and ended the call.

The cell phone records show that over the past two years, Det. Taylor has called Aimee's cell numerous times and some of these calls are; 16, 17, 22, 32, 65, and 72, minutes long.

The fourth number was unknown to Det. Taylor. I later found out that this number is Sergeant KC Kasberg's cell phone number at work.

Det. Taylor does own a personal cell phone and has so for the past several years. He also indicated that there is no limit to the amount of minutes he can use on his cell plan.

I checked with the CCSO property unit, and they had on file a signed copy of the "Cellular Telephone Personal Use Reimbursement Agreement" signed by Det. Taylor on July 7, 2008. There is a copy of this agreement attached to this report.

The following excerpt is when Det. Taylor admits to using his county cell phone for personal use, and also admits he has not reviewed his bill in order to reimburse the county.

HORCH: *Okay. Okay. That's what we're going to talk about next, is your county cell phone. From over the last two years we've been talking about a two year span since you've been in the Traffic Unit. Do you believe that you've used your cell phone for personal use, ever?*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. In that, have you reimbursed the county for ... for personal cell phone calls?*

TAYLOR: *No, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. Another big question that we've started off on the vehicle one, is how often and how many times do you think you've used the county cell phone for personal use?*

TAYLOR: *Um, uh, I ... I use my personal -- I ... I -- honestly, I do not know. I know that, um, some months I'm over my minutes and some I'm right on.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *So some of those calls may be work-related, but they're ... but they're on a day off, correct?*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Is that a possibility?*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. Is it a possibility, also, that there's just personal calls --*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *-- on days off and on days on?*

TAYLOR: *Yes, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. Um, some of the months have 720, 950, 560 minutes on them. Some of those months are much higher than -- your average seems to be about 350 to 420 for every month except several of those months.*

TAYLOR: *Okay.*

HORCH: *Okay? Was there a time when you didn't have your own cell phone and you were using the county cell phone more?*

TAYLOR: *No, sir. I've always had mine.*

HORCH: *Okay. Do you carry your county cell phone with you all the time?*

TAYLOR: *All the time.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *So in two years, have you ever looked at your cell phone, gone through it and audited it to some degree of, "I was off on vacation in Texas and these calls must have been personal," and did you reimburse them 20, 30, 40 dollars ever?*

TAYLOR: *No, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay. Did you ever think to look at your county cell phone bill?*

TAYLOR: *Um, uh, I ... I can say that I --*

HORCH: *Have you ever looked at it in the last two years and done a quick audit or ever -- has it ever come to your mind that, "I'm using my county cell phone more than I should"?*

TAYLOR: *No, sir. I ... I ... I've I haven't gone through and looked at personal compared to, um --*

SCHAUB: *Do you get that statement?*

TAYLOR: *I have --*

SCHAUB: *That's --*

TAYLOR: *-- absolutely.*

SCHAUB: *-- delivered to you and not your supervisor?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah. Oh, I'm sorry, the ... the copy of the bill? Yeah.*

### **C. OFF DUTY CONDUCT**

This investigation started on March 15, 2011, and was originally thought to have been about improper ACCESS use. Through interviews and other information, it was discovered that Det. Taylor was showing a pattern of behavior of off duty conduct that was unprofessional and discredits the Clark County Sheriff's Office. This mainly occurred from March 7th - March 15, 2011.

However, it should be noted that during his ACCESS investigation (#IC11-009), it was learned that Det. Taylor was also showing this same type of inappropriate behavior back in 2008. At that time, he had run unauthorized non work related ACCESS checks on a Garret Hergert, who he believed was having an affair with his wife. Det. Taylor admits to this in the ACCESS investigation interview and even admits to driving by Hergert's place of business after he obtains his information from ACCESS.

From the time Det. Taylor learned that his ex-wife was seeing another person, he used poor judgment by investigating who this person was. He uses the information he obtained from his ACCESS inquiries to drive by Michael Melton's address on NE 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue on more than one occasion. He does this on duty and off duty. He even drove family members by Melton's residence. Det. Taylor also went by his residence AFTER he was served with the "six part" complaint for the alleged ACCESS violation on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

One night, while off duty, he drove his personal vehicle to Melton's residence. Det. Taylor parks down the street from the residence and walks up to it. He said he wanted to "confirm" this was the same person he had seen with his ex-wife from back on March 7<sup>th</sup>. He tried looking into

several windows, but could not get a good look. He considered ringing the door bell, but decided not to.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, around 1700 hours, Sgt. Kasberg witnessed Det. Taylor driving his work vehicle on his day off going South on NE 131<sup>st</sup> Avenue from 4<sup>th</sup> Plain (direction of Melton's residence). Sgt. Kasberg called Sgt. Neiman, who is Det. Taylor's immediate supervisor, and learned that Det. Taylor was not scheduled to work that day. Sgt. Kasberg wrote a memo detailing his observations. He also indicated in his memo that Sgt. Neiman told Kasberg that he had noticed lately that Det. Taylor's vehicle mileage was extremely high. This memo is attached with this report. The following is the excerpt from Det. Taylor's interview regarding this matter.

