

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PCSO - SUPPLEMENT SO18-225724/31

Report Date: 07/19/2018

Primary Information	
Description:	TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL DREJKA **MOFFETT**
Occurrence From:	07/19/2018 20:30
Occurrence To:	07/19/2018 22:00
Source Of Info:	DET. MOFFETT
Source Reliability:	CONFIRMED
Dissemination Code:	RESTRICTED
Content Evaluation:	CONFIRMED
Reporting LEO:	MOFFETT, GEORGE D. DET (57088 / ROBBERY / PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)
Backup LEO:	REDMAN, RICHARD A DET (58673 / ROBBERY / PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)
Approval Status:	Approved
Approved Date:	07/30/2018
Approved By:	GREENE, TODD A SGT (56670 / HOMICIDE / PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)

Synopsis
<p>This supplement was generated to document the transcribed interview of Michael Drejka. During this interview, Post Miranda, Michael admitted to shooting Markeis McGlockton but claimed he felt he had to because Markeis "blind sided him and tackled him and he thought he would be coming to finish the job". Michael also admitted to having a heated argument with Britany because she was illegally parked in the handicapped spot at the Circle A Store. Please note, the transcription is not meant to be all inclusive of the interview. Upon receiving the transcription, I reviewed it for accuracy, however, for complete, exact details, of the interview refer to the evidentiary disk that was submitted into the property and evidence section.</p>

Addresses	
<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Address</u>
RELATED	2496 BAYSHORE BLVD, DUNEDIN, Florida 34698 , UNITED STATES

Subjects			
<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Bio</u>	<u>DOB</u>
WITNESS	JACOBS, BRITANY SHANICE (PERSON)	25 yr. old, BLACK, FEMALE	07/02/1993
SUSPECT	DREJKA, MICHAEL ANDREW (PERSON)	47 yr. old, WHITE, MALE	08/05/1970
BUSINESS	CIRCLE A FOOD STORE (BUSINESS)		---
DECEASED	MCGLOCKTON, MARKEIS D (PERSON)	28 yr. old, BLACK, MALE	03/28/1990

Analysis Information	
MHU Referral for Follow Up:	NO

Property		
<u>Status</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
EVIDENCE/SEIZED	1	RECORDED INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL DREJKA

Narrative
(INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL DREJKA, #SO18-225724-31, 7/19/18)

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Narrative - Continued

(The following may contain unintelligible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality, and the parties continually talked over each other)

GM = Detective George Moffett, Jr.

RR = Detective Richie Redman

MD = Michael Drejka

JU = Detective James Upton

JS = Detective John Shields

JU: Hey, Michael, how you doing?

MD: Oh.

JU: I'm Detective Upton.

MD: Uh, left hand.

JU: Left hand?

MD: Yeah.

JU: Okay. Sorry to have to meet you under these stressful circumstances a little bit but --

MD: Myself, as well.

JU: -- yeah. Hey, I'm not the, uh -- this is Detective Shields. I'm sorry.

MD: How you doing, Detective?

JS: Nice to meet you, sir.

JU: I'm not the case agent in this. I'm a -- I'm a detective in the same unit. Um, the case agent and the assistant case agent, if that makes any sense to you, are gonna come speak to you in just a few moments. Okay?

MD: Okay.

JU: Um, of course before any of us speak to you and -- and try to go into any kind of details about anything or anything like that, um, I'd like to read you your rights. Are you familiar with your Miranda Rights?

MD: Yes.

JU: Okay. You know how to read and write?

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: What's the highest grade level that you've completed?

MD: Uh, 12th grade.

JU: Did you have any college?

MD: No, no college.

JU: Okay.

MD: On the job (unintelligible).

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Narrative - Continued

JU: All right. So I'm just gonna read these to you. Um, and I'll let you read along with me so you let me know this is exactly what I'm saying. "Do you understand that you have the right to remain silent?"

MD: (No audible response).

JU: I'm gonna need a verbal response from you, if you will.

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: Okay. "Do you understand anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law?"

