Allegations:

In May of 2020, The Salt Lake Tribune published a story regarding the University of Utah Police Department (UUPD), alleging that one of its former officers was involved in downloading, sharing, and bragging about having explicit photos of Lauren McCluskey, the victim of a highly publicized homicide in 2018. The article alleges that former UUPD Officer Miguel Deras saved the images of Lauren McCluskey to his cell phone. However, this investigation did not find any physical evidence to suggest that Officer Deras ever downloaded the pictures in question to his phone. Also, there is no evidence that Officer Deras forwarded the images in question to anyone other than to Detective Kayla Dallof (who was the detective assigned to this case), and to the records officer/executive assistant, [Redacted] (on August 16, 2019), who was processing the GRAMA requests related to this case on behalf of UUPD.

Independent Administrative Investigation:

At the request of the University's Chief of Police (Chief Rodney Chatman), the Office of Professional Standards (IA) for the Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS) conducted an independent administrative investigation regarding these allegations.

During this independent administrative investigation, DPS IA investigators interviewed 20 current officers and employees, and 17 former employees. All interviews conducted with current UUPD officers were conducted under Garrity. Only two individuals DPS IA attempted to contact were not interviewed, one of which was Officer Deras. Due to the fact that Officer Deras is no longer a UUPD employee, this investigation did not have the authority to compel him to submit to an interview. The second individual who declined to be interviewed was a non-sworn UUPD employee at the time of the McCluskey Investigation, but is no longer employed there; this person was also under no obligation to respond to requests to be interviewed. Additionally, DPS IA scheduled appointments to interview any current police department employee wanting to speak to investigators confidentially about this matter.

This investigation determined that on October 13, 2018, Lauren McCluskey emailed copies of explicit images, which were part of an extortion case, to UUPD Officer Miguel Deras’ work email address. Officer Deras then forwarded the same photos to the Detectives Division (Detective Kayla Dallof) within the same hour that he received them from Lauren McCluskey.

On October 13, 2018, UUPD Officer [Redacted] who was with Officer Deras when Lauren McCluskey reported the extortion incident to the UUPD, also saw the images. After Lauren McCluskey left the police department, Officer Deras showed the photos to Officer [Redacted], the Officer in Charge (OIC), and asked [Redacted] for supervisory guidance regarding the elements of the crime of extortion as well
as how to handle the pictures, specifically, how to attach them, or even if he should attach them to his police report.

On October 15, 2018, Officer Deras showed the images to a Sergeant (reportedly to Sgt. [Redacted]) during a shift-briefing. Deras again asked for guidance on how to proceed with handling the pictures. Officer [Redacted] and Officer [Redacted] said they were in this shift-briefing when Deras showed Sgt. [Redacted] the pictures. Sgt. [Redacted] denies being there or that Officer Deras asked him for his advice on how to handle the digital evidence.

Although the date cannot be confirmed, at some point after the afore-mentioned briefing, Officer Deras showed the images to three officers (who had already seen the photos). The officers who are believed to have been there when this happened are Officers [Redacted]. Officers [Redacted] told DPS IA they remember this happening in the hallway outside of the conference room where briefings take place. Officers [Redacted] remember hearing some unprofessional comments being made when the pictures were displayed. Officer [Redacted] denies having any knowledge about this event.

**Garrity Interview of Officer Miguel Deras:**

On September 16, 2019, Officer Deras left employment with UUPD and began working for the Logan Police Department. On May 18, 2020, after The Tribune published their story, IA investigators from Logan PD interviewed Officer Deras under Garrity about these allegations.

During the Garrity interview, Officer Deras explained which officers saw the photos on the day that Lauren McCluskey emailed the pictures to him. He also explained the circumstances surrounding when he showed the images to Sgt. [Redacted] while asking for help regarding how to handle the digital evidence. Officer Deras did not tell Logan PD whether he showed the images in a setting outside of the afore-mentioned shift-briefing. DPS IA investigators attempted to contact Officer Deras and interview him. Ultimately, Officer Deras was not interviewed as part of this investigation.

**Download of Officer Deras’ Phone:**

As reported by The Tribune and later confirmed by the University of Utah Police Department, on August 15, 2019, the West Valley Police Department (at the request of UUPD) conducted a download of Officer Deras’ phone. The download in question occurred months before The Tribune raised allegations of downloading and sharing Lauren McCluskey's pictures. UUPD copied Deras' cell phone to try to answer questions about the number of phone calls and length of calls that occurred between Officer Deras and Lauren McCluskey, between when she reported the extortion incident and her murder. DPS IA eventually searched a copy of the download but did not find any of the explicit photos in question on his phone.

