

From: Whitman, Chief Gerald - DPD  
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 4:41 PM  
To: DPD All  
Subject: Message to DPD

To the men and women of the Denver Police Department:

We have had a big week of media attention and with that came many inaccuracies, rumors and tension. Here are some facts you need to know.

1. Yesterday the Manager of Safety issued a press release which I sent to all Department members. In part the press release stated, "In light of the heightened public interest in the Denver Police Department discipline process, Manager of Safety Charley Garcia has made the case file available to anyone who has filed an open records request and paid the standard cost. In select cases in the future, including the case involving Michael DeHerrera, Manager Garcia will also make case files available." Later that day, the Torrez/Palomares IAB case was made available to all members of the Department. The Manager has said that he will do the same with the DeHerrera case following his decision.
2. I did not make a recommendation on the DeHerrera case prior to my recommendation on Monday, March 14, 2011. Deputy Chief Battista made the original recommendation in July, 2010. Therefore, the accusation that I changed my opinion is not true.
3. I did not consult with Deputy Chief Battista about what I thought his recommendation should be prior to his making it to the Manager of Safety in July, 2010.
4. I did make a recommendation to the Manager of Safety on the DeHerrera case on March 14, 2011 and the Torrez/Palomares case on February 2, 2011.
5. Following the hearing on Monday, I explained to each of the officers involved in the DeHerrera case that my recommendation was based on the facts of the case. I did not receive input from the Manager of Safety or anyone outside of the Department and the media coverage did not influence my recommendations. The Independent Monitor's written recommendations were included in the case and were made public by him in August, 2010.
6. Finally, there has been an accusation made that the "motive" for my decision in the DeHerrera case was "...to help him retain his job when we get a new mayor..." (Quote from a Detective Rogers TV interview). This claim is absolutely

ridiculous and untrue. As always, I will continue to make decisions based on the facts, my thirty-five years of police experience and our ethical obligations.

When the Manager of Safety makes the DeHerrera case available I encourage each of you to review the case, come to your own conclusions and then, if you choose, speak about your opinion. This is exactly the same request I made of the Citizen Oversight Board last August after they publically commented on the same case without reviewing the facts of the investigation.

I recognize that these are challenging times for our Department and much of it can be attributed to things and circumstances beyond our control. Please fell free to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Gerry Whitman  
Chief of Police