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: "Do you understand that you have the right to speak to a lawyer and have him or her present while you're being questioned?"

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: "Do you understand that if you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before questioning if you wish?"

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: "Do you understand that you can decide at any time to exercise these rights and not answer any questions or make any statements?"

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: Okay. "Do you understand each of these rights I have just explained to you?"

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: Okay. "Having these rights in mind do you wish to talk to us now?"

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: Okay. I'm gonna have you, uh, initial each one of these that you verbalized yes to me, the best you can there.

MD: Uh-huh. No problem.

JU: Okay? And then I'll have you, uh, if you will, print your name right here. And, yeah, signature right there, if you will.

MD: God, it's just tough writing. Oh.

JU: Okay. And today's date is July 19th, 2018. The time right now is 1812 hours, which is 6:12 p.m. And again, I am, uh, Detective Upton and this report is gonna be

SO18-225724. Okay. Um, the reason we wanted to do that first, you know, of course we -- you know, we don't want to talk to you about --

MD: Yes, sir.

JU: -- anything. And again, the case agents are gonna come in here in just a few moments. Uh, it's my understanding that your -- your vehicle was still, uh --

MD: It's not a problem.

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Narrative - Continued

JU: -- is at the store?

MD: It's right by my house. So that's fine.

JU: Okay. Okay. Uh, we have it all cordoned off. It's safe and all that kind of stuff.

MD: Yeah. I'm not worried about that, that parking lot, really.

JU: Okay.

MD: I -- I never have. That's my store. I go in there every day.

JU: You guys just live right around the corner?

MD: Right around the corner.

JU: Okay. Um, would you be willing to give us consent to go inside your vehicle and just for documentation purposes and that kind of thing?

MD: Shit, there's nothing -- yeah. Go ahead.

JU: Okay?

MD: Yeah.

JU: I have this -- I have this form right here. Um, you said you can read and write. I'll let you -- you read this and if you fully understand it, we'll proceed, and I'll just get your signature and then, uh, I'll get the case agents in here in just a few moments. Okay?

MD: Uh-huh.

JU: You okay with that?

MD: Uh-huh. Vehicle, correct?

JU: Yes. It's the vehicle. That's for the vehicle. And it lists your, uh -- your VIN number here and your tag. You do own a 2006 Toyota 4Runner, correct?

MD: Yeah. That's the one.

JU: Okay.

MD: All right.

JU: Would you witness that for me, please?

JS: Sure.

JU: You need any more water or anything? You need to use the restroom?

MD: No, thank you.

JU: Okay. All right. Just, uh, be patient with us and we'll get those -- those guys in here shortly. Okay?

MD: I really don't have --

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Narrative - Continued

JU: All right.

MD: -- a choice.

JU: Okay. Thank you.

MD: No problem. Thank you. Actually, I could use the bathroom.

JU: Bathroom? Come on. I'll take you.

MD: Yes, please.

JU: Okay. Let me, uh -- let me just make sure that the -- this place is clear of all persons in here first. Okay?

MD: Yes, sir. I gotcha, man, yeah.

JU: Clear to the restroom?

US4: Yeah.

JU: Okay.

US4: Yes. It's clear.

MD: (Leaves and later re-enters room).

[Go to 00:51:06]

JU: We'll just have you go back in here if you -- to the left. And we'll be with you momentarily. Okay?

MD: Yeah. Not a problem.

JU: It's gonna be two other guys not quite as handsome as me but they'll -- they'll be in here in just a minute. Okay?

MD: Don't let them hear that.

JU: (Leaves room).

[Go to 02:42:06]

US5: Oh, wrong room, sorry.

[Go to 02:59:20]

GM: Hey, pardner.

MD: How you doing? What's up?

GM: Hey, my name's George Moffett. This is, uh --

RR: How you doing?

GM: -- Richie Redman.

MD: Gentlemen.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Um, you've been sitting here for a while. You need to use the restroom or anything?

MD: Yes, please.

GM: Okay. Let me, uh -- let me make sure --

MD: Make sure there's nobody out there.

GM: -- okay. Just hang tight.

MD: Yeah.

