

August 9, 2014
10:16 a.m.
Detective
St. Louis County Police Department
Bureau of Crimes Against Persons
DSN

Det.

DET. : This is Detective St. Louis County Police, Bureau of Crimes
Against Persons. I am at uh, ...sorry, standby,
in Missouri. Um, I'm speaking with um, a witness,
um, a date of birth uh, in reference to a,
um, officer-involved shooting, uh, in the City of Ferguson on August 9,
2014. Um, uh, this is being recorded. Do you understand that?

: Yes.

DET. : Are you okay with that?

Yes.

DET. : Okay. if you would, uh, uh, I guess, yesterday...how are you
employed?

: I'm employed with .

DET. : Okay. And, yesterday in the scope of your employment, were you in the
area of Canfield Road?

Yes, I was, uh, installing drain pipes to run the water away from the
building.

DET. : Okay. So, uh, while you're up there and you're um, installing these
drain pipes, um something drew your attention, right?

Uh...

DET. : You heard somethin'?

Gunfire is what...a pop is what I heard.

DET. : Okay. And, what-what did you see at that time?

The first pop I didn't see anything.

DET. : Okay.

: I just thought somethin'. Then I heard another pop and uh, my laborer who was with me, we kinda looked over and I-I-I seen a guy runnin' off and staggerin' and almost falling down. I thought he was running from gunfire.

DET. : Uh huh.

And then...

DET. So des-describe that for me if you would, like. When you say he's running off like, what-what-what is it that you're physically seeing?

It wasn't-it wasn't he...he wasn't he was after the second pop I looked over again and seen him stumblin' and-and almost falling to the ground and then I thought, geez, he's running from somethin' and then me and the laborer were looking over there. And all of a sudden here come an officer with two other officers behind him and the guy threw his arms up and yelled, "okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay" and the officer came about six more steps towards him and just I say-I think it's seven more shots. Ya know.

DET. : So-so after he said "okay, okay, okay "...

: But, the officer didn't say anything.

DET. : Okay.

Now, the other two officers didn't have their guns drawn and once he ran out of bullets then the one officer pulled his gun. One of 'em did. The one on the...the furthest one away. The closest one didn't-didn't never pull his gun.

DET. Okay, just to make sure I'm understanding this, right? You hear one gunshot and then a second one but you don't see anybody just yet and then you see, a guy stumblin' down the road and then so I guess he's goin' um, southeast.

He was goin' right, east I think. South or east.

DET. : Okay. So then he turns around and faces back either north or west, right?

: To-to whatever's goin' on.

DET. : From the ...so he faces the same direction he had come from?

Yeah.

DET. : Okay. So...

And I... throws his hands...I didn't...at the same time he throws his arms up, here come the three officers.

DET. : Okay. And then uh, so he throws his arms up. He says "okay, okay, okay" and the-and then what happens?

And then, all of a sudden I hear pop-pop-pop-pop-pop-pop-pop. I thought what...

DET. I mean did you...were all three of those officers within view at that time?

Yep.

DET. Okay. So, the officer that shot him, what'd he say?

He didn't say anything.

DET. : Nothin'. Okay.

: I could hear him plain as day yelling "okay" but I didn't hear him say "get on the ground", I didn't hear him say "drop, get down" nothin' but if he had already had been shot once, I mean...

DET. Okay, um, so then after he got shot, a you said...I think you may have mentioned it earlier...

He-he staggered forward for 20 or 30 feet.

DET. : Okay.

Before he dropped.

DET. Okay, and when he fell, how did he fall?

: Straight on his face.

DET. On his face, okay.

: And with no hands to stop him.

DET. : So, after he was shot...

I think he was dead on his-on his feet and then just fell forward.

DET. : Okay, so the-the shots that were um, where you could...you said the seven shots or whatever...

Uh huh.

DET. ...where he was standing up and then he stumbled back towards the officer after that. Is that right?

No, he was just, he-he had his hands up and he was just kinda taken the shots.

DET. : Uh huh.

: The thing that makes me crazy about is in the movies and all this stuff where they-they none of that.

DET. Uh huh.

The bullets went right through 'em. I could see his shirt poppin' back.

