

August 21, 2014
3:34 p.m.

Detective = DET.
Detective = DET.
Unidentified Female= UF
Unintelligible = (UI)

(Conversation starts at 16:50:00)

DET. Hey what's up man?

Not much. How you doing?

DET.

DET. Hey,

DET. I'm This is My partner in this. Um, I appreciate you coming down.

Ok. Sure.

DET. Um, like I said there's-there's a lot of moving parts, been a lot of changes. So we just need to uh-uh totalk to you, uh, again. Um, because you are..we are in a police station, uh we have to go through a couple administrative things.

Sure.

DET. Alright. Um, are you-are you under the influence of any drugs or alcohol right now?

I took an Adderall this morning.

DET. An Adderall? Is the prescription?

Yes.

DET. Ok. Alright. Um, does that affect you in any way to where you don't understand what's going on in the room right now or anything?

No.

DET. Ok. Alright. Can you read and write?

Yes.

DET. Ok. I'm not trying to be disrespectful. It's just certain questions we have to ask, ok?

That's fine. Sorry... I got a Charlie-Charlie horse.

DET. No that's ok. That's ok.

Little dehydrated, just got done mowing my lawn.

DET. Sure. Um...

DET. You need some water or something?

Yeah, I would...I'd would greatly appreciate that.

DET. Ok.

DET. Um, like I said there's a couple things we have to go through.

Sure.

DET. Um, because this is a police station, I have to advise you of your rights.

Sure.

DET. Ok? Um, this is a form. What I'd like you to do is just follow along with me. Um, and to start, if I'm gonna to read these to you, I want you to read 'em with me.

Ok.

DET. Ok. If you understand what they mean, and only if you understand 'em at this point, uh, I just want you to put your initials by this line. Ok? Here's a pen.

Ok.

DET. You do not have to make a statement at this time, and you have the right to remain silent. You understand that?

I do.

DET. Ok. Uh, just go ahead and throw your initials right there. It just means you understand it. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. Do you understand what that means?

Yes.

DET. Ok. Alright. You're entitled to consult with an attorney before an interview, and to have an attorney present at the time of the interview. Do you understand that?

Yes.

DET. Ok. And lastly, if you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed for you. You understand that?

Yes.

DET. Ok. Um, I want you to uh, oh, sorry bud.

DET. No.

Thank you.

DET. Alright, I don't want to interrupt.

DET. Sure. This is uh-uh, this is a paragraph. I want you to uh, to read this. Uh, read this to yourself, ok? And uh, basically all its saying is that uh, um, that we're not promising you anything, we're not twisting your arm, we're not uh, coercing you in any way, shape, or form before we have this interview. Ok? Um, given these uh, these rights and that statement, uh, were you willing to at least have a conversation with us today?

Yeah, that's fine.

DET. Ok. Uh, given that, if you can, just sign that. And, I'm gonna give you a date and time. Uh, today's date is August 21, 2014, and the time is 3:34 p.m. Thank you very much.

DET. We really appreciate you coming down today.

Anything I can do to help. I mean..just uh, like I said, I gave that written statement. You know...all I know is what I saw.

DET. Sure. And we're-we're gonna go over all that today, and just kinda um, to lay everything out again, and uh-and uh, get your statement. So that's-that's what we're here for. Is that alright?

DET. I guess....would-would you mind starting out..and I know we've -we've talked to you a couple times, right? And obviously this is-this is kind of a-a unique situation in that it's got so much press, and there's so many other people involved. So we just want to make sure we have uh, a..as accurate of a statement as possible.

Sure.

DET. Ok. And I guess, would you start out uh, just telling us about your work that day and when you arrived on the jobsite and all that?

So it was a Saturday, um, August 9th, and we got to the jobsite I'd say at about 8:00, right around there. Um, it could have been earlier 'cause I know we-we were startin' on 6...at 6:00 at the shop throughout the week, and I-I guess we did start at 6:00 on that day, so it would have been like around 7:30 we got up there. Um, basically we were pipin' out downspouts, digging trenches, and puttin' in PVC...

DET. Uh huh.

...you know get water away from the building. And uh...we were just moving our way along the buildings, and uh...at that-that building there on...that fellow was visiting his sister, and I guess...

DET. Which fellow are we talking about?

Mike Brown. Mike Brown.

DET. Mike Brown, ok.

I was uh, doing some work uh, removing some roots with a uh, concrete saw with a wood blade on it. And uh, want me go head and like...just tell you...

DET. Sure. Uh huh.

...just, ok. So I was working down here and uh, that fellow Mike he came down and was talking to and uh, you know I was kinda just doin' my work. Um, and uh, he said...I heard him say uh, what are you two mad about...what are you two mad about something? I'm gettin' a bad vibe. Not-not in exact uh, way. He said a, I'm gettin' a bad vibe. What are you two mad about somethin'?

DET. And, just so-just so I understand, is there anybody with Mike?

At this time, it was just himself.

DET. Ok.

I mean this is two weeks ago, so I...I mean I'm, you know...

DET. Sure. I understand. Right.

...I'm tryin' to do my best here.