RR: I don't think there's anybody here right now.

MD: Say again?

RR: I don't think there's anybody here right now. Nobody's, uh --

MD: Just, uh, (unintelligible) --]

RR: -- nobody's back.

MD: -- she uses (unintelligible).

RR: So we're good. When'd you get the panther?

MD: I'm sorry? Oh, my God. I was 18 years old.

RR: Yeah?

MD: Yeah.

RR: You were 18 years old?

MD: That was the first one.

RR: I got a thing for old-school tattoos. Where'd you get it?

MD: Oh, my God. (Unintelligible).

RR: Oh, really?

MD: Yeah.

RR: (Unintelligible). (Leaves and later re-enters room).

[Go to 03:01:48]

GM: You got enough water and everything?

MD: Yeah, I'm good, thank you.

GM: All right.

MD: Phew. I needed to get rid of it.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Yeah. Just to reiterate, man, my name's George Moffett. This is Richie Redman. We're with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

MD: Yes, sir.

GM: We're just gonna put this on record so I'm not gonna ask you to write down a hundred things and stuff like that. Okay?

MD: (No audible response).

GM: All right. We're just here at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office North District Station. Today's date's, uh, July 19th, 2018. We just wanna talk to you reference today's shooting that occurred at the 1201 Sunset Point Road in Clearwater, Florida. It's reference case number SO18-225724. Approximate time is about 2030 hours. Just go through your -- your kind of day, like, right before you get to the store.

MD: Oh. Um, just coming to -- just coming back -- going home. Stopping at the store first. And right around the corner is home.

GM: Where do you live at, sir?

MD: It's at, uh, 1116 Charles Street, Clearwater. It's in the Edgewater neighborhood. It's right off Sunset Point there.

GM: 1116 Charles?

MD: Charles Street, yes.

GM: That's a Clearwater address?

MD: Yes.

GM: What's the ZIP code?

MD: 33755.

GM: And, uh, what's your phone number? You got a current phone number?

MD: 727 --

GM: Uh-huh.

MD: -- 543-5138.

GM: That's your primary phone number?

MD: Only phone, yes.

GM: Okay. Are you employed, sir?

MD: No, sir. Retired.

GM: Okay. Good for you, man.

MD: Well, it never lasts.

GM: I wish I was retired.

MD: It -- yeah, it never lasts. I got to retire for about 13 years and now it's -- it's that time again to come back, you know?

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GM: Okay. Can you, uh, spell your first name? Is it common spelling?

MD: Common spelling, yeah.

GM: M-I --

MD: M-I-C-H-A-E-L.

GM: What's your last name?

MD: Drejka, D-R-E-J-K-A.

GM: And what's your date of birth, sir?

MD: 8/5/70.

GM: Okay. You mind if I call you Michael?

MD: No.

GM: Is that okay?

MD: Yeah. That's perfect.

GM: Okay. And you can call me George. Um, so just walk through. You -- you leave your house and you drive up to the store?

MD: No. I was coming back from the Wawa down on -- it's, uh, Missouri and Rosery --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- to get some gas. And headed home, stopped by the store. Boom. Boom.

GM: Okay. So you get to the store. Tell me -- kind of walk me through what happens.

MD: Well, I park my car and that's my store. I'm there every day.

GM: Okay.

MD: Plain and simple. And, uh, every day there's somebody pulled in the, uh, handicapped spot there just waiting on somebody.

GM: Okay.

MD: You know, I have a pet peeve about it.

GM: Sure.

MD: I, you know, say, "Do you mind, you know, moving? There's a spot next door and there's spots out front." I said, "Would you mind moving and waiting on somebody?" And --

GM: So there's plenty more spots there?

MD: There's plenty more spots, yes.

GM: Okay.

MD: And, uh, she took that as an affront that I would speak to her that way. Started getting a little, you know -- yelling and then,

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Narrative - Continued

of course --

GM: So you walk up to her car?

MD: Actually I was walking around it.

GM: Oh, okay.

MD: Okay? 'Cause I parked here. She was here.

GM: Okay.

