

August 16, 2014
11:34 a.m.
Special Agent (SA)
Special Agent (SA)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
St. Louis Division

SA = SA
SA = SA

Unknown Male = UM
Unintelligible = UI

Only thing...

: Okay

Only thing I could tell you is..

Okay

..what I saw, which wasn't a whole lot.

SA That's okay, every little b..

But what I saw, I can tell you that, um hmmm.

SA Okay

SA Today is the 16th of August...

The sixteenth.

SA : ...2014

Um hmmm.

SA : We are here with, with

SA We're at and uh, this is and and
what we're gonna do is...we're gonna talk to about, ah, what happened last
Saturday.

SA : Ah, just real fast, here, for the, for when we go back...can you spell your first
name for us?

SA My first name is spelled
And how do you spell your last name ?

SA Okay. Thank you.

SA Okay, and ah, you said you've lived her for
Going into the

SA So, you know the neighborhood pretty well, you know lots of folks around here.

No..I don't know hardly anybody but the you was talking to, kinda, these people come and go so much...I know none of my neighbors. Matter of fact, my...apartment next door is (UI) in front of me is So, I know nobody here...but ...and I know enough...the that live in apartment cross, ov..er ...down, so....

SA : Okay

SA

Uh hmm.

SA And, ah, so last Saturday, August 9...

Hmmm.

SA ...ah, around noon, where were you at that point?

I was going to the trash dumpster. I was going down my steps and...going in the back to the trash dumpster. You wanna know what I saw or something?

SA Yes.

SA Just...walk us through.

Okay, I saw the police talking to these two boys. Now, when I saw the two boys they were not in the middle of the street, they were kinda like, on the side of the street, and I saw the police talking to him, them...what he said, I don't know. I didn't hear. Then I saw him cut his car, his..cruiser, in front of the guys, you know...and then he kept on talking. I kept walking, gon..gonna go on back to my trash dumpster. Then I heard a shot, or two shots, then I looked back, I didn't see anybody laying in the street, I figured maybe he...firing a...warning shot or something...you know let the boys...

SA When...and when you say "he" you mean the officer?

I mean the officer.

SA Okay.

I figured maybe he's...frightening them, gonna pop...fire a warning shot or something...so I kept heading back towards the dumpster. And then, as I was turning the corner I heard boom, boom, boom, boom, boom...like six, seven shots. And I ran and I ducked down between two cars in the parking lot because I didn't know if it was a gun battle or they come...they gonna come running down the street shooting at each other or not. So, I did duck behind two cars. And..at that time, people started coming out of their apartments, everybody heard all the gunfire and everything. And...I stayed back there a few minutes because I s...I don't know what was going on out there and people had start congregating in the parking lot and out there...so I didn't hear m..anything else and I did have food on the stove, that's why I was headed back to the trash dumpster. So, when I left the trash dumpster, they had already put the yellow tape...excuse me...around the parking lot and all across the street and everything and they wan't letting anybody up under so I told the officers that was there, I live in this building right here. I need to get up to my apartment. I had just left the trash dumpster,so

SA Okay.

So that's about what I know.

SA Well...an, and...

And, when I... was coming upstairs...

SA ..you know...

...I saw the body, in the middle of the street. Bleeding. Hm hmm.

SA Yeah. And you experienced ah, very difficult thing 'cause you heard...

Yeah.

SA ..and saw things that you..no one wants to see or hear.

No.

SA If we could start, kinda at the beginning, again.

Uh hmm.

SA Um, and we'll kinda go through it. Ah...you're on...is this the...considered the
?

This is the

SA Is this the

Yeah, 'cause the first floor is kinda like a basement apartment to me, but this is considered..

SA : Ah, yeah..you have to go some steps.

Yes. This is the floor.

SA And you're facing Canfield.

I'm facing Canfield.

SA Okay. And ah, so, you had ...I'm just gonna kinda summarize...you correct me if I'm wrong...

Yeah, yeaH. Okay, I will. Ah hah.

SA Okay, so you had some and you had some trash in your hands, both hands? ..or just one?

Just one. One bag of trash.

SA : Just one.