DET.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

And uh, basically uh, the guy I was with, he said, well my boss shorted me 960 on my check or whatever he said, uh, you know, kinda diffuse his, you know I got-I got a problem, you know. Um, is there a problem here. (UI) And after that he went in to talk about Jesus, he was like well, if you would put your faith in Jesus Christ, he'll-he'll save you, you know.

DET.

Mmhm.

I kinda didn't really pay much more attention. I just went about my work. And next-next time uh, I came around Mike was over here with on the other side of the truck and I kinda just went over there to see what's going on. And uh, they were talkin' about you know...your place in Heaven, or...you know...your place in Hell, or. said to him, he said, So you know you might have a picture of Jesus on your wall...well, Satan's got a picture of me on his wall, you know it was kinda...he was talkin' like...I don't know it was a weird conversation really. And I uh, you know, I was just kinda a bystander in that at that point. Um, ya know, listen to what he had to say, just wanna make sure, you know this guy wasn't causing some trouble so...you know..after-after I heard him say something about what are you two mad about somethin', you know it kinda led me to believe he might be, you know..aggressive or somethin'...I don't know. And then, as he was standing there talkin, I saw him clench his fists a couple times, like look at the sky, and I kinda, you know, thought that was odd. And, you know, the conversation just kinda went on and uh, Mike uh, he shook 's hand and was like alright man, well, nice, been nice talkin to you. And, you know, he went back upstairs. Um, I guess before I went over there, uh, the initial part of the conversation, uh, conversation...we were talkin' about diggin' these trenches. And uh, Mike sa...uh, told Mike he goes well I gotta shovel with your name all over it. What's your name? He said my name's Mike. He goes where's my Sharpie , you know kinda makin' a joke with it. Um, and then they went over there and talked, but uh, and he-he also mentioned something about his pot leaf socks.

DET

Who mentioned it?

said something about Mike's pot leaf socks. He goes well, there's nothin' wrong with smokin' weed, you know you gotta try everything and figure out what you want to do in this life, kinda of, you know thing.

DET. Who said that?

Mike.

DET. Mike. Ok.

So I went back to the other side of the truck, and he shook his hand, kinda went back on doing our business. Uh, by this time, we were working our way around that L-shaped building on the inside corner. And um, I-I guess about 11:45ish I decided I was gonna go get the-the machine and Mike came back with the-with the skinny guy with dreadlocks, I can't remember, and he was talking to again.

DET. Okay so, just so-so I can kinda get my time straight here.

Right.

DET. What time do you think Mike...you got there at what time? What time you start work?

To the job?

DET. Yeah. Actually to the jobsite.

About 7:30. But we were doin' a lot of other work before we got over there, so it was probably 10:30 by the time we got over to his building.

DET. To the building that Mike was...

Right.

DET. ...was stayin' in?

Right.

DET. Ok. Do you remember th...what building that was?

Off the top of my head, no. But if I had a map of it, I could show you exactly. I think it was like Building 8, in the complex.

DET. Ok.

Ya know, 'cause I remember 1 through 5...might have been Building 9, I can't remember exactly, but...

DET. Ok. So you guys get over to that building at-at 10:30?

Approximately.

DET. Sure. Ok. And then how long were you at that building before, uh, before you guys encounter Mike?

Uh, maybe 20 minutes. You know, because we started on the corner then we came to that inside well, and that's when he came down the stairs, and, you know, kinda seen what we were doin' I guess and decided he wanted to talk Jesus and...

DET. Who initiated the conversation?

Uh, I can't recall. I-I don't remember.

DET. Ok.

I didn't. You know, I was kinda more focused on my work, than, ya know, talking to people, and you know, I acknowledging 'em... ya know, how you doing, checking on him. Didn't really say anything just look up, and then, I guess he said something to but, ya know, I can't recall exactly.

DET Okay. What do you think it was?

Uh, I'm gettin' a bad vibe, what are you two mad about something?

DET Oh that comment right there?

Yeah.

DET Ok. Alright.

That was the first thing I remember hearin'.

DET Ok. And then uh, how long do you think that either you and or by himself interacted with-with Mike? Up until the point that...I guess...

Up until they shook hands that first scenario, probably took 20 to 25 minutes.

DET. Ok. So..

So, they talked-they talked for awhile and like I said they went over there and talked more. And we didn't...

DET. Over at the truck?

It was only like 5 minutes, ya know, while I was next to that-that middle well, and then uh, and then walked over here and they continued talking. I'd say about 25 minutes. And uh, like I said the next time I saw him, he was comin' back with a guy, dreadlocks...maybe 10-15 minutes later.

DET. Who's comin' back?

Mike.

DET. Mike's coming back?

Yeah, with...

DET. ... with the guy with dreadlocks?

Right.

DET. Where are they comin' back from?

Ssh...I couldn't tell you. From the road somewhere, I mean, I-I don't know.

DET. Oh-oh you're talkin about after...

Yeah.

DET. ...him and had already shake...

Right.

DET. ...shaked hands.