MD: Okay? So I just check for placards. Plain and simple. And -- and she inquired about what -- what was going on.

GM: Okay.

MD: And that's when I told her, you know, about the handicapped spots. That's --

GM: What did you tell her?

MD: I said, "It's not very polite to park here when there's other people who need to use this." She says, "Is it affecting you directly?" I said, "If my mother-in-law rolls in, yes, it would be." So, you know --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- it was nothing "fuck you" -- there was none of that between us at all.

GM: Okay.

MD: Not nothing. You know, just heated words. That's all.

GM: Okay.

MD: About how I was speaking to her, I guess.

GM: Okay.

MD: She said, "What do I have to do, get my man?" I said, "Well, what's gonna happen then?" And a little more arguing back and forth and I never saw what hit me from the --

GM: She was the driver of that car?

MD: She was in the car, yeah.

GM: Okay.

MD: She was the only person in the car.

GM: All right.

MD: That I know of.

GM: You didn't see anybody else in the car?

MD: Tinted windows. It was dark -- dark.

GM: Okay.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Couldn't see through.

GM: All right. So you guys are talking.

MD: Yeah. Exactly. She's out of the car by this time.

GM: Okay.

MD: Standing next to it. That's all.

GM: Okay.

MD: And, uh, I got hit from the left side and thrown straight backwards in line with her car.

GM: Okay.

MD: So if you saw this -- if you saw the two white ladder lines --

GM: Uh-huh.

MD: -- next to the thing, that's where I was standing. Okay? So I went over straight back after I got hit.

GM: What do you mean hit?

MD: Uh, I was standing like this talking to her.

GM: Okay.

MD: I was hit from right here. This shoulder was pulled in front of me and then I was --

GM: Oh, okay. Right.

MD: -- then I hit the ground.

GM: Okay.

MD: Okay? Um, I'm pretty sure --

GM: We'll get somebody to take pictures of all that stuff.

MD: Yeah. I'm not worried about that too much, but, uh, I'm pretty sure I landed my wrist under my gun, actually. That's how I landed.

GM: Okay.

MD: 'Cause that's hurting like a son of a bitch now.

GM: So you landed on the pavement?

MD: Oh, yeah.

GM: Okay.

MD: I was on the ground.

GM: So --

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MD: Uh, at that time I had to put hand down to get hand out from underneath. As I come out I start drawing my weapon. As I start leveling off my weapon he makes his next step towards me and 21-foot rule.

GM: Okay.

MD: I'm on the ground already.

GM: Right. Okay.

MD: It happened so fast and that was that.

GM: Did he say anything to you?

MD: Negative. Not a word.

GM: Okay. Okay. Did you say anything to him?

MD: No.

GM: Like, "Back up," or --

MD: No.

GM: Okay. Okay. So you draw your weapon. Talk -- talk to me about that. From -- from --

MD: Well, the way I was able to draw it, I couldn't even -- I couldn't level it with one hand. So I had to eventually try to bring my left around for support.

GM: Okay.

MD: And, uh, he made his step towards me and that was that.

GM: How many steps did he make towards you?

MD: Just one step.

GM: Okay. And that then that was that. Tell me -- talk to me about that. What do you do from there?

MD: Uh, I made sure there's no other threat around him 'cause it spun him a little bit and he ran into the store. Immediate threat gone. I did have her as a potential --

GM: No. I mean, beforehand. Before you fired the gun.

MD: Say -- ask me the question again.

GM: Before you fired the gun --

MD: Yes.

GM: -- once you pulled the gun out --

MD: Yes.

GM: Okay? You said he stepped towards you?

MD: Yeah.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: 'Cause I don't want to put words --

MD: He stepped -- right. He made one more step towards me.

GM: And then what do you do?

MD: I didn't say a word.

GM: Okay.

MD: The gun was already out.

GM: Okay. What do you do?

MD: Fire my weapon.

GM: How many times did you fire the weapon?

MD: One time, sir.

GM: Okay. So you fire the weapon and then basically just stand?

MD: Uh, I ended up standing up until all of the threats were clear, reholstered my weapon.