HORCH: *You go by. Do you see her car or his truck there at his residence?*

TAYLOR: *His truck was at his residence.*

HORCH: *And what did you do then?*

TAYLOR: *Uh, I drove, um, up to her house --*

HORCH: *Did you ... did you stop and write down any plates? Did you get out of your vehicle at all?*

TAYLOR: *No, I don't think I did.*

HORCH: *Did you walk up to his residence?*

TAYLOR: *Not in uniform. I don't -- uh, no.*

HORCH: *Have you ever walked up to his residence?*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *Okay. So in addition to the 15th, going over that evening, or early morning hours of the 16th, at 1:30 or 2:00-ish, as we said --*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *-- you said, how many times had you been by there before, other than when you drove him home four years ago?*

TAYLOR: *Um, I had driven one time past the house, um, with my in-laws, um, because they wanted to know where he resided.*

HORCH: *When was that?*

TAYLOR: *(sighs)*

HORCH: *A guess?*

TAYLOR: *It was before this.*

HORCH: *Before the 16th?*

TAYLOR: *Uh, it might have been on, uh, we'd gone to dinner at Outback and on the way back from Outback, um, we drove by there.*

HORCH: *And whose car were you in?*

TAYLOR: *My car.*

HORCH: *Your what? What ... what car were you driving?*

TAYLOR: *My Tahoe.*

Later in the interview -

TAYLOR: *-- um, is, uh, during the conversation nobody -- well, we didn't know what kind of person this was. I'm like, here's the character that I had portrayed looking at his arrest record and somewhere in the conversation it was brought up, "Well, what kind of place does he live in," and I'm like, "It's not very nice," and of course I'm thinking of my kids, you know, if this is a long-term --.*

*Anyway, so I -- she said, "Where's it at," and I said, "It's by the 24 Hour Fitness," so on the way home we drove by that.*

HORCH: *What time was that?*

TAYLOR: *It was after dinner. Uh --*

HORCH: *Was it dark?*

TAYLOR: *I ... I'm pretty sure.*

HORCH: *Okay. So you drove them by.*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *Did you stop or --*

TAYLOR: *No.*

HORCH: *-- did you slow down?*

TAYLOR: *No. I just --*

HORCH: *You just pointed it out?*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *And do you remember what day that was?*

TAYLOR: *I don't know if it had ... if it was on a, uh, a Sunday maybe. Um, I honestly, I --*

HORCH: *Sunday the 13th, you believe?*

TAYLOR: *Might have been.*

HORCH: *Okay. Did you go by at any other times besides those two times?*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm. I had gone by, um, uh, I had gone by one night, um, because that's how I ... I wrote ... I wrote his license plate down. I remembered his license plate, um, from going by. And that was, I don't ... I don't know what ... it -- honestly, this is just a big --*

HORCH: *Is this -- let me help you with the timeframe. Is this after you've seen him for the first time?*

TAYLOR: *First time, yes. After -- yeah, because I had no --*

HORCH: *So after the 7th --*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *-- of March --*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *-- you ... you did this Google search --*

TAYLOR: *Yep.*

HORCH: *-- you said, and then you drove by?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah.*

HORCH: *And what did you -- was the vehicle there?*

TAYLOR: *Not on that ... not that morning. It was another time I drove by. I was in my Tahoe and, uh --*

HORCH: *Your personal vehicle?*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *And, uh, and --*

HORCH: *How far after the first -- so March 7th, you see him, you believe March 8th you went back to work, you did a search on the internet to ... to locate an address, you go by there. And then when do you go by in your personal*

*vehicle, because you worked March 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th, according to this schedule.*

TAYLOR: *Right.*

HORCH: *Did you go during work hours? During -- did you ever go back there --*

TAYLOR: *No, it was ... it was late.*

HORCH: *At night?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah.*

HORCH: *And this is your personal vehicle?*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *And then where ... what did you do that night after you drove your Tahoe? Did you ever get out of your vehicle?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah, I got out to look at the plate, so --.*

HORCH: *Okay. So where did you park when you got out?*

TAYLOR: *Uh, along the curb on 131st.*

HORCH: *Okay. Did you use binoculars to look at the plate?*

TAYLOR: *No.*

HORCH: *Okay. Did you go up to his residence at that time?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah, I walked up there and, and his car was, um, facing the road, forward --*