Right-right. And, he-he was kind of a different person at that point, you know, kinda seemed like he came down from a high or somethin' you know how if somebody's...st..stoned and they come down to like realization, ya know down to earth and you can tell this guy was, you know kinda like, alright man, you know, nice meetin' you. Kind of, you know, flipped his-his persona flipped. So, then...ok, so he went back upstairs.

DET. Mike went back upstairs.

Mike went back upstairs, I went back to work. Next thing I know he's walking back with another guy. So, I-I yeah, I don't know where that guy

came from or at what point he came downstairs and left and came back with this guy. So that-that's kind of a blur to me, I don't remember.

DET. Did you-did you talk to the guy with dreadlocks? At all?

No. Never did.

DET. Did talk to the guy with dreadlocks?

Couldn't tell you.

DET. Ok. Alright. And, if you don't know..obviously you don't know, but, I mean...is there a point in time where you think that and Mike and the guy with dreadlocks could have been talking?

Yeah. And, that-that was...that was right before they left to go the convenience store. Because I know-I know that was over there, and, you know I kinda was walking over there, and they were-they were just turning to walk away. You know and they said alright we're going to convenience store, we'll be back...and we can continue this conversation with And then, at that point, I went and got the machine, came back, and the machine was on the other side of the property by the office. I got back over there and it was probably 20 minutes later...round about. Then I dug some holes and finished up there and this all happened in about 20-25 minutes. And then uh, and I got out and then about...I don't know, 12:00, you know decided where we're gonna take lunch or whatever, and I-I heard a loud bang.

DET. Ok, and then you were at that point. Okay.

Yeah.

DET. Ok. So, um, how long do you think it woulda been that-that and Mike and the guy with the dreadlocks coulda been talkin' together?

Five minutes, maybe. I mean...I...don't really know 'cause I mean I looked over there once and, you know, shortly there after, you know and decided to walk over there and kinda see what's goin' on but like I said they were turnin' to walk away at this point. Um, you know I heard 'em say that they'd be back, you know, they were goin' up the street and would be back, and I saw 'em turn up the street.

DET. Ok. Um, where were they talkin' at..when the...

Right there at the corner of the building. Our truck was parked at the corner of the building.

DET The three of them were?

Yeah. So they were-they were on the other side of the truck. And, I was doin' some work.

DET How far is the truck from the jobsite, where you were-you were diggin' the trench?

The initial trench? Uh, maybe I could draw you a picture.

DET Can I get...I'm going to go get a map, is that ok?

Yeah, you got a map of that place?

DET Yeah. I'll- I'll get one. Ok.

Um, I mean our truck was parked 15-20 feet away.

DET Ok.

From-from that spot. And I wanna say I moved it over to the middle. 'Cause I (U) generator with sawzall in there. So I was usin' that too. I don't remember, it's kind of...

DET. One second. So the-the first time you uh, I guys saw Mike um, was the truck in a different spot than it was the second time, that you came back and you saw him with the guy with the dreads? You understand what I'm askin'?

I do. And I'm tryin' to remember...

DET. Ok.

...if we moved the truck or not. I think it was in the same spot.

DET. Ok.

I don't-I don't think I moved it.

DET. Ok.

DET. Here-here's a uh....

Sure.

DET. Here's a print. Obviously that's a satellite view. And this is more of kinda a printed off one. That's probably a better one to look at.

Mind if I borrow your pen?

DET. Yeah, absolutely. Draw on it all you want.

So we were approximately right here, you know the truck was, kinda caddy-corner to this...the end of the building, you know. Not in a parking spot, obviously, just kind of in this blank area.

DET. Just draw a rectangle where the truck is just so we know what we're talking about.

You can see that?

DET. Yeah.

And so we were working right here in this well, this middle area. And he came down these steps here. And I was working was over here, you know at the corner. And that's when the conversation, ya know I-I first heard 'em. And then uh, he said they.. went over here, you know to get some water out of the truck and whatever. And this guy was kinda like following him around and uh, you know they were over here talking for awhile. Then I came over, kinda to see what was going on and they were talking about pictures on the wall, you know, black, uh, coaches and ya know all kinds of stuff...

DET. About what?

Just real...look...real...um, ya know that-that coach that got let go or whatever...that owner that had-had gotten fired or let go from the NBA for...

DET. ...oh the Clippers?

Yeah..I can't remember exactly.

DET. Ok. Yeah yeah yeah.

Right. And so, you know, they talked, and at that point, you know when they shook hands, they...then he walked around, went back upstairs, and, you know kinda went back to work. So the truck was here and then...and like I said, whenever he came back with that guy, they walked up the street this way and they kinda stopped here and 's over there and talkin' to him. I was over here doin' some work. And uh, you know I came back over. At that point, they were finishing up their conversation and I heard him say they were going to go to the convenience store up here or wherever it was. And uh, I was like alright I'm gonna go over here and get the machine. The machine's