GM: Okay. All right. So he didn't come back at you again or anything like that?

MD: Not after he left.

GM: Where did he go?

MD: Into the store.

GM: Okay. Did you strike him?

MD: No.

GM: No. I mean with the gun.

MD: No. I -- I don't know.

GM: Okay.

MD: I assumed so, yes, because there was an ambulance there.

GM: Okay. So you don't know if you hit him or not?

MD: I know -- I know nothing, but I would assume so.

GM: Okay. All right. So what do you do? Talk me from there, after you reholster your weapon when --

MD: After I reholster my weapon, everything's clear. Somebody's screaming about her kids. Somebody's screaming about her kids. Uh, somebody thought they were in the car. So I said everybody's inside. You know, see if you can get her to unlock the car, you know?

GM: Uh-huh.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: And that -- that was it. All I remember, screaming about kids. And -- and --

GM: Okay. What -- what do you do from -- after you hear somebody talking about her kids and stuff, what do you --

MD: Everything's on -- well, I asked one person to go, you know, see if she can unlock her car from the inside, and then I just -- I had to extricate myself from the situation completely and just backed in my vehicle and waited for you. So I took my holster -- or I took my firearm out, unloaded it, locked it, left it in the car. And waited for --

GM: What -- what do you -- what do you mean, you locked it back?

MD: Yes.

GM: Okay.

MD: Unloaded it, locked it back, waited for you.

GM: Unloaded -- okay. Did you unload the mag or anything like that or -- or --

MD: No. God, no.

GM: All right.

MD: Just the one that was in the pipe.

GM: Okay. Um, so where did you store the weapon at?

MD: After?

GM: In -- inside the vehicle.

MD: Oh, it was in my holster.

GM: Okay. Where -- where did you put the gun at?

MD: Right on top of the center console.

GM: Okay. On top of the center console. What do you do from there?

MD: Wait for you.

GM: Okay. Do you make any statements to anybody?

MD: Negative.

GM: Okay. Out in the parking lot?

MD: Other than telling people it's probably not a good idea to be in here right now. 'Cause --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- customers pulling in now. I spoke to no one else.

GM: Okay. All right.

MD: Well, I did inquire if he had his cameras on because I know he's got nine cameras in that place.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: You inquired to who?

MD: Uh, the -- the clerk through the door.

GM: Okay.

MD: I'm pretty sure he was on the phone with someone.

GM: Okay. So did you make contact with him? You walked up to the store and made contact?

MD: I -- I walked up to the store. Through the door --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- you know. And he nodded yes.

GM: Okay.

MD: And that was the end of that 'cause I really wanted somebody to look at those tapes. It should have everything on it.

GM: Okay. Okay. Um, I'm -- I'm sure they do. Um, so after all this happens, uh, deputy show up, I'm assuming?

MD: Oh, yes.

GM: Okay. Talk to me about that. What happens from there?

MD: Uh, procedure. Deputy, you know, identified me and I identified myself.

GM: Okay.

MD: And from there it was -- it was straightforward. Me on the ground, handcuffs.

GM: Okay. All right. Did you have contact with deputies here or detectives when they brought you here?

MD: Uh, once they -- they come in, got some quick information, asked me if I needed any water.

GM: Okay.

MD: And I haven't seen anybody since.

GM: All right. Did you talk to -- I'm -- I think they read your rights and stuff like that?

MD: Yes. Oh, yeah.

GM: Okay. So you've been advised of your rights?

MD: Yes, sir.

GM: Okay. Um, I'm gonna -- we're gonna kind of slow it down a little bit and kind of -- 'cause I'm gonna be asking you specific questions about the -- about the incident. And again, just like you -- you know, you were -- just be truthful with me.

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: Um, and --

MD: No trouble there.

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GM: -- just because we gotta kind of dot our I's and cross our T's exactly what happened. I know you kind of went through it a little fast or whatever, so we're gonna just go back a little bit. Is that okay?

MD: Whatever you need to do, brother.

GM: All right. Appreciate it. Appreciate it, Michael. So you get to the store.