**Allegations of Boasting:**

The Tribune reported that Officer Deras boasted about having explicit images of Lauren McCluskey. During this investigation, Officer [Redacted] reported hearing Deras say, "He could look at them whenever he wanted." Officer [Redacted] said he remembers Officer Deras making this statement outside of the previously-reported briefing. Officers [Redacted] both confirmed hearing a couple of unprofessional or crass comments made by those who were there. Officer [Redacted] admits he made a crass comment, and said the other two officers made similarly improper comments. Officer [Redacted] said he could have said something off-color but doesn’t remember anything specific. Officer [Redacted] said he
remembers hearing other officers making some unprofessional remarks but doesn't remember anything specific, or who said what.

**IA Investigation by UUPD:**

In the fall of 2019, UUPD received a GRAMA request regarding the download of Officer Deras' phone. In December of 2019, UUPD Lt. Brian Wahlin began an IA investigation to answer the GRAMA request. The GRAMA request did not include specific allegations of officer misconduct and was not handled by Lt. Wahlin with that end in mind. However, during his investigation, Lt. Wahlin learned that Deras showed at least one image to Officer [redacted] during a shift-briefing (possibly held on October 15, 2018). In May of 2020, during this investigation, it was learned that Officer [redacted] was also in this briefing and also saw the images.

In February of 2020, Lt. Wahlin conducted follow-up interviews as part of his IA investigation and it was at this time he discovered that Officer [redacted] had witnessed the photos while acting as the OIC on October 13, 2018. When interviewed about this, Officer [redacted] told Wahlin it was for business purposes only.

Lt. Wahlin did not interview Officer Deras or any other former UUPD officers who were potential witnesses to these events. Ultimately, Lt. Wahlin completed his investigation and verbally reported the results of his investigation up the chain of command, but did not physically give his report to the Acting Chief of Police Rick McLenon to review it. Acting Chief Rick McLenon said Lt. Wahlin told him there was "nothing there". Acting Chief McLenon, in turn, reported those same findings to Robert Payne of the Office of General Counsel for the University.

On May 29, 2020, McLenon told investigators he didn't read the IA report until after The Tribune published their article on May 17. In hindsight, he said it became apparent that the initial investigation had fallen short of answering the eventual allegations raised by The Tribune.

**Conclusions:**

In conclusion, the following details of this investigation can be confirmed:

On Saturday, October 13, 2018, Lauren McCluskey contacted UUPD to report Melvin Rowland (as later confirmed) was extorting her by threatening to release sexually explicit images of her to her friends and family. Former UUPD Officer Miguel Deras handled this call with the help of Officer [redacted], and later that same day, Lauren McCluskey sent copies of the extortion photos to Officer Deras at his work email address.

After Lauren McCluskey reported the extortion, Officer Deras went to the on-duty supervisor, Officer [redacted], and asked him for supervisory guidance on how to handle the digital evidence Lauren McCluskey sent to Officer Deras. Due to their involvement in this call, all three of these officers (Deras, [redacted], [redacted]) witnessed or saw the photos in question.

On October 15, 2018, the photos in question were shown to UUPD Sgt. [redacted] during a shift-briefing. Officer Deras again asked for supervisory guidance regarding the handling of these images. UUPD Officers [redacted] and Officer [redacted] have confirmed that they were at this briefing and reported seeing the photos when Officer Deras showed them to Sgt. [redacted].

At some point in time after the afore-mentioned briefing, Officer Deras reportedly showed the images again to Officers [redacted]. Officer [redacted] remembers seeing the pictures for a second
time when this took place. Officer [redacted] said he was nearby when this took place but denies seeing the images. Officer [redacted] states he has no memory of this taking place or being there. As reported by Officers [redacted], they remember hearing some unprofessional comments being made when Deras showed the pictures.

Sgt. [redacted] denies that he was in the afore-mentioned briefing and denies that Officer Deras asked for his supervisory guidance regarding these images. Sgt. [redacted] states that Officer Deras showed him one of the photos in question on the night that Lauren McCluskey was murdered by Melvin Rowland.

In August of 2019, a download of Officer Deras' personally-owned cell phone was conducted by the West Valley Police Department, at the request of UUPD. The searches that have been conducted of the download of Officer Deras' phone found no evidence of the images in question being on his device.