parked right here. So I walked over here and got the machine, drove it over here...drove it up here. And by this time had the truck right here. So this was after both conversations. And they were already at the convenience store, so we had our truck parked right-right about here, the second time. And I'm over here doin' some...dug...dug a little ditch there...dug a ditch here and...dug a ditch there. And after I dug this ditch I drove the machine over here and parked it. Got off and heard the bang...first bang. And I peeked around the corner right here, and I pretty much walked right behind the truck. At that point in time, I heard that first bang, came around the corner and I saw Mike Brown about right here on the street walkin' this way. He was goin'...what is that, east? And uh, I heard the second shot. And I saw him stumble, and turn around. And at that point, wh... I saw the officer with his weapon drawn comin'-comin' up the street here. And uh, Mike Brown...he-he stumbled, turned around and threw his hands up. So right about here, his hands were up. I saw the cop, weapon drawn, and uh, he had his hands up and he was moving towards the police officer. And I heard...I mean I saw him get shot at least six or seven times. I heard six or seven shots. And after about the third shot, I mean, he was up to about here, the police officer, he was kinda backin' up a little bit. And after the third shot, his arms went down, in-in kinda like a-like a this position, and his momentum took him, you know, and I don't know if he was speedin' up to kinda like come after him or what. But his momentum took him, you know, to about here. And, at th-that point, you know, the angle changed from where this cop was to where I was and-and it...the shots were kinda goin' this direction and my...I'm right here. So the shots were probably, you know, 10-15 degrees off of where I was. Ya know, at that point, when he was goin' down the street. And like I said, he, you know, after the third shot his arms went down. And after, you know, the other shots, he kinda stumbled and, you know, I saw him falling. I didn't see him hit the ground. Because by this time, he was behind this corner of the building. So when I looked I-I came around, out of disbelief I kinda came around, and that's when I met right here. was somewhere up here. and I made eye contact, like what the Hell just happened? You know came up to about this dumpster right around here, and I saw the cop standing over M..Michael Brown.

DET.

Ok. So, couple questions that I have, ok. You guys were obviously there to work, right? Not to-not to socialize with the residents.

Right.

DET. Right. What's going on? And-and I know you-you've made mention of that there was conversation. What's going on for...I don't know...a half hour...that-that-that all this conversation is taking place? When do you guys...and I'm not-I'm not knocking you when I say this ok...

I-I...

DET. (UI)

I'm picking up what you're laying down.

DET. You know what I mean?

Yeah.

DET. I mean, what's going on in this half hour, period here.

I mean it was a Saturday, and we were kinda up there, just doin' some work, you know we weren't, you know, going full speed and, you know I was tryin' to get some work done but insisted on talkin' to this guy for whatever reason, you know the guy kept coming over and talkin' to him. And uh, you know for me it woulda been better for us to just to our work and...

DET. Sure.

But I...you have to ask why he insisted on talking to this guy.

DET. let me ask you. What do you think they were talking about? What do you think and-and Mike were talking about? Honestly.

(sighs) I mean it was I mean, uh, from-from-what I..from what and I talked about it was mostly like and what I had heard...what I heard. I'll tell you what I heard. It was all like, you know, how you gonna get through this life, you know. He told him to go down to-to this..you know, instead o..sittin' at the corner you know holdin' up a sign, um that says uh, you know, poor, need cash, you know, he said...that the light changes every three minutes. You know, you stand there for an hour, you make seventy bucks or whatever. You know why-why not instead of walking down to that corner, walk down to Aldi and get a job. You know, kinda like just like-like what you would tell you kid if your kid had you know, was in... was a dysfunctional kid,you know delinquent or something, but, that's..kinda the gist of the conversation I got.

DET. And you got that from hearing it or from telling you that?

From what I-from-from what I heard, 'cause I heard, 'cause, I...like I said I heard Brown talk about that and about Jesus, and , you know...st...standing at the corner. Um, I mean that's uh, I don't know...pfft. It was a weird conversation. It was uh, it seemed like everybody I talked to up there, you know I've talked to a couple people you know, in passing, ya know, I was at this building at one point and you know a guy-a guy came up to me and he was telling me about all his kids and you know how they're all successful and doing this and you know stayin' outta trouble.

DET Did you talk to him for a half hour though?

No.

DET See that's kinda what I'm-what I'm tryin' to understand is like...what's going on that half hour you know? I mean, there's gotta be something else.

Well, like I said, you know...

DET What's going on there?

...I think-I think the initial talkin' to him for five minutes over here was kinda just to diffuse him, because he-he was obviously not in his right mind, you know, and I'm pretty sure he was smokin' weed or but weed doesn't make you aggressive, you know, maybe he was on something else.

DET. Why are you pretty sure he was smokin' weed?

He had pot leaf socks on and he was talkin' about how...whe-whenver mentioned it, he goes well there ain't nothin' wrong with that.

DET. Yeah, what else did he say about that?

Nothin'.

DET. Nothing? That was the end of the conversation with that or...

Just...

DET. is there-is there...

...yeah.

DET. ...more to that?

No, there's nothing else to it.

DET. Okay. Does-does smoke?

Never seen him do it in my life. He smokes cigarettes.

DET. Does he drink?

Yeah.

DET. Ok. Does he ever talk to you about-about drugs?

No.

DET. Nothing?

No.

DET. Do...I'm gonna ask you just 'cause I've asked about everybody else.

Sure.