One bag of trash, ah hah.

SA Okay. And when you got to go to the dumpster do you have to go left or right?

Ah...I go 'cause it's back...it's...the trash dumpsters on the parking lot.

SA Away from the street...

Umm, in the middle in the parking lot, you know.

SA And that's away from the street?

It's away from the street, right. Um hmm.

SA : Okay. And...when is the first time you, you..okay, you saw two gentlemen, um, two, two on the street that weren't on the street, they weren't on the street but they were towards the sidewalk. Or.....towards...

To me? They were looking like they were closer to the side walk.

SA : Okay. And, and so you saw the officer and his cruiser ah, go towards them...
Angle his car in front of them, to not ah...block them.

SA Okay.
Um hmm.

SA Um, and um, where did you...when you saw that, where you on the floor... on the ground floor...
Yes...

SA : ..walking on the ground floor.
...I was on the sidewalk then. Ah hah.

SA Okay. And, um, and then you we...and you were walking towards...okay can you describe the two gentlemen for me? By chance.
One was tall, heavy set and the other was kinda thin...ah..

SA : African American?
Afr..both of them are African Americans, correct.

SA : Alright. And, any idea of ages? I mean, I know it's hard...
Oh yeah...who can tell the ages of these kids now...

SA : Okay. Do you, um...
...the boy that got killed he was a big guy, ya know...and his friend was a smaller skinnier guy. Now, I couldn't tell you their age 'cause most people can't even tell me my age, caus...

SA Yeah, because you aged well. 'Kay.
...telling age, yeah. Telling age nowadays is hard, difficult, you know, to tell.

SA : Ah hah.

SA : Was one, ah, how 'bout anything distinguishing in regards to hair?
One of 'em,

SA : Short hair...

..the little thin one he had like dreadlocks or something.

SA : Okay.

And the other one, he had a cap on, a red cap or something on.

SA : Okay. Okay. And did you...when you saw them did you see ah, from their back or from their front?

Well, they was headed this way.

SA Which way?

They was headed going...towards..the...from what I understand...I don't know...his grandmother lived in those ah...apartment complex behind here. Those townhouses the...

SA Well, which direction were they going?

SA (UI) right here.

They wan't headed towards West Florissant....they was headed...

SA Okay.

Ah...

SA Is that...?

I guess you would say East on... East on Canfield.

SA : East?

SA Okay.

Yeah. East on Canfield, um hmmm.

SA And, um, so they were towards the sidewalk area...

Ah hah.

SA ..and then the cruiser ahhhh, ah...angled towards them to cut them off, in front of them.

Ah hah.

SA Okay. And at that point, you went towards the ah, towards the left, towards the trash dumpster.

Towards the trash dumpster, right. Ah hah.

SA And what, what did you hear next? Or what did you see next?

I told you, I heard the two shots, a one...I thought it...two, b..maybe it'd been one and I kinda looked back a little...I didn't see nobody on the ground so I figured maybe they just gave a warning shot or something. So...I kept going. And then, as I was turning the corner there, going to the trash dumpster...that's when I heard all those shots and I ran....on the parking lot and crouched down between some cars.

SA : Next to the dumpster?

No, I hadn't made it all the way to the dumpster, then. Uh uh. No.

SA : Okay, and when you heard those first two, one or two shots in the beginning...

Uh hmmm.

SA ..and you looked back...

Uh hmmm.

SA ...and you didn't see anybody on the ground...

Uh uh

SA : ...you thought it might have been a warning shot.

Uh hmmm.

SA Did you still see the three people...the officer and the two...

I didn't. I didn't.

SA You didn't see....

I never saw the officer.

SA Okay.

Uh hmmm.

SA So, you don't know whether the officer was in or out of his car...

Uh uh. I sure don't.

SA Um, and the two individuals you saw earlier, the taller, heavier guy and the...

Right

SA : ...shorter... did you see them after you heard the shots? Or you didn't see them at all.

I don't think I saw them at all.

SA Okay.

I really don't think I did, no.

SA You sa...when you said you didn't see them on the ground...

Ah hah.

SA ...but you didn't see them.