MD: Yes.

GM: Um, where do you park your car?

MD: Uh, directly next to, uh, the last parking space.

GM: Do you know north, east, south, west?

MD: Uh, facing south.

GM: Okay. So your -- your car is facing south?

MD: Yeah, the first door.

GM: In the last --

MD: In the last spot.

GM: Kind of furthest to the west, right?

MD: Furthest to the west, correct.

GM: Okay. And you're pointing the front -- to the front -- are you okay?

MD: It's just twinging. That's all.

GM: Okay. So you're pointing to the front of the store, your vehicle?

MD: Yeah, south (unintelligible).

GM: And what type of vehicle do you drive, sir?

MD: Uh, an '06 Toyota 4Runner.

GM: Okay. What color is it?

MD: Uh, silver, gray, whichever.

GM: Okay. All right. So you park there. You exit your vehicle to -- like you normally do, go in --

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: -- go inside the store.

MD: Sure.

GM: You always up front like -- like that?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Sometimes I'll park on the side if there's nobody --

GM: Okay. On the west side?

MD: There's two parking -- there's two parking spots down past the, uh, handicap spot right there.

GM: Okay.

MD: Sometimes I use them.

GM: Like, by the bathroom area?

MD: You got it.

GM: Okay. So you exit your vehicle?

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: Right? Um, like you always do, and you're getting ready to walk in the store?

MD: Yeah. Yeah.

GM: And what -- what do you see from there?

MD: Uh, no placard on the front of the car, 'cause I have to walk by the car to --

GM: So you approach the vehicle?

MD: Oh, front of the vehicle, yeah.

GM: Okay. Um, and your intention's on walking around the cars to look for placards?

MD: Always, yeah.

GM: Okay. Where do you normally --

MD: I usually take pictures if there's, you know --

GM: Okay. You take pictures if you don't see no placards or you take --

MD: Correct.

GM: Okay. Where do you normally look for placards?

MD: Uh, license plate, windshield, and the front.

GM: Okay.

MD: See if there's a front license plate or anything.

GM: When you approached the vehicle, was the drive -- did you make contact with the driver?

MD: I couldn't see the driver. The windows were so dark.

GM: Okay.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: I didn't know anybody was in the car.

GM: Right.

MD: Truthfully.

GM: So her window wasn't rolled down?

MD: No.

GM: The driver's side window?

MD: Not at the time, no.

GM: Okay. So you start walking around the car?

MD: Yeah. I walked from the front to the back and then just back up again.

GM: Okay.

MD: And I took them pictures. I just, you know --

GM: Sure.

MD: -- assume was gonna keep going, you know, but then the window came down.

GM: Was the car running?

MD: I couldn't tell. It's -- they -- it's so quiet.

GM: Okay.

MD: These damn cars. Uh, doesn't sound anything like mine.

GM: All right.

MD: Which is like a (unintelligible).

GM: So then when you come back around, is the window rolled down at that point or --

MD: No. Only after I get back up in front and she -- as on my way into the store, and she asked me, you know --

GM: So she rolls her window down?

MD: Yes, sir.

GM: Do you make verbal contact with her first or does she make --

MD: She made verbal contact with me first.

GM: And what was her --

MD: And I explained what I did. Uh, she asked me what I was doing, of course.

GM: Okay.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Yeah.

GM: So she asked you what?

MD: "What are you doing walking around my car?"

GM: "What are you doing?"

MD: Yeah. I said --

GM: And you said --

MD: -- "I'm looking for handicap placards, you know."

GM: Okay.

MD: And then it ensued with, "Well, what's that matter to you?"

GM: So -- okay.

MD: And, uh --

GM: So when you -- when you -- when she rolls her window down she says, uh, "Hey, you know, what are you doing?" how far are you away from the car?

MD: To the front of the car.

GM: Okay. So you're standing at the front?

MD: Yeah, about the front of the car, which is the north sidewalk.

GM: Are you on the curb?

MD: Yeah.

GM: Okay. So you're on the sidewalk?