DET. Do you use drugs?

I've...yeah...marijuana.

DET. Okay. When's the last time you used? And, granted I-I'm assuming you don't have anything on you right now...

No.

DET. ...ok..and you can't get in trouble for sayin'...I smoked in the past or whatever. That's obviously not how the law works...but...

I went down to Goose Creek, um, about a month and a half ago.

DET. Ok.

Smoked with some friends.

DET. And how do you...when you're smokin', how do you-how do you use it? What do you do?

Uh, put it in a bowl.

DET. Ok.

Glass-glass bowl.

DET. Ok. Is there any other way that you use?

No.

DET. Okay. Have you ever tried any way just once, didn't like it?

Uh, oh like one hitters or...

DET. ...anyway that you could you could possibly use it?

I mean, in high school they, you know they use like foil.

DET. Ok.

Tinfoil, and...(UI)

DET. Nothin' recently though?

No.

DET. Ok. Have-have you ever smoked when you were working?

No.

DET. Ok. And, personally I don't care. I'm just, you know, I'm just tryin' to...

No..for me it's something that's recreational. I-I don't associate that with work.

DET. What about ?

Don't know.

DET. Ok. If you knew, would you tell us?

I would.

DET. Ok. Alright.

Couldn't tell you.

DET. Have you guys ever had any conversation about drugs?

No, he and I have only worked together for about two weeks, and that never came up.

DET. Ok.

He did say somethin' about Mike Brown havin' some weed on him. Rollin' a blunt or somethin' before they went to the gas station.

DET. Tell me about that conversation.

That's hearsay. I mean I can't really...

DET. I know.

...say it is...

DET. But I-I, it-it's's not...

He-he just said something to the fact of and, this was after-after all this went down, we loaded up and we were over here gettin' our stuff together. And he said something about um, seein' him with uh, rollin' a blunt. Which I didn't see, I was over here and they were over there. But uh...

DET. So said that?

Right.

DET. Ok. What...tell me about that conversation. What did say to you?

I-I can't recall exact conversation. I mean I was...at that point I was so...you know, terrified and my mind was racing a hundred miles an hour. I can't recall the exact conversation. It was...I can't remember if we were talkin' to somebody about somethin', or somebody asked us if we saw him or something, but said yeah, he was rollin' a blunt before he went to the gas station.

DET. If you're talking about something or somebody asks them if he would..if he would...

If we saw him with anything on him.

DET. Ok.

Somebody yeah, somebody asked if we saw maybe...somebody that was planning on picking up from him or somethin', I don't know. Somebody mentioned the fact that...mentioned or asked us if we saw him with stuff. I couldn't tell you who. If I had to pick him out of a line up, couldn't tell you who, just in pa, ya know, just kinda like...did you see him with some stuff...I said I never saw him with stuff.

DET. When they were talking about stuff, what were they talking about?

Weed.

DET. Ok. Was this a guy or a girl or...

Mm...it was a guy, who was the girl? The only girl that we talked to was some onlooker over here. Uh, and his sister.

DET. White guy or black guy?

It was a white guy...no, a black guy.

DET. Ok. And-and he says to you, he just walks up to you out of the blue and says this or what?

Well, it was...(sighs)...I can't remember-it was-it was at-at some point during us going up here and comin' back...it was...and he-he asked us if we saw him with some stuff. I can't-I can't...like that part of the...my memory is kind of blurry.

DET. Who was driving? You or

We both drove up there that day.

DET. Alright. Let me see your pen real quick.

DET. So when was talkin' to him by his truck, he was by his truck or by your truck?

His truck.

DET. Ok. Alright. And so, and I know I keep going back to this, but, I-I've got a lot of curiosity about this, ok? So somebody just...a...after everything happens...meaning after the shooting happens...somebody just walks up to you right as you guys were in the truck, or you guys out of the truck, or what?

We were out of the truck. Like I said we had our trucks. We loaded up, pulled around 'cause there was a bunch a commotion. We loaded up and pulled around and parked here. And at that point in time, the International was sittin' right here, where it had been sittin' all day long. And his truck was sittin' over here and then we walked over, kinda looked, 'cause from where I was standin', I couldn't see the yellow socks. Like I wasn't sure that that was the guy we were talkin' to.

DET. Uh huh.

So we just went over there, and I confirmed it that-that was the guy. And, at that point...God I can't remember if it was pullin' outta here or if it was over here. See I-I after I saw this I mean I just kinda shut down. You know. It mighta been over here when we were pulling out.

DET. Ok.

'Cause I know some guy in a red car pulled up yellin "he-he smoked my...he just smoked that guy or whatever." And somewhere between here and when we left that gentlemen asked if-asked us if we saw him with some stuff.

DET. And what did that mean to you?

Like I-I-I assumed weed. I mean'cause I've...you know the pot leaf socks and...

DET. Yeah.

And I mean, I just kinda put two and two together. I know that's an assumption, but...

DET. Yeah, and I guess..that-that to me is-is-uh, a little, uh surprising in that somebody who you don't know is gonna walk up to you two guys and ask, did you see him with some stuff?

It-it.

DET. You know what I mean? I mean...