HORCH: *In the driveway?*

TAYLOR: *It's, um, there's, uh, if you're looking from 131st, you're looking at his residence or I assume is his residence is on the left, there's a single or double-wide and then the business, it looks like, because of the equipment or other vehicles are in the back, so it's kind of a big parking lot.*

HORCH: *Okay. So you get out of your vehicle.*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *How far away do you park?*

TAYLOR: *Not very far. It, um --*

HORCH: *Okay. So then you walk up.*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *And then you take a mental picture of his license plate --*

TAYLOR: *Right.*

HORCH: *-- on that truck. Do you then walk up to his door?*

TAYLOR: *I was right by his door. When I looked at the plate it was right there.*

HORCH: *Did you look inside his windows?*

TAYLOR: *No. There's -- (sighs).*

HORCH: *Are you positive?*

TAYLOR: *Um, I went to his front door. I went to his front door and, um --*

HORCH: *Why did you go to the front door?*

TAYLOR: *Because I wanted ... I did want to know if this was the same person that I had seen.*

HORCH: *So what were you going to do?*

TAYLOR: *Um, just ... just to know if this was the same person. because I think at this point I still --*

HORCH: *What I mean is, how would you know that? Were you going to knock or ring the doorbell?*

TAYLOR: *Um, I don't know. It wasn't ... I ... I did go, I went to the front door and I wanted ... I was going to know if ... if it was the same person, um, and ... and I remember getting his plate. I mean, that's --*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *He --*

HORCH: *Did you --*

TAYLOR: *He has windows. He has windows on the ... on his front door.*

HORCH: *Did you look phone(SP) the windows?*

TAYLOR: *Uh, I think I was too short. Uh --*

HORCH: *Did you try to look through the windows?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah, I think I did, to see if anybody was home. I ... I --*

HORCH: *Did you think about knocking or ringing the doorbell?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah.*

HORCH: *But you didn't?*

TAYLOR: *I didn't.*

HORCH: *Because you wanted to get confirmation, again, that this was the same person --*

TAYLOR: *Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *-- you had seen a few days earlier?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah.*

HORCH: *Is that --. Did you have a gun on you?*

TAYLOR: *No. No, I was on -- no, absolutely not.*

HORCH: *Do you carry an off-duty gun?*

TAYLOR: *No, sir.*

HORCH: *Did you have your badge on you?*

TAYLOR: *No, sir.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

SCHAUB: *Did you look in any other windows?*

TAYLOR: *Uh, I, I went to the front yard because there was a light on and I -- but everything was closed, so no, I wanted to ... there's no way to see in. There was just ... there were just blinds there.*

HORCH: *Did you walk up to the window and try to look in, because you couldn't see because there was blinds?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah. I mean, I walked ... I walked -- it's hard to explain, but I walked --*

HORCH: *You don't have to draw a full, just draw a house right here.*

TAYLOR: *(sighs) And I think it kind of goes like this. And his door sits up here. I don't ... I don't, um --*

HORCH: *Just to the best of your memory.*

TAYLOR: *Because I saw a light in the window, um, I walked here to see if there was any, um, if the blinds were open. I just wanted to see if this was the same*

*person I saw on the couch with her. And the blinds were closed. And I went to the front door and -- (sighs).*

HORCH: *Did you step on anything to look up into the window?*

TAYLOR: *I don't -- I'm not sure what you mean.*

HORCH: *You said you were too --*

TAYLOR: *I stood at the front door.*

HORCH: *You thought you were too short to look in one of the windows.*

TAYLOR: *I think --*

HORCH: *Did you step on anything to look up into the window?*

TAYLOR: *I don't think so.*

Later in the interview -

HORCH: *When you did the Google search?*

TAYLOR: *When I -- yeah, when I didn't know ... I hadn't confirmed that that was his address, um, because I didn't know if it was Rain Country Gutters or Rain Country Excavation. I didn't know. Um --*

HORCH: *So the night of the 16th, after you're served on the six-part on the ACCESS use, you went by there?*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *Were you working?*

TAYLOR: *No, sir.*

HORCH: *What vehicle did you drive there?*

TAYLOR: *My patrol vehicle.*

During his interview, Det. Taylor describes how he attempts to track his ex-wife down on numerous occasions, especially after learning she might be dating someone. Late one night, while he was working, he drove to her residence and had to park behind a storage container on her property in order for her new boyfriend not to see him. Det. Taylor said that after the boyfriend left, the boyfriend called his ex-wife and told her Det. Taylor was on her property. The following is Det. Taylor describing all of this.

