



CASCADE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jesse Slaughter – Sheriff | Scott Van Dyken – Undersheriff

3800 Ulm North Frontage Road, Great Falls, Montana 59404 406.454.6820 cascadecountymt.gov

Case SO22 03743 UNAPPROVED DRAFT

Printed on September 27, 2022

Status	Active
Report Type	SO Patrol
Primary Officer	ALEC LUGO
Investigator	None
Reported At	09/24/22 09:55
Incident Date	09/24/22 09:55
Incident Code	INFG : Information - General
Location	400 3RD ST NW, GREAT FALLS, MT 59404 (Fairgrounds)
Beat	1
Court	None
Ereferral County	None
Disposition	CLOSED
Disposition Date/Time	09/24/22 13:44
Review for Gang Activity	None
CAC No	

Unspecified

KURINA, RICHARD HENRY

Primary Narrative By ALEC LUGO, 09/24/22 13:32

On September 24th, 2022, at approximately 0955 hours, I was contacted by Undersheriff VanDyken who requested I respond to the Montana Expo Park, 400 3rd Street NW, to speak with a suspicious male seen driving through the parking lot and taking photographs of vehicles.

Upon arrival, Undersheriff VanDyken pointed me in the direction of the male. I made contact with the male, identified as Richard Kurina, sitting inside his vehicle. Richard stated he was a Police Officer for the Lethbridge Police Department, Canada, and was on a task force with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to conduct surveillance on gun shows in the United States. Richard stated the task force was designed to catch Canadians smuggling illegal firearms into Canada. Richard informed me he had another Officer, Craig Howe, with him but he was in a separate vehicle.

Richard provided me his Lethbridge badge, ID card, and his driver license. Undersheriff VanDyken arrived and spoke with Richard while I returned to my patrol vehicle to run Richard through NCIC.

Sheriff Slaughter arrived and spoke with Richard. Shortly after, the Officer Howe arrived and the three had a discussion. Once they were done speaking, Sheriff Slaughter informed them they had to leave to which they did. I returned to the Fair Grounds several times throughout my shift and did not locate the Officers on the property.

For information on Sheriffs Slaughter s involvement, refer to his follow up report.

This case is closed, informational.

Deputy Alec Lugo 2-48.

Follow Up Narrative By JESSE SLAUGHTER, 09/26/22 10:39

On September 24, 2022, at 0955 hours, I met with Undersheriff Scott Van Dyken at the Gun Show. The Gun Show

was located at the Cascade County Fairgrounds.

The Undersheriff informed me that there was a suspicious male on the property conducting surveillance on citizens. According to a witness (Fairgrounds Director Susan Shannon), the male was driving around the property, but never entered the show. He would park periodically, always backing into the space. She stated that the vehicle was a black SUV with Canadian plates.

Undersheriff Van Dyken told me he called for Deputy Alec Lugo to respond and contact the male. Shortly thereafter, Deputy Lugo, contacted the male and identified him as, Richard Kurina. Richard stated that he was a Police Officer for the Lethbridge Police Department, Canada, and was on a task force with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Richard told Deputy Lugo the task force is designed to catch Canadians smuggling illegal firearms into Canada. Richard stated that he was working with the ATF.

I called the ATF Resident Agent in Charge, Craig Howe and asked him what was going on and why he did not contact me to deconflict the incident. Craig stated that he contacted the police department. I explained to Craig that the Police Department does not have jurisdiction on the Cascade County Fairgrounds. Craig stated that they were working an operation to catch Canadians who are smuggling guns from the Gun Show into Canada.

Craig then stated that he was present at the fairgrounds. I told him to meet me at the location of Deputy Lugo and Richard. I met with Craig under the grandstands in the parking lot. Present was Richard Kurina, Deputy Lugo, Undersheriff Scott Van Dyken and ATF Agent Craig Howe.

I first spoke to Richard, and he confirmed that he was a Canadian Police officer. He stated that he was looking for Canadian citizens who may buy guns and smuggle them into Canada.

Craig then approached me, and I asked him what was going on. He stated they were working an operation and he apologized for not contacting me. I then told Craig that I was mad about not knowing about the investigation and Richard a Canadian Police Officer working alone without any jurisdiction to due enforcement.

I told Craig that because he did not tell me about the operation, they were no longer allowed to continue conducting it. Craig then stated that he does not have to tell me, insinuating that because he is a federal agent he is not required to do so. I then told him if he wanted to wait outside of the fairgrounds, they could follow the Canadians to see where they went when they left. Craig then stated that the person he was investigating was not a person prohibited from possessing firearms and that they were investigating an American. He stated that there was an individual "selling guns to make a living." He confirmed this statement by stating that this individual did not have an FFL. I told Craig that was a very grey area.

I again told Craig that this operation was over and he and Canadian Police Officer, Richard Kurina needed to leave. Craig reluctantly agreed and they left the fairgrounds. Shortly thereafter, Craig called me and told me that he and his team had checked out of their hotels, and they were leaving the county.

In conclusion, I have several concerns about this investigation.

- Not contacting us and deconflicting the case, creates major officer safety issues.
- How does a Canadian Police officer conduct investigations in the United States, particularly alone and not under the direct supervision of an American LEO?
- What was the real reason for the investigation, was it to catch Canadian gun smugglers or to catch an American selling guns at a gun show without an FFL?
- Lastly, I did text Agent Craig Howe to determine if Richard was armed. He texted me back and told me that the Canadian's were not armed.

End of Report