I didn't see them.

SA Okay.

No, I didn't.

SA Okay, so then you still walked towards the dumpster...

I guess the, ah, the van kinda blocked them. So, I didn't see them.

SA A van or a police car?

What do you call them now...the, the tr...

SA Well you called it a cruiser.

What is it now?

SA Let me ask you this ma'am, was it ah...

It wasn't a regular car, you know. I guess...

SA Okay, was it like an SUV? Was it a van?

Yeah, something like that I guess what the...they put people in. Oh, what you call 'em?

SA Oh, like ah...

SA But you know what a Ford Crown Victoria looks like, it wasn't one of those?

It wasn't a car.

SA So it was kinda like an Explorer, like something bigger...

Yes, yes...

SA ...but, your talking about those vans that you say they put people in. Old time it would have been a Paddy Wagon but it wasn't that big, but it wan't that big?

Ah ah.

SA So, it's a little bit smaller.

Ah hah.

SA Okay. So, yo..when you heard those one of two shots....

Ah hah.

SA ...you went back, didn't see them on the ground, and kept walking toward the dumpster...

I kept walking.

SA ...and at that point...

Ah hah.

SA ...six shots, or so...

Ah hah.

SA ...and you crouched between two cars....

Ah hah.

SA ...didn't look back.

No.

SA Didn't see...

I was afraid! I didn't know...if it was a gun battle and they would come running through...shooting...I didn't want....to be in the line'd of it, so I crouched down besides some cars. My car and another car that was in the parking lot.

SA Okay.

Uh hmm.

SA Um, and ah, from there you said you stayed down there for awhile. Right...
A...a few minutes...

SA (UI)..right.
... and everybody start coming out of the apartments...and running to the front.

SA Okay.
And they just asked me what's happening. I said "sounds like gun shot out there" and so those young peoples was running to the front. So, then I go on back and I empty my trash and then I come back around to go to my apartment. Uh hmmm.

SA And you said earlier that ah...
[pounding on door]

SA ...there was some yellow crime scene...or there's some tape or something...
Is that at my door?

SA Might be. Pardon me. One second.
Hmm.

SA Sure.

SA (to person(s) at door) (UI) you guys.

SA Sorry about that.
Hmm.

SA Um, so you said earlier that when you were coming back, you saw...
Ah hah.

SA ...yellow tape and they had to let you...
Yeah, they was putting that, they was putting up the yellow tape then.

SA That quickly.
Ummm. That quickly.

SA Right.

Yes.

SA

SA And have you talked to anybody in law enforcement about this?

Nnn. One guy came up here. Ah...I believe he said he was a detective, 'cause he had on street clothes but he had a vest on that said police on it.

SA Okay.

And I told him the same thing I'm telling you all.

SA Okay.

Uh hmm.

SA And, and, all we're doing is, is we're checking, 'cause...ideally...it happened exactly a week ago today,

Uh hmm. Uh hmmm.

SA ...this time or so, so we want to talk to people that, you know, if, if that's they're pattern of life, where they, they come around, um...

Uh hmm.

SA ...so we want to make sure that, um...so, you talked to them and we'll talk to them to at some point when we figure out who that other person was...

Okay.

SA ...who the other detectives where, ah, we want to make sure that we talk to people.

Ah hah.

SA Certainly. Um, and when you came back up here, since that time, I mean, you've heard a lot of things...

Yes.

SA ...and you've seen a lot of things on tv...

Uh hmm. I seen a lot...action right in front of my building...

SA Yeah, and I, I...bless your...

...they in front of my building every day.

SA No, I know.

Every day they have that little memorial...they're talking.....they're talking so I...been seeing this constantly every day, every day. The candle light vision, they had Sunday I believe there may have been a thousand people on this street.

SA No question.

I stand up on my porch and look down, I don't go down there and get in the mix, I'm an person, I don't wanna...like I told the detective, I don't want to be in the middle of this. I says there's enough young people out there and they have cameras, they have cameras...

SA Right.

Aha. L..the magic of ah, ah electronics these days...

SA Right.

..everybody was taking pictures. Tablets and ah, ah cameras... they was taking pictures.