TAYLOR: *Um, so later on -- and then I went and, uh, I went back periodically through the night to see if ... if she was there.*

HORCH: *At her residence?*

TAYLOR: *At her residence.*

HORCH: *Where she rents from the Fosters?*

TAYLOR: *Yes.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *And --*

HORCH: *How many times that night did you go back there?*

TAYLOR: *Maybe -- oh heck, I don't know, maybe three times.*

HORCH: *Okay. All while you were working?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah.*

Later in the interview --

TAYLOR: *It was some time after, it was probably 1:30 or so --*

HORCH: *In the morning?*

TAYLOR: *In the morning -- uh, maybe it was even later -- I pulled in and his truck's there and he's like --*

HORCH: *Pull into her residence?*

TAYLOR: *Pull into her residence.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *And if I -- his like tail lights were on so I'm like, "Oh, no, now it's," you know, "Now it's going to look like I'm checking up on her," and he backs out and leaves, and I'm parked kind of in front of -- now, the Fosters' residence and he leaves but he ... his truck stopped kind of in front of the ... the patrol vehicle and then he drives down the driveway. And, um, I start to go down the driveway after I was, you know, (unintelligible) leave because I'm like, "She's going to be so mad at me." And sure enough, she calls my cell phone --*

HORCH: *Okay. Let me, let me just back up and get it straight, okay? Hang on. You pull in about 1:30 or maybe later.*

TAYLOR: *I think -- yeah, I think it was even later.*

HORCH: *You see this truck that you'd seen before with the backup lights on or the brake lights on, like it was going to move?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah. Or the engine was running or, uh --*

HORCH: *Do you know if he was inside of it?*

TAYLOR: *I don't know.*

Later in the interview -

TAYLOR: *I pull in and his truck was, uh, you know, was somewhere in here, and I don't remember if it was running or I saw lights or something. So then when I pull in, I parked like right back in here, 'cuz ... 'cuz I knew he was leaving and then --*

HORCH: *Well, when you pull in, you see his vehicle?*

TAYLOR: *No, I don't see it till I pull up here.*

HORCH: *Okay. So you pull around the corner, around this storage unit, see it's there, and then you back up and park by the Fosters' main residence?*

TAYLOR: *Yeah. Mm-hm.*

HORCH: *Because?*

TAYLOR: *Um, I didn't ... I didn't want ... I didn't want, um, I didn't want to upset her, and I knew that if ... if I came in when they were there together, she would, um, I knew she would be upset with me. And my whole part through this is I was trying to be as, um, respectful about everything and ... and trying to keep things as ... as ... as calm as possible between us.*

Later in the interview -

TAYLOR: *No, he had already ... he was leaving and I'm like, I was just waiting, and I knew it. For some reason I'm like -- I was just kicking myself. And I pulled down here and she calls my phone. And she's like, "What are you doing?" And I said, "Well, I came to see you and I saw that, um, you know, your ... the truck was there."*

HORCH: *Did she know you were there? She called you when he left? How did she -- she just called you out of the blue or did she see you and called you?*

TAYLOR: *What ... what had happened -- which I found out later -- is, as he's leaving, he calls her and says, "Hey, I think your," you know, "I think --" whatever, I don't know what he refers to me as --*

HORCH: *Sure.*

TAYLOR: *It's just an assumption, because I'd only -- I mean, within a couple ... within a minute or two, um, down, and the phone rings.*

HORCH: *Okay.*

TAYLOR: *And I said, "Well, um, I came by because I haven't talked to you since the 7th," or whatever day, and, um, she's like, "Well, okay." And I said, "Do you want to talk?" And she's like, "That's fine, come back." So I went back and, um, and I talked to her, and that's when, um -- and I ... I don't think I ... we didn't talk very long. It was, um, maybe ten minutes or fifteen.*

What Det. Taylor described in the above mentioned portion of his interview, is just one of the times when he tried to locate his ex-wife to know her whereabouts. Several times he calls Deputy Luque between March 7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> emotionally upset and tells Deputy Luque some of the actions he had been taking in order to find out if his ex-wife was really dating this person or not. The following is Deputy Luque describing these phone calls.