It must have been somebody that saw..I mean we were wearin' pink shirts. Okay, you couldn't miss us.

DET. Yeah.

You know, must have been somebody that saw us talkin' to him, or...it wasn't-it wasn't the guy with dreadlocks. I know that.

DET. Ok.

Somebody else.

DET. What'd he look like?

I don't remember.

DET. Ok. Don't you think that's strange though, that-that some random person that you've never met before would just walk up to you and ask you about drugs and-and Mike Brown? (UI) you know what I mean?

I-I mean...it's...I was up there for four weeks and every day you smell it. I mean it's...became such a...

DET. You know, I get it, it yeah, I mean-I yeah. But-but that to me is strange. And here I guess here's what I'm..here's what I'm gettin at, ok?

Right.

DET. I-I feel like there is a lot more to your conversation and maybe not you per say, when I say your I'm talkin' about uh,you and and-and Mike, ok. And I feel like there's a lot more to that conversation that-that you haven't told us yet. Ok?

I...

DET And-and when I'm saying you, m..maybe it's more directed towards ok?

Right.

DET Get what I'm saying.

Right.

DET. Right? Maybe it's more directed towards but I feel like there's a whole lot more to this conversation and this interaction then what you've told us so far. Ok. And so I want to get to the bottom of that because I think it's probably-it's probably important in the sense of-of we have an understanding of you know the last whatever...hour, two hours of his life. Right?

Right.

DET Ok. I mean essentially we're tellin' the story of the last two hours of his life. Ok.

Sure. Sure.

DET And we wanna make sure we do that as-as thoroughly as possible. And obviously you know you and-and maybe to a larger extent are-are part of that-that story ok?

Right.

DET You're part of Mike Brown's story now.

Right.

DET Ok, and we want to get to that...the bottom of-of his story and we want to make sure that there's no, you know, no stone unturned...that-that

we know everything that was going on. Ok? And so when I say that I-I'm also gonna come out and say this to you just 'cause I believe in being up front and I don't wanna play any, you know, play any games or whatever.

I'll tell you whatever I know.

DET. Ok. I-I know that there's more that-that you guys were havin' an interaction with Mike then what is being said right now, ok?

Not me.

DET. Ok. Well, then if it's not you then it's but regardless...I'm not gonna go back and he's not gonna go back and tell hey listen, guess what said, you know what I mean, ok. And that's and-and I'll go a step further and say that's not the way we conduct business, ok. This is what we do for a living, alright?

Right.

DET. And believe it or not, we get-we get reputations in the community, ok? And we obviously need our reputations to be impeccable in the sense that people need to know that if they tell us something, it stays with us. That we're not gonna go out and blab to the whole world about what one person said to us, ok?

Right.

DET. Now you obviously know that-that we've talked to a lot of people, right?

Sure.

DET. We've talked to more people than-than you can count, ok?

Probably nobody as-as close to seeing all that happened as me, though.

DET. Um, I-I'm not gonna..I'm not gonna comment on what other people say.

Sure.

DET. And that leads me into my very next point, in the sense of I'll tell you we have talked to a ton of people, ok? Yet, you don't know who any of those people are, right? Other than obviously the guy you workin' with...

Co-worker.

DET. 'Cause that would make sense, logically you would think that. But you don't know who any of those people are, right?

Right.

DET. And unless you've heard from the media outlets or from somebody else specifically giving your first-hand information, you're not gonna know what they said. Because we don't go around telling people what other people said.

Right.

DET. It wouldn't do any good for us, ok? It would ruin our reputation.

Right.

DET. For the next case that we have to work. Because, we do get reputations, you know I mean? And, thankfully our reputations are...and it's because we want it this way...in that..if you tell us something, it stays with us. We don't go out and we don't tell other people or anything ok?

Right. And that's why I've been up front with you guys you know. When you came to my house, and even when the first detective came over, you know, I all-all I could share is what I know.

DET. Sure. Sure.

And I-I, you know I-I haven't left anything out of my account. It's, you know, that was a strange day for me, and you know-you know...anything that I didn't write down if I, you know, basically if-I, if I'm seein' it wrong, you know, its...you know there's probably a-a hair that you know is off a little bit, you know, but, I never-I never saw him with any, you know, any intent to-to harm us, you know, although when I saw him clenchin' his fists..it was kind of like...you know I'm just stand over here and make sure nothin' happens.

DET. Ok. And let me...

You know.

DET. Let me clarify something when-when I'm sayin' that ok? Let's talk about for a minute.

Ok.

DET. 'Cause that's really why we're here. Ok? I wanna talk about

What do you need to know?

DET Alright? Does do drugs?

Don't know. Honestly. Swear on my life. I mean...

DET Do you think he does?

He, uh, can...I mean...what kinda drugs?

DET You tell me.

I don't know

DET You tell me.

I don't know. I-I've never seen him do any, I've never heard him talk about it. Ya know, I can't assume somebody's, uh, one way or the other, you know. It's...you know I can name off a bunch of drugs and tell you I know what the signs of these things are, but, ya know, it's not like I can say that I've seen any of these signs of him.