In December of 2019, and again in February of 2020, UUPD conducted Internal Affairs interviews regarding the allegations that Officer Deras shared the extortion photos with Officer [redacted]. UUPD Lt. Brian Wahlin conducted the IA investigation and determined, "there is no evidence that any pictures were electronically transferred from Miguel Deras to Officer [redacted] during the dates in question."

There is no evidence from this investigation to support that Officer Deras' electronically transferred or shared any of the extortion photos with Officer [redacted].

Investigation and Report By:

The Utah Department of Public Safety  
Office of Professional Standards

Date: 07/29/2020
University of Utah Police Department
Lauren McCluskey – Allegations of Misconduct by UUPD Officers

October 13, 2018

Lauren Meets Deras at UUPD

Lauren meets Ofc. Deras and [Redacted] at the PD. She filled out a statement and sends e-mails to Deras. The extortion images were viewed by Deras and [Redacted].

October 15, 2018

Shift Change Briefing (Exact Date Unknown)

After Lauren leaves, Deras shows extortion images to OIC [Redacted] for advice on how to handle digital evidence. Within the hour the e-mails are forwarded to Det. Dallof.

At shift change briefing Deras shows extortion images to other officers and ultimately to the Sgt. asking for advice on how to handle the digital evidence.
University of Utah Police Department
Lauren McCluskey - Allegations of Misconduct by UUPD Officers

**Group “Showing”**
Actual Date Unknown

Deras showed the extortion images to three or four other officers where inappropriate comments were made. The exact date of this showing is unknown but it is believed to have taken place in the hallway outside the briefing room most likely on October 15th.

**Lauren McCluskey is Killed**

Lauren is killed in her car, located in her dorm parking lot.

At the crime scene it is stated by Sgt. [redacted] that Deras showed him one of the extortion images.
University of Utah Police Department
Lauren McCluskey - Allegations of Misconduct by UUPD Officers

August 15, 2019
Download of Deras's Phone
At the request of UUPD administration, Deras agrees to have his phone downloaded with the expectation that it will help disprove allegations regarding the number and duration of correspondence between him and Lauren.

September 16, 2019
Ofc. Deras Quit
Miguel Dears ended his employment with the UUPD and was hired by Logan PD.

September 18, 2019
GRAMA Request
Request from the Salt Lake Tribune for Deras phone download.

October 7, 2019
GRAMA Request
Request from the Salt Lake Tribune for Deras text messages between 10/1/2018 and 12/1/2018.

There were many GRAMA request regarding the McCluskey case but these three are specific to this investigation.
University of Utah Police Department
Lauren McCluskey - Allegations of Misconduct by UUPD Officers

December 10, 2019
Lt. Wahlin directed to investigate Ofc. [redacted]

Completed report dated 12/13/2019 states "there is no evidence that any pictures were electronically transferred from Miguel Derer to Officer [redacted] during the dates in question being 10/10/2018 – 11/5/2018 or 9/12/2019 – 9/19/2019.

February 6, 2020
Lt. Wahlin follow-up investigation

Lt. Wahlin identified two other officers aside from Derer who had seen an extortion image. It is indicated that showing was for legitimate reasons only. The other two are [redacted].

May 17, 2020
Salt Lake Tribune article published

Allegations made that Derer saved the extortion images to his phone, and showed at least one of the images to a co-worker and bragged about getting to look at them whenever he wanted.

May 18, 2020
Employees put on admin leave

UUPD Deputy Chief Rick McLennon and Lt. Brian Wahlin are put on administrative leave.
### University of Utah Police Department
### Lauren McCluskey - Allegations of Misconduct by UUPD Officers

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>May 18, 2020</td>
<td>Chief Chatman asks DPS for Assistance; Deras Interviewed</td>
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<td>May 19, 2020</td>
<td>Chief Chatman requests DPS to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations brought by the Salt Lake Tribune.</td>
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<td>May 20, 2020</td>
<td>Commissioner Anderson Approves</td>
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<td>DPS Commissioner Jess Anderson approves Chief Chatman’s request.</td>
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<td>DPS Office of Professional Standards starts the investigation.</td>
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<td>June 10, 2020</td>
<td>Resignation of McLenon</td>
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<td>Deputy Chief Rich McLenon resigns from UUPD.</td>
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<td>July 29, 2020</td>
<td>DPS IA Completes Investigation</td>
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<td>DPS Office of Professional Standards completes the investigation and submits the report to Chief Chatman.</td>
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