LUQUE: *Yeah, he basically, he -- I mean, he was pretty worked up and I told him, you know, "You just need to stay home and forget about it," that they, you know, they're divorced now, it's not his -- I understood, you know, I consoled him in the fact that I understand why he was worked up -- (clears throat) but -- excuse me, I'm sorry -- I understood why he was worked up and that, you know, it's hard and this and that, and it's so fresh, you know, 'cuz this was a month after the divorce.*

HORCH: *Sure.*

LUQUE: *Three weeks later. So I kind of, you know, I understood where he was coming from. He had every ... every understanding to be worked up, to be angry, to feel hurt. Um, but I told him obviously that it's, you know, he needs to -- needs to, as hard as it is, get over it, find something else to ... to, you know, to help himself to move on, because it's not his place anymore, unfortunately. That's the decision she's made.*

HORCH: *Did he ever say to you in that conversation or the night before that I saw, that he didn't kiss her goodnight, I saw him leave and he didn't kiss her goodnight?*

LUQUE: *It wasn't in that one. He called me the next morning*

Later in the interview -

LUQUE: *Tells me all this and I tell him, "Man, you just, you need to relax tonight," you know, and I actually asked him at one point, "Do you want me to," I mean, "Do you need something, do you want me to come over?" "No, no, I'm fine, I'm with the girls, I'm just going to --" And again, he was pretty worked up, but he says, "I'm just going to go to ... try to go lay down and forget about it tonight." And I go, "Dude, you know, I'll talk to you tomorrow."*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *I think I was at training at the time, so I just told him, "I'll ... I'll talk to you early in the morning on my way to training, see if you're up, otherwise I'll talk to you on my break and we'll talk about it tomorrow. You just need*

*to ... to leave it alone tonight, don't worry about it, as hard as that is." So that was the end of our conversation there.*

*Later in the interview -*

LUQUE: *Yeah. So he calls me the next morning, like I said, I ... I want to almost think now, I think I was off that day, so I think it was maybe now a Saturday or a Sunday, I don't remember. But he says that I'd be mad at him because -- you know, and I ask why.*

HORCH: *He says you're going to be mad at him?*

LUQUE: *"You're going to be mad at me."*

HORCH: *Okay.*

LUQUE: *And then I said, "Well, what did you do?" You know, "What happened?" And he goes, "Oh, I didn't listen. I went back over there and it was like a half hour later or so and he ended up leaving. They didn't kiss goodnight, because they ... they didn't know I was there, but I saw that he left and he just walked out on the porch and they said goodnight and he ... and he drove off."*

LUQUE: *-- doing this stuff, so --. Because I obviously see that it's not ... there's no, you know, it's ... it's killing him. And he's open at that point saying, you know, "I know. I know it's ... I know I shouldn't care. I can't care anymore, it's not my place, but it just bothers me so much and she's all," you know, "she's my first and only --"*

HORCH: *Sure.*

LUQUE: *-- "wife," and this and that, so --.*

HORCH: *Did he ever say, "I know I'm doing things wrong and I can't stop," or anything to that?*

LUQUE: *Uh, yeah. I mean, I don't remember the exact words, but I guess the best way to put it, he was the most accepting of the things he was doing that he's ever been. If that makes sense to you. Meaning, yeah, I remember him saying, "I know this is --" "I know I can't be doing this. I know this is wrong. I just ... I need to get help. "I," you know, "I don't know what to do, I need help. I need help." It was ... it was actually kind of a relief on my part, going --*

HORCH: *First time he's kind of admitting that --*

LUQUE: *It's a big --*

HORCH: *-- this is out of control?*

LUQUE: *Big step.*

HORCH: Okay.

LUQUE: *Saying, "I know I need help. I need to get help and I need to do something about it." And I think at that point it was, you know, we'd finished our conversation and I told him, "I'll help you with what I can." **And I know I'd gotten on him a little bit and kind of angry with him, saying, "You know, I've given you advice for a year and a half now that you haven't listened to," and he was acknowledging it, saying, "I know. I know I've got to listen to you. I'm sorry. It's just so hard for me."** But, uh, so I told him, you know, "You need to go seek some help, but if you're going to do that, you need to listen."*

On April 12, 2011, I called Det. Taylor's ex-wife, Deanna Taylor, and spoke to her briefly about some of the issues she had discussed with Commander Amy Foster at a school function they had been at. I explained who I was, and told her she was under no obligation to talk with me. Deanna was pleasant and said she would speak with me.

I asked Deanna if she knew that Det. Taylor had "checked" on her new boyfriend. Deanna said that one time, Det. Taylor mentioned to her that her boyfriend was "suspended" and had a warrant for his arrest. Deanna said she didn't want to know this information and wanted Det. Taylor to stay out of her business.

I asked Deanna if she ever saw Det. Taylor "watching" her or her residence. Deanna said that soon after Det. Taylor had learned about her new boyfriend, she thought someone was outside. She heard her car alarm go off, which she said it never does, and went outside to investigate. Deanna said she just had a "creepy" feeling that someone was outside, but never actually saw anyone.

Deanna said she had spoken with Commander Amy Foster about Det. Taylor showing up at the house unannounced, or uninvited. Commander Foster advised that she might want to call the Sheriff's Office and tell them what he was doing if it became too bothersome. Deanna said she did not feel the need to call at that time. Deanna was not aware that Det. Taylor was on Administrative Leave, nor did I tell her. She mentioned that as of a few weeks ago, Det. Taylor had stopped calling as much and was not showing up to her house nearly as many times as before.