SA Right.

I was saying you probably can get more information from some of those young people down there having pictures. I don't have the camera or anything...

SA (UI)

..all I can tell you is the little bit I saw.

SA No, and, and, and we appreciate that very much. I would have asked you about...if you had a camera or anything like that. You didn't...you didn't have a camera to where you ...on the phone...

I have one on the telephone, I don't even know how to use that.

S Well, that's just like I am. So...

Hahah. You know, I am not good with that electronic stuff, I have no computer, I have no facebook, I have nothing like that. Only reason I have that is for emergency purpose, my kn.. say you drive...

SA Right.

... and have a flat tire, or something happen, you need a phone.

SA Now, you live here ?

I live here .

SA Okay. Um... but as you said...

I never had any worries living here. I never had anything happen to me.

SA Oh no, it's a nice area.

Uh hmm.

SA I mean, I...

It was a nice area. They're gonna tear it down.

SA Yeah. Well...

Ya know?

SA ..yeah, this is something that certainly happens once in every couple hundred years so I..

Yeah.

SA ...and we apologize for ah...talking about this but we want to make sure, is there anything else that we should know...that ah, that you don't, now...we'll recap and we'll kinda go through

Yeah.

SA ... exactly what happened when you saw...um, and again correct me or correct whenever we make something or we say something wrong. Now, getting back, a little back... you um, you're, you're ah ?

SA Okay. What's a good phone number for you? That phone number here. You don't have a phone number...or do you have a home phone too, well you do I guess...

I have a phone.

SA What's, what's your phone...you don't mind us...?

Now, my told me...to be sure and get you all's name and...

SA And we're gonna right everything down about us.
...there's (UI) or something. Yeah, she called me this morning.

SA Right. And, and you saw our credentials earlier.
Huh? I saw your credentials.

SA And we are gonna right down all our information for you and...
Okay. Because she told me, I guess she figure you only on your (UI)

SA ...so you can, point of contact, yes.
...if I need to follow up on something, you know, haha, I will.

SA So there's no question.
...but the guy who gave me the first card said he 'd be out some time next week to talk to me, or something.

SA Now, um, what is your name? Or, this, this,
Or is this your
Ah hah. Ah hah.

SA Okay.

SA Okay. Can we have name? Do you..can we have name in case we...it matters not to us...but if you'd like to give us name, in case wants to talk to us too.
You can have

SA Okay.

SA That's right.

SA Okay.

SA Okay, and what's a good number to get a hold of at?

SA Okay, and what

SA It's a tough economy, that's for sure.

Uh hmmm. Uh hmmm.

SA And what is your cellphone number...for emergencies?

Uh...

SA And um, so as I said...you're um...

Um hmm.

SA ...and you were cooking some food that morning...

Um hmm.

SA ..uh, and you took down a bag of trash to the trash can...

Uh hmmm.

SA ... so you're on the walking towards the dumpster...

Uh hmm.

SA ..and ah...you saw two African American males, um, [pounding]...

Uh hmm.

SA ...um, one bigger, one smaller, one with dread locks [pounding continues], one ah, one heavier one...one second [leaves interview]

One thin and one heavy.

You copy that?

SA What?

They want us to return the vehicle, they're going to do a rally here, so...(UI) she saw...

SA Alright brother. (UI) Just tell him that...

(UI)

SA We'll be here.

Alright.

[closes door]

SA Sorry about that.

Umm, no problem.

SA Um, so there was an African American who was bigger, uh, and the smaller African American had dreadlocks.

Um hmm.

SA Um, and ah, you saw a police cruiser, you called it a cruiser...

Um hmm. That's the one I'm trying to think of...

SA It's probably a situation where it's a little big bigger than a car, bigger than your car.

Yeah. Yeah, cruisers bigger than a car. Haha.

SA And so, he...the officer pulled in, in front of them...

Ah hah.

SA ...at an angle, to cut them off.

Yes, yes.

SA You, when you saw them...

Ah hah.

SA ..um, they were towards the sidewalk, they weren't in the middle of the street.

When I saw them...they were towards the sidewalk.