MD: Yeah. I'm on -- exactly in front of her car. I'm on the sidewalk at the front of her car.

GM: Okay. So after you start talking to her, do you approach the driver's side of the car?

MD: Yeah, just -- of course. I don't want to yell back and forth.

GM: Right. That's --

MD: Yeah.

GM: That's understandable.

MD: Yeah.

GM: So how far do you approach the vehicle?

MD: I'm --

GM: -- distance-wise approximately?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: God, it's -- it's gonna be -- she's in the car and it's -- it's (unintelligible).

GM: Let's say I'm -- I'm the driver. Okay.

MD: I could probably smell your breath, you know.

GM: Okay.

MD: After a while. It's not like I was leaning in her car or anything but --

GM: Hopefully you can't smell my breath.

MD: Oh, yeah. Hopefully you can't smell mine. I mean --

GM: So how -- can you show me how far -- let's say I'm her. How far do you come up to her?

MD: By the window.

GM: Okay. So a couple feet?

MD: Yeah.

GM: Okay.

MD: I'm not gonna encroach into her car.

GM: All right. So you walk up to her car and you say, "I was looking for --"

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: "-- handicap placards"?

MD: Correct.

GM: And then what does she say?

MD: "Uh, what's it matter to you?" I said, "Well, it wouldn't matter to me unless my mother-in-law showed up right now and needed a place to park."

GM: But it does matter to you because somebody's parked there.

MD: At that moment, yeah.

GM: Sure.

MD: Oh, yeah.

GM: And your mother-in-law wasn't in the car?

MD: No. No.

GM: Okay.

MD: She asked me would it matter. I gave her a hypothetical.

GM: Was there anybody in the car, in your vehicle --

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Negative.

GM: -- that was --

MD: Just me.

GM: -- that's disabled or anything like that?

MD: No. No. No.

GM: Okay. So you tell her, "If my mother-in-law was here --"

MD: Right.

GM: Okay.

MD: That's the way she was leaning, you know.

GM: Right. Right.

MD: That's all.

GM: Okay.

MD: So I gave her an example.

GM: Was she a little heated?

MD: Very.

GM: Okay. Um, so you guys start having a discussion back and forth?

MD: Yeah, a little heated discussion back and forth, definitely.

GM: All right. Um, so tell me a little bit about that.

MD: That's exactly about the same thing. We're going back about the same thing.

GM: I know, but exactly -- exactly what was said.

MD: I couldn't even -- oh, the thing I remember her saying is, "Do I have to get my man?" And I said, "Well, what's that mean? Are we going to fight?"

GM: Okay. But what were you --

MD: "I guess so," was her answer.

GM: Okay.

MD: Uh --

GM: What were you saying to her, though?

MD: It's all about the placards.

GM: Okay. That, "You don't have a placards"?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: No. All about the space, not the placards --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- per se, but the space.

GM: Did you ask her to move?

MD: Yeah.

GM: Okay. Um, did you say, "Hey, I'm gonna call the police"?

MD: No, I did not say that at first. I wasn't gonna bring that up.

GM: Okay.

MD: I thought simple courtesy would do.

GM: So you asked her to move?

MD: Courtesy, yes.

GM: Okay. And what did she say?

MD: Uh, "Who are you talking to me like this? Who do you think you are?"

GM: Okay. Kind of, "Mind your own business"?

MD: You got it.

GM: Okay. Did she say, "Mind your own business"? 'Cause I don't want --

MD: Negative.

GM: -- to put words in your mouth. Okay. Um, so basically you guys have a heated conversation?

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: All right? And you're standing that close to her car, um, and she mentions her man 'cause again, no --

MD: No man in the car. I don't know of any man.

GM: Okay.

MD: Whatever. All I hear is it mentioned.

GM: "Do you want to -- do you want me to get your man?" That's exactly what she said?

MD: No. She said, "Do you want me to get my man?"

GM: "My man." I'm sorry. So --

MD: Yes, that's exactly what she said.

GM: Okay. Um, let me ask you a question, Mike. Um, at any time and point -- because we all know parking in a handicap spot without placards is illegal. Correct?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Well, yeah, but that's not why I ask people. It's --

GM: Why not?