I asked Deanna if she knew about Det. Taylor ever checking on her cell phone usage or getting into her work e-mails. Deanna respectfully declined to answer these questions and said, "I'll pass".

Deanna said that she has never felt in physical danger from Det. Taylor and there have never been any acts of Domestic Violence.

#### **D. OTHER**

In addition to all the above mentioned issues, there are other concerns that came from these interviews and this investigation. Some of these might not rise to the level of policy violations, but they definitely raise "red flags" with regards to Det. Taylor's decision making and the apparent lack of supervision that was given to him over these past few years.

For example, Det. Taylor, along with Sgt. Schoening and Deputy Luque, all acknowledged that Det. Taylor would work on his days off without being compensated. Sgt. Schoening said he warned Det. Taylor many times not to do this. When Det. Taylor was asked in his interview about all these extra hours on his days off, he indicated that his supervisor knew about this, but the work needed to get done. Det. Buckner, who was Det. Taylor's guild representative, even spoke up and wanted to be a witness as to having seen Det. Taylor show up at the office on his days off.

BUCKNER: *No, I ... I just want a comment that I work in the same office as Ryan Taylor. I've seen him in there on his days off working on his cases. I mean, this guy's very conscientious. He's very methodical and he's on there on his days -- I'm, "Ryan, what are you doing here?" You know, and he's working. So --. As a witness.*

HORCH: *Well, as a Guild rep, you should have put your foot down and said something stronger, then, probably. But anyways, let's get back to this. Do you want a break? I know Rick has to leave in about ten minutes? Do you want to keep going for ten minutes?*

According to Sergeants Bieber and Neiman, they both documented conversations with Det. Taylor about working on his days off without being compensated, and told him he was not allowed to do this. Their memos are attached to this report.

Another issue that arose from this investigation, was the amount of overtime hours Det. Taylor worked over these past years. In some instances, he worked 26 hours straight without a break. Det. Taylor said this was approved by supervisors with them having full knowledge of how many hours he had already been working. On his October 2010 time sheet, these high amounts of overtime are reflected.

It should be noted that one of the Clark County payroll specialists, Samantha Reynolds, (from the Auditor's office), noticed the large amount of hours worked by Det. Taylor in October 2010 and sent an e-mail to Cheryl Moore (Sheriff's Office payroll) questioning the hours. Cheryl Moore forwards this e-mail on to Det. Taylor's supervisor, who in turn writes Samantha back and explains that the hours are correct. The following is an excerpt from those e-mails.

-----Original Message-----  
"From: Cnty Auditor Payroll  
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2010 12:23 PM  
To: Taylor, Ryan  
Cc: Moore, Cheryl; Neiman, Fred

Hi Ryan,  
Can you please take look at your timesheet again? I just want to make sure that you don't get overpaid. On Oct 26th, you have two lines of OTP, Off-Duty:Misc (OT), for 8 hours (16) could this be in error? Just want to check with you to verify, that the timecard is correct?

If its not, can you print it make the corrections and fax over to me, I will make any correction now, so we can process correctly. :)

Let me know if you have any questions.

From: Moore, Cheryl  
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2010 1:25 PM  
To: Cnty Auditor Payroll; Taylor, Ryan  
Cc: Neiman, Fred  
Subject: RE: OTP  
According to his overtime authorization, he did a double shift at the hospital guarding a prisoner on the 26th.

From: Neiman, Fred  
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2010 1:28 PM  
To: Moore, Cheryl; Cnty Auditor Payroll; Taylor, Ryan  
Cc: Atkins, Chuck  
Subject: RE: OTP

That's correct. **Although not usually allowed, it was approved by command staff due to staffing needs...**

Thanks for checking, Sam and Cheryl.

Fred."

### **Conclusion:**

This investigation started off within a narrow scope, but widened as more issues were uncovered. It's evident by all the documentation and the statements from all involved, that Det. Taylor has been using his work vehicle for personal use far beyond what is allowed in the "De Minimus use" policy. Even after purchasing a vehicle at the end of February 2011, Det. Taylor readily admits to using his work vehicle for personal use. In March 2011 alone, he admits to using it on at least five occasions, to include transporting his children around. In using the calculation from page 20 of this report, there are approximately 15,722 unaccounted miles put on Det. Taylor's work vehicle over the past two years.<sup>2</sup>

Det. Taylor also admits to not following the county's cell phone use policy for the past several years. The documentation shows there were several months of high usage without justification. In just the few numbers that were researched, there were numerous personal calls made during work hours and during days off.