DET Okay.

You know what I'm sayin'? I mean I-I can't tell you what I don't know.

DET Do you know what waxing is?

No.

DET Have you ever heard that term?

Never.

DET Okay. Have you ever seen acting erratic during the day?

No, I know he's kind of a...got a...very, um, I don't know how to say...like a...his persona kind of out...you know more outward..kinda like he'll say whatever's been on his mind, kinda like, you know I've...you know I kinda just thought maybe he was like you know type A personality kinda guy...he's like...whatever. I mean I-I've never thought anything weird about it his actions.

DET What would you say if I told you that-that I know that there was more to the conversation? That I know without a doubt there was more to the conversation?

Then you know more than me 'cause I mean I guess I'm just naïve. I mean I...honestly I wish I knew.

DET. Well, I'm not sayin' you're naïve. Ok. But I do feel that-that there is significantly more to this conversation than what was takin' place. That is wasn't just a question about...hey you got marijuana leaves on your socks. And then that's the end of the conversation, ok? I know that there'd be more about that...more about the topic of drugs than what was...then what you told us.

Mm.

DET. And does [redacted] understand ok, again..I don't care, alright? I don't care if-if you are high right now. I don't care if you smoke weed all day long every day. I don't care if [redacted] does. I don't care if Mike does. It doesn't matter to me, ok? I'm not the drug police, he's not the drug police. We do not care. It does not mean one iota to us. Ok? But what does matter to us is that we get accurate accounts of-of situations from people. You know what I mean?

You know, I-I-I-I feel ya.

DET. Ok. Alright.

You know I mean I'm pretty straight laced when it comes to, you know my-my work and stuff like that and I'll tell ya...I've never you know, done anything on the job. I didn't see anything that day.

DET. Ok. I don't care if you did or didn't. Just so you know, ok? It doesn't matter to me. Like I said, I'm not the drug police , alright.

Well, I'm tellin' you. That's the truth.

DET. Ok. Alright. Alright.

All's I know is the pot leaves and him mentioning smokin' weed to Mike and him sayin'there's nothin' wrong with that. And then, the mention of did you see him with stuff at the...after this all went down.

DET. Ok. So, do you think if we went-went and met with [redacted] and had this same conversation with [redacted] what do you think would happen?

I mean, I-I would hope he'd give you the same story 'cause I mean that is what it is...I mean we were there together, and if he has more to tell you about their conversation...m...you might find out some more stuff, but I don't know what stuff.

DET Ok. Well...
I...

DET Clearly you-you said that to yourself that had more of a conversation with Mike than you did, right?
Correct.

DET And did have more of a conversation with Mike and the guy with the dreadlocks, too?
Uh...

DET Or were the four of you all together talkin' ?
No. No. Like I said I was over here doin' some work, and I came in on the end of that conversation and they were kinda walkin' away.

DET. Ok.
Do you think they were dealin'?

DET. I'm sorry?
Think they were dealin'?

DET. Do I think who was dealing?
The-the guy that came over with Mike?

DET. I don't know.
I don't know. I was..I'm, well I see where...

DET. I'm tryin'...
I see where you're going with this.

DET. Why'd you bring that up?
'Cause I-I kinda...that's...I'm puttin' two and two together. Like I didn't think about that before, like why this guy came over with Mike.

DET. Yeah.

DET. I mean I...

'Cause-'cause I, you know I thought it was kinda strange that they-they were walkin' away whenever I came back.

DET. Other than...I mean, uh, and I'm not tryin' be dis..your job's not to put two and two together right now, ok?

Yeah, I understand.

DET. I-I...we wanna know um, what you saw and what was said, ok?

Right. Right.

DET. Um, and-and you brought that up...

That's an assumption.

DET. Yeah. Well, is there anything else that made you made you think that that day, that-that...I mean...

Just where this conversation's going...I mean...I...

DET. Ok.

I have nothin' to hide. I-I didn't see anything, you know if...like I said...I...that was just an assumption.

DET. Ok.

I-I..

DET. Ok. Now, when you uh, and you said this is your truck, right?

Right.

DET. And you're uh,you're on..I guess right where the uh, the staircase leads out, correct?

Correct.

DET. Okay. And what'd you say that distance was again?

I'd say fifteen feet.

DET. Ok.

Fifteen-twenty.

DET. Uh huh, and uh, Mike and were on the uh, passenger or driver's side of the truck?

Driver's side.

DET. Ok. Which would be on the opposite side of you, right?

Right.

DET. Ok. Um, how long were they over there together?

Maybe fifteen-fifteen minutes.

DET. Fifteen minutes, ok.

Twenty minutes... 'cause I..like I said that whole situation before I saw him go back upstairs was about twenty...twenty- five minutes.

DET. Ok. Alright. And, you had made some mention of what-what was being said between the two of 'em. I think you mentioned something about Aldis, gettin' a job or standing on the street corner.

Right.

DET. Ok. Um, what else did you hear? 'cause that's a long time to just hear, you know one little snippet of you know, how long do you think a conversation about employment would-would last. Did it last the entire fifteen minutes?