SA Right. And, ah, you didn't hear anything...

Never did hear anything.

SA ...ah, in regards to voices...

I never did hear anything. And I...

SA From anyone?

(UI) saying something to them, but I don't know what he was saying to them.

SA You kne..it appeared to be, er from what you saw it appeared to be a conversation between or words were exchanged?

Well, wh..I only heard the police saying something but what he said I don't know.

SA Okay, but you did hear the police officer say something?

Ah hah, ah hah.

SA Okay, but you don't know what it was.

What it was, I don't know.

SA So, you're walking towards the dumpster...

Uh hmm.

SA ...and you hear one, or two, shots...

I say two but I...it mighta been one. I'm not sure.

SA Okay and that's fine.

Ah hah.

SA But you do remember hearing a shot, at least.

Yes. Yes.

SA Okay. Um, so you look back..

I kinda looked back.

SA ..you didn't, you didn't see anything...

I didn't see anything.

SA You didn't see anyone on the ground.

Right.

SA But you also didn't see the two African American males.

Ah hah.

SA And you didn't see the officer.

Uh uh.

SA Okay. So, you still...

'cause I only looked back briefly.

SA Right. Okay. And then you just kept...walking to the dumpster.

I didn't just stop and turn and then start staring that way, I just looked back briefly, ya know...

SA And...so, you kept walking towards the dumpster...

Right.

SA And at that point, you heard six shots or so...

Yeah.

SA In succession, really quickly, after each other...

Six, seven shots or so, yeah.

SA Okay. And, ah, so you ducked down between your car and another car...

I ran and ducked down between two cars, right.

SA Okay. And um, you didn't look back to where the shots came from.

Oh no! 'Cause, I was head...I was... going to the dumpster..

SA Right.

So, the shots was all in the street, you know.

SA Right.

Um hmm.

SA And so you didn't, ah, you didn't look out or anything, you just, you stayed down there for a...for a little bit...

And peoples as just running out of there apartments and say somebody's shooting, then sound like... I said it sounds like gun fire, you know, all these kids, calling 'em kids...young people...

SA Oh right, right.

...was coming out of their apartment. So, I stayed there for a few minutes and then went and too...an emptied my trash and then I s...started back that way because everybody started congregating real fast, like I

SA Right.

And like I said, they was putting the tape up...

SA Officers were putting the yellow tape up.

Putting the tape up.

SA Okay. And you explained to them,

Uh hmm.

SA

Uh hmm.

SA

Uh hmm.

SA

Uh hmm.

SA Do you have any idea what time it was? That you actually went

You know I don't, because I didn't check the time. You know, I just had my television going, and ah, I had some

SA Was that breakfast or lunch?

No, no, no.

SA Do...do you remember what was on tv?

SA What you were watching?

What was I watching? Ummm hah, no, I don't.

SA That's fine.

SA Okay. So, then you came back up here and since that time, you've, again, you've talked to some people, your neighbors and some people that you've seen but you have not ah, been down, I mean it's right below your window but, you haven't participated in any of the...I mean...you have because you've been up here but you haven't gone down and participated in the vigils or any...

No, 'cause I can see everything from my I can see everything from my

SA And you've got no relatives or family living in this complex...

No, I don't.

SA Um, you know a few people here, you know

SA Right.

SA Right, very good. Um, and ah, I don't know if there is anything else that we need.

SA I, I can't think of anything off the top of my head. Um, we've got your contact numbers, okay, in case we need to follow up, 'cause like we said we..we want to make sure that everything is done right,

Okay

SA ... ah, in case there's something that comes along down the line.

Okay.

SA We really do truly appreciate um, you taking the time to talk with and I, um...and ah...we, we...

SA What we'll do, I'm sorry what we'll do is we'll put both our names and phone numbers on the back of here and you or your can call us at anytime...You don't mind us calling you again correct?

Yeah. You're FBI, I don't mind.

SA Well, I appreciate that very much.

SA Okay.

Long as it's...as you do a thorough investigation, I'm happy to see you all here.

SA And, and we appreciate that.
Whatever way it come out, I think the pe, peop..hah...I'm getting tired, tired....