Det. Taylor's off duty conduct is also called into question when he goes by Michael Melton's residence and his ex-wife's residence on numerous occasions. He had an apparent obsession with knowing her whereabouts and was having great difficulty in accepting the fact that she had moved on after their divorce. Det. Taylor admitted that one night he walked up to Melton's residence to verify if he was actually the person he had seen with his ex-wife back on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and even tries to peer into his windows.

For the past two years, it's clear that Det. Taylor has been battling with numerous issues. Some of them personal and some work related. He divulged some of his personal struggles in his interview, and mentioned he had been seeking help to get these under control. He said they are not excuses for his behavior and apologized greatly for his conduct.

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<sup>2</sup> For a two year period, this vehicle cost \$28,058 dollars to operate. (Maintenance & gas etc.) Divide this cost by the miles driven (52,914) and it equates to .53 cents per mile. With 15,722 used as the calculated overage in miles, the approximate cost of Det. Taylor's personal use of the vehicle is \$8,332 dollars.

The interview with Det. Taylor last approximately four and a half hours. This report contains only a small portion taken from the transcripts. Det. Taylor does not dispute any of the allegations, nor does he, for the most part, make any excuses for his actions.

This investigation basically looked into Det. Taylor's behavior and conduct for the past two years. There were other concerns that came to light, in addition to the ones detailed in this report. Some of these concerns were briefly mentioned in the body of this report and some were not due to the fact that this was already an extensive investigation and very lengthy interview with Det. Taylor. Some of these issues include;

- Det. Taylor leaves his children (8 and 10 years old) at home alone at 0130 am in the morning to go check on ex-wife and new boyfriend.
- AVL reports, numerous records to search through.
- Sgt. Schoening reports, after his interview, that numerous times Det. Taylor would be "logged out" at the traffic office, however Schoening would never see him there.
- Cell phone records could be gone through with even greater scrutiny.
- Det. Taylor's ACCESS certification was expired last year from September 2<sup>nd</sup> – September 22<sup>nd</sup>. During this time he still ran computer checks on subjects. (This was only discovered after reading Sgt. Neiman's critical incident log after the ACCESS investigation of #IC11-009 had been completed.)
- Sgt. Schoening reports Det. Taylor broke into his work vehicle, which was parked at Schoening's residence, while Schoening was on vacation. This was not done for any emergency reason; Det. Taylor was obsessed with getting a computer disc for an investigation.
- Could have looked in to the Garrett Hergert issue – IA learned about additional steps that Det. Taylor might have taken to track down Hergert back in 2008 and possibly 2010.
- It's reported that Det. Taylor has possibly gone to his ex-wife's place of work (while they were married) and went through her desk. He also tried getting into her work computer in order to gain information. (I asked Deanna Taylor about this and she said, "I'll pass")
- Detailed cost analysis of county vehicle use. (Data has been collected from county shops)

It should be noted that the above mentioned issues were not fully investigated and could possibly require substantial research and time. These additional issues can and will be investigated further if directed to do so by my superiors.

Det. Taylor, and guild representative Rick Bucker, were both advised this could be a lengthy interview. We had several breaks including a lunch break. Breaks were also provided as requested.

At 1445 hours, Det. Buckner had to leave for an appointment and Detective Robert Latter stepped in to be the guild representative. Det. Taylor had no objections to this. We continued the interview and following the next break, Det. Latter mentioned the length of the interview and wanted to give Det. Taylor the option to possibly continue the following day.

I agreed that our Internal Affairs Investigations G.O. addresses unreasonably lengthy interviews, however, there was a large amount of material to be covered and Det. Taylor and Det. Buckner knew this before we started. Det. Taylor was then given the option to stop and to continue the following day. Det. Taylor said he wanted to keep going and finish the interview.

Based on all the evidence, the IA unit recommends a finding of **SUSTAINED** for all of the listed policies;

#1. G.O. 01.16.010 PURPOSE (VEHICLE USAGE)

G.O. 01.16.052 DE MINIMUS PERSONAL USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES WHILE ON DUTY

#2. G.O. 01.16.037 UNAUTHORIZED PASSENGERS

#3. G.O. 01.35.090 CELLULAR PHONE

#4. G.O. 01.29.310 OFF DUTY CONDUCT

01.16.010 PURPOSE (VEHICLE USE)

The purpose of this general order is to establish a policy and a set of uniform procedures dealing with the use of motor vehicles by employees of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. The proper use of a motor vehicle represents a responsibility of the Sheriff's Office and its personnel extended to and expected by the people of Clark County. Misuse of or negligent disregard for this responsibility will not be tolerated by the Sheriff's Office. It is imperative that the Sheriff's Office and its personnel operate motor vehicles in a manner worthy of the trust and respect of the people of Clark County. Except as allowed by law, employees operating motor vehicles shall conform to all laws regulating traffic and set an example of good driving to each other as well as to the public. Each employee of the Clark County Sheriff's office shall be responsible for adhering to this policy concerning motor vehicle usage. The policies and procedures of the Clark County Sheriff's Office are intended to be consistent with the requirements of RCW 46.61.035.