From, well like I said, I don't what they were talkin' about before I came over. You know, they-they were over there for probably ten minutes before I came over. And...

DET. Could you hear 'em from where you were at on the jobsite?

No.

DET. So where you were working, you couldn't hear 'em?

No.

DET. So you heard that conversation when?

Whenever I came around the backside of the truck and they were talkin' about the NBA guy and talkin' about Aldis and talkin' about pictures of...on their wall and stuff like that.

DET. When you walked up did they, I mean, were they startled that you were there? Did they accept you in the conversation? Did you engage him in the conversation? A-a you're gonna those are details that we need.

I didn't en..I didn't engage..I kinda just came over and you know see what was goin' on, more or less.

DET. Okay. Were they startled that you walked up on 'em?

They...I...they didn't seem like they were startled. I mean I you know it was two weeks ago. I can't remember their exact reaction to me walkin' around the corner of that car.

DET. Mm.

DET. You ever seen have conversations that lengthy with anybody else in that complex?

Yeah, he talked to the gal's sister who uh, is about to have another kid for about ten minutes. Talkin' about kids and dogs and you know.

DET. So that was just ten minutes, so we're talkin' Mike and had a conversation that was three times as long as that, right?

DET. And in fact they had two conversations.

Correct.

DET. Have you ever seen ? Well, let me, can we shift gears for a second here? Ok.

I'm open ears.

DET. Ok. Thank you. And I-I appreciate that. I know we're-we're asking a lot a questions. Uh,you and have you guys talked recently?

Haven't talked to him since uh,Friday when I was at the shop to pick up my paycheck.

DET. Any reason why?

That we haven't talked?

DET. Yeah. Mmhm.

He more or less called me then I called him and quite frankly I'm kinda moved on from that place. I haven't contacted anybody, really.

DET. Why'd you move on from that place?

Well, I was diggin' ditches for a living, and my boss fired me for uh, claimin' workman's comp for trauma. I mean I just wanted to kinda put

that behind me, and take my marketing degree and do something with it. So I've been focusing on my resume and my family and you know building myself back up and not...

DET. Did he really fire you because you filed a workman's comp claim?

He claimed performance.

DET. Ok.

But um, that was right after I left the urgent care on Monday. He called me up told me he was gonna come get his company truck, phone, credit cards. So yes.

DET. That was on Monday, though right?

Correct.

DET. Ok. But so the real reason he fired you is according to him now, right...

Right.

DET. You know just according to him...

Right.

DET. ...is performance based.

DET. What kind of performance based stuff?

Uh, I mean we were at this job for four weeks, and-and he seemed to think that it could be done a lot faster and, you know I guess he wasn't happy with the timely...time frame of us workin' up there.

DET. You have uh, goals you have to meet or certain-certain deadlines you had to meet or something?

No. No sort of uh, written...

DET. Verbalized though?

...goals...verbalized. But, you wanted to finish at the end of um, July.

DET. Oh.

...and this was August 9th.

DET. Yeah.

So I mean we were already a week past...

DET. Yeah.

You know. And I started off this guy was in sales and uh, and now I'm diggin' ditches, that's how my (UI)

DET. Did [redacted] say anything to you when you talked to him on that following Friday when you picked up your paycheck about his performance evaluation?

Uh huh.

DET. No? Does your boss mention anything about the performance evaluation he would have given [redacted] ? 'Okay. Do you feel that anything that's said in this room will somehow jeopardize your workers comp issue, claim?

I mean I was using that basically because I couldn't sleep and I'm kind of past that now...

DET. And I'm not talkin' about your specific, you know...

Right.

DET. ...the-the issues related to afterwards, ok.

Right.

DET. Do you think that anything that you say in this room that maybe happened that day would somehow jeopardize that?

No.

DET. Ok. Alright.

DET. We're gonna step out for a minute, ok? Will you hang tight here for a few minutes? Need some more water or something?

Yes please.

DET. You wanna use the restroom or anything?

I'm fine.

DET. Ok.

DET. Ok.

DET. We'll get you another glass of water.
DET. Which a..probably a bottle of water, ok?
DET. Yeah.
Mmhm.
DET. Thanks

(No conversation until 1:04:44)

UF: Hey. You doin' ok?
Thanks.
UF: Ok. Um...
Anxious.
UF: Do you need anything eat? There's some chips and muffins?
No.
UF: Does any of that sound good?
I think I'll be alright until I get home.
UF: Are you sure?
Yeah.
UF: Ok. If you need anything, just knock on the door.
Ok.
UF: Ok.

(No conversation until knock on door at 2:55:05, then conversation at 2:55:29)

DET. What's up man.
Would it be ok if I use the restroom?
DET. Oh absolutely c'mon.
Ok.

DET. We're uh..finishing up a couple things..then we'll give you a ride home.
Alright?

(Conversation starts at 2:57:29)

DET. You don't have anything in the room, do you?

Nope.

DET. Ok. Yeah just go ahead and grab your stuff?

You guys know if I can dip (UI)?

DET. Do whatever you want, man. You want the cup?

Yeah, I'll take the bottle, actually.

DET. Alright.

(voices in background)