DET. : Uh huh.

And once he was empty, then the-the bad cop pulled his gun and he just staggered forward and dropped on his face.

DET. : Okay. Describe for me the-the three officers that you saw on the scene.

Uh, the one I believe that a, was probably my size maybe a little heavier with a, maybe a-a marine-lookin'-lookin' haircut, older, grayish, blondish, lookin' hair and then a...

DET. : How-how old do you think this guy was?

Uh anywhere between 34 and 50.

DET. Okay.

I mean it just, it-it-it was either blond or grey. I mean I was 50 yards away.

DET. : Okay.

And then the two other ones were skinny little people.

DET. : The one that shot, what'd he look like?

It-that was him.

DET. Oh, that's the one you were talkin' about?

The older guy. The older grey headed bigger...

DET. : Okay, he's the one that shot.

: He was chubbier than the other ones.

DET. : Okay. Um, did you say one of them did not stay?

That guy, as soon as that was over with, they got him out of there.

DET. : Oh, the officer that shot?

Yeah. He...as soon as he...it was like...as soon as we seen that we loaded up tools and got out of there too.

DET. Okay. So, who was your laborer that was with you?

uh, I believe-I believe is the last name. I know 's his first name.

DET. : How old's ?

Uh, I don't know. I-I-I just met him like a week and a half ago.

DET. Is he a younger or older guy?

No, he's younger than me. Probably...he's anywhere between 26 and 34.

DET. : Okay. Alright. Alright, um, is there anything I haven't asked you about that you think about that you thinks important?

I wanna know why the cop didn't say anything. Wher...that's the first time I've ever witnessed anything like that. Why didn't the cop tell him to get down on the ground? There was three of 'em there.

DET. : mhmm

There was three of 'em that-that took actual seven or eight steps towards this guy and nobody said "get down on the ground" while he's up there yelling "okay-okay- okay- okay." Why didn't they tell him to

get down on the ground before...and the-and the seven steps towards him while he's yelling "okay-okay" took like three seconds and it, "bang-bang-bang-bang-bang-bang."

DET. : Okay, so...

: The guy didn't have a gun; he had a gun. Tell him to get on the ground. Why didn't he do that?

DET. : Okay. So, where were the steps taken? I'm sorry...

He was, well, the guy was breakin' away so they-they were following him...

DET. : Right-right.

...right behind him.

DET. : Right.

So, in that neighborhood I'm sure the officer wanted to get close enough to where he wasn't just taken pot-shots out. But, once he got within, I believe it was about eight to ten foot away and then just started firein'.

DET. : Okay, so you saw no weapons on this guy nothing like that?

: I talked to him earlier. He was wearin' sweatpants and...

DET. : Okay.

I-I-I thought he was, I-I don't wanna say retarded, but I thought he was a little...

DET. : Slow.

...slow because he could never keep his eyes...he was always talkin' real soft.

DET. : Uh huh.

Ya know. He didn't, he wasn't aggressive or nothin' it was just (talking in a soft voice) "yeah, I can...ya know, you need to let the Lord Jesus Christ into your life."

DET. Okay.

I said okay. We're workin'. I said, "you can grab a shovel and help us if you want" and he wouldn't do that 'cause he was in his breakfast shoes or whatever you call 'em.

DET. : Okay. Alright, so in regards to actually things that you'd seen-that you saw, um, is there anything that we haven't talked about yet that you wanna include?

Uh, I know there was, a, one guy in a red car that pulled up screamin' at the officer and I could actually hear the one officer that was a, taping off the scene tell him, Uh, he was a threat.

DET. Who is?

That's-the guy was tellin' him...

DET. : Oh, that the guy was?

..."How could you do that? Why did you do that"? He goes, "he was a threat." That was the answer given.

DET. : Okay.

Now, a threat I don't know...when your hands are in the air and you're yellin', "okay-okay-okay-okay-okay" that doesn't scream threat to me. I don't...

DET. Okay. Alright. Um, anything else?

: Not that I can think of.

DET. : Okay.

I mean I really just I-I-I was more in shock than anything.

DET. Okay, so it's uh, 8:29, we will conclude the interview.