01.16.052 DE MINIMUS PERSONAL USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES WHILE ON DUTY

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that providing take-home vehicles provides a benefit to the community, this agency, and the employee. The assigned vehicle shall not be used for personal gain. However, it is further recognized that due to the length of shift hours and days of work, there may be times in which employees may need to utilize a County vehicle for personal business while on duty. Personal use that is permissible should be restricted to brief stops to conduct essential personal errands which do not deviate significantly from the normal route or distance to and from work or current beat assignment. Examples of permissible use may include, but not be limited to; taking children to and from day-care or school while the employee is en route to and from work, picking up a prescription or other essential medications, minor routine banking, etc.

Nothing in the section allows for the use of a County vehicle as transportation to any tavern, bar, saloon or similar establishment unless it is in the course and scope of their official duties.

01.16.037 UNAUTHORIZED PASSENGERS

Deputies should not transport persons in department vehicles unless such transportation is in connection with official department business or prior approval granted by the Sheriff or his designee.

## 01.35.090 CELLULAR PHONES

The purpose of the cellular phone is to increase communication availability for employees and for the citizens we serve. Radio air time is limited at times and cellular phones provide an alternative method for employees to communicate with citizens, law enforcement departments and other agencies. This also provides employees the ability to return phone calls promptly, contact citizens directly and communicate directly with staff.

The following will be the guideline for the use of cell phones:

8. Cell phones will only be used for department business and will not be used for **personal** use, except to make emergency/priority calls to the employee's residence. Refer to Reimbursement Policy for Personal Use of Cell Phones 01.35.095.
9. **Lengthy conversations shall be kept at a minimum. If a long conversation is anticipated, employees should not use cell phones.**
10. Employees are reminded that calling from one cellular telephone to another results in double charges to the department. The department is charged for the employee making the call and for the employee receiving the call. Therefore, employees shall restrict the use of cellular telephone calls to **priority** department business only.
11. Employees are restricted from making long distance phone calls on cellular phones. Long distance phone calls should be made from precinct or other county offices. In the event employees are traveling out of county, and are unable to utilize a standard telephone and billing card, cellular telephones may be used. However, any long distance call time should be kept to a minimum.
12. Except in extreme circumstances, employees are prohibited from using County Cell Phones for the purpose of text messaging.
13. Sheriff's Office blue tooth devices should only be synced and used with County Cell phones.
14. The Property/Logistics Manager will provide copies of cell phone bills to employee supervisors to review for excessive calls and abuse.

## 01.29.310 OFF-DUTY CONDUCT

All employees shall maintain the highest standards of conduct and will avoid any conduct which would discredit the employee or the Sheriff's Office. Off-duty deputies should perform necessary police service in Clark County whenever public safety is urgently required. While off duty and within the jurisdiction of Clark County, deputies should carry official identification when in public.

Attached documents:

1. Six part complaint
2. Taylor interview
3. Foster interview
4. Schoening interview
5. Luque interview
6. March 2009 - 2011 mileage report for Taylor
7. March 2009 - 2011 mileage report for Schoening
8. March 2007 - 2011 mileage report for Harada
9. March 2009 - 2011 fuel report for Taylor
10. March 2009 - 2011 fuel report for Schoening
11. March 2007 - 2011 fuel report for Harada
12. March 2009 - 2011 time sheet reports for Taylor (including overtime slips)

13. March 2009 - 2011 time sheet reports for Schoening
14. March 2007 - 2011 time sheet reports for Harada
15. March 2009 - 2011 cell phone records for Taylor
16. Photos of Taylor's unmarked patrol vehicle #S19-989
17. DOL copy of all vehicles registered to Det. Taylor for the past three years.
18. Sgt. Bieber memo
19. Sgt. Neiman memo
20. Sgt. Kasberg memo
21. ACCESS re-cert expiration documents
22. Cellular phone personal use reimbursement agreement
23. AVL records from January 14, 2011 – March 16, 2011 (AVL only tracks back 3 months)

**Internal Affairs Report Tracking Sheet**

Completed by IA Investigator 5/10/11

Received by IA Manager 5/10/11

Received by IA Chief 5/10/11

Received by Branch Chief 5/10/11

Received by Undersheriff \_\_\_\_\_

Final Disposition \_\_\_\_\_