SA I'm sorry.

...I think the people should know the truth.

S Okay.

I think that what ever was done should come out, and maybe all of this confusion will go away...because it's been traumatic just living in the midst of this. I've had friends and family trying to get me to leave...

SA Right.

Other than being in the middle of this. But this is my home, I been here
nobody's bothered me. Nobody's bothered me here and they...have been
conducting themselves so well with these things they was doing here except for all that
looting. 'Cause I was proud of the way they was handling things, they talking, they
trying to give these young people some positive outlooks on killing each other and the
police killing you ...you know, and everything....and telling 'em about education, they
need to get their education...I sit here and I look, or I sit there on those steps and I look,
you know...

SA Okay.

I am not in the mix of everything.

SA Well...and, and I was born and raised in Florissant and ah, we moved out in the late
early and Ferguson has always had a great reputation.

Yes, it has.

SA And all your family...

That's why I been here

SA No.

SA ...and friends are saying you need to move.

Yeah.

SA This is home for you. Your not moving, this is an isolated thing. It's, it's a tragedy, there's no question about it, um,...and it's hard...

Hmmm.

SA But, they understand your personality, and I understand your personality a little bit now that...you're just living.

Yeah.

SA And your not in amongst the people, I'd say up the street with that craziness happening up there, that's not right but that's some expression that these folks have decided that they need to do.

Hmmm.

SA And like I say if you or your niece wants to talk to us... someone else will talk to you...

Okay.

SA ..cause what I...what'd I like, we won't do it now

Uh hmm.

SA ...'cause it's raining out there and there's a lot of people out there, and it's none of their business.

Right.

SA What we'll probably do in the next week, with your permission...

Hmm.

SA ...is come out and talk to you again...

Okay.

SA ...myself or someone else will, um, and have you kinda walk us through it...to show us where your car was parked, where you saw things...

Oh, my car...

SA ...as opposed to...'cause we have a great idea what happened 'cause we've gone over it three times but for you to show us physically maybe, potentially, that might help us out to see where you were at vantage points and you may recall something if you did that again...

I wish I could.

SA No...when you actually walk through it again.

Ah hah.

SA And not something you want to do but it's something that might help us out to have us an idea as to what you saw, because then you think ooh something else. We won't do that now because for one they're having a rally out there at 1230...

It's too bad out there now.

SA It's no one's concern or business.

Uh hmmm.

SA And it's raining. So, with your permission, we can set that up and probably walk through that again.

Uh hmm.

SA Um, have you got questions for us at all, by chance,

Have I any questions for you two?

SA Yes. Yeah.

No, I have told you everything I know so I have no questions other than the questions you asked me, I tried to respond as well as I remember and to the best of my ability.

SA Oh, no. No, you've done tremendous. I mean, I...have ah, I have ah...it's tough...because it's from one of those lifetime memories 'cause you've never experienced that.

Uh hmm.

SA Thank goodness.

Uh hmm.

SA Um, so it's something that's to where you..it's indelible in your mind.

Oh yeah.

SA But, then again, you don't want to remember it because it's not a pleasant thing.

Uh hmm.

SA Um, I'm going to right our information on the back of here...

I'd appreciate it.

SA ..the only other thing is I'd to maybe get your date of birth if you don't mind.

SA Okay, so if you're older than

My date of birth, I don't mind telling people...

SA Right.

My date of birth is

S Okay, well I was born in so we're good.

Uh hah.

SA what year?

SA Okay, okay. Well, we'll wish you the best here. I'm gonna put...this Agent here is from out of town...

I appreciate it. Oh, okay.

SA He's a couple hours out. So, I'm gonna give you...

(UI)

SA ...my information, I'm in, I'm in...town...I'm gonna give you my information, I'll put his name there...

What'd you lose babe?

SA My phone.

I thought I saw it over here. I thought you picked it up. No, no, no not there. On the sofa. Where you...

SA : Is it...it's not in your pocket?

SA Nooo.

SA : I mean in your coat pocket.

I thought you picked it up.

It's 11:58 and we'll be concluding.

[shuffling]