MD: I can't.

GM: Sure. Right. Right. I -- and I get that. Um, but at any time in point when you saw the vehicle --

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: -- you checked the vehicle for handicap placards?

MD: Of course.

GM: Okay. You didn't see no handicap placards?

MD: No, sir.

GM: Um, at any time in point when you noticed that, why wouldn't you pick up the phone and contact law enforcement?

MD: There it is. Here she comes. Wait a minute. Um, no, I can't even remember what she said there.

GM: Okay.

MD: Because all we were having was a verbal argument --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- between two people.

GM: Right.

MD: I didn't know about a third person.

GM: Okay.

MD: I was literally blindsided --

GM: Sure. And why would you?

MD: -- and tackled to the ground.

GM: Right. But wouldn't it -- wouldn't it be best, you think, to call law enforcement, say, "Hey, there's somebody illegal parked"?

MD: It's not gonna help. She'll leave.

GM: Okay. Well, she may not --

MD: They always do.

GM: Oh, she may not know that you -- you called if you walked away. Right?

MD: True. Very true.

GM: I mean --

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Narrative - Continued

MD: This was an argument --

GM: I'm not putting words in your mouth. I'm just --

MD: No.

GM: I'm asking you, you know, a question. Um, so do you agree with that?

MD: Yeah, with the woman.

GM: Okay. Um, so you guys are bickering back and forth. Um, next thing you know you get pushed?

MD: I'm -- pushed, nothing. Tackled.

GM: Okay.

MD: I'm blindsided, dude.

GM: Okay.

MD: I am on the ground hard.

GM: So he shoved you pretty hard?

MD: No. He -- I -- from -- what it felt like is he come running at me.

GM: Okay. Like full force or something?

MD: Dude, I haven't been hit like that since I was in my 20s.

GM: Okay. All right. So he shoves you to the ground. You fall to the ground?

MD: Correct.

GM: Okay.

MD: Slightly dazed. Not very, slightly.

GM: Okay. Do you hit your head?

MD: Don't know. Don't feel anything.

GM: Okay.

MD: I don't know.

GM: So you don't know if he --

MD: Went down sideways like this and, you know, this landed under my -- well, under my gun. Okay? So I landed on my wrist on my gun.

GM: Okay.

MD: Had to reach over to extract my hand.

GM: To push yourself back?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: To push myself up off of that. And as I'm reaching and pulling around, he's standing in front of me. As I come up, he's taking a step towards me.

GM: Okay. Now, let's discuss that. Um, if you don't mind, could you sit on the ground real quick for me?

MD: That's where I was.

GM: I don't want you to hurt -- you say you hurt your --

MD: No, no, no.

GM: Okay.

MD: We do (unintelligible).

GM: So you're on the ground. Right?

MD: I'm on the ground like this.

GM: Okay. How far is the guy away?

MD: Front of the car.

GM: He's at the front of the car?

MD: Front of the car.

GM: So he's on that sidewalk kind of curbed area?

MD: No. He's in front of the car, off the sidewalk.

GM: Okay. Right on the edge?

MD: You got it.

GM: So how far do you think he's away from you?

MD: I might have been right at the edge of the back of the front door.

GM: Of the car?

MD: Correct.

GM: Okay.

MD: Or at -- I was up like this.

GM: So he's up by the front tire?

MD: He's up by the front tires. No, further than that, man.

GM: Further than this?

MD: Further than --

GM: Okay.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: You know, it was back further. About -- he had to be further than that.

GM: Okay. So he's about this far?

MD: Yeah.

GM: Maybe even further?

MD: And as I come up this way -- 'cause I have to come up off of my hand. All right? I bring the gun out with me. And as I'm coming back this way, it won't -- I can't support it, so I hit this.

GM: Okay.

MD: And as --

GM: What does he do?

MD: Step -- he -- that's -- as I come out like this, he's taking his step.

GM: Okay. Taking a step?

MD: Taking his steps towards me.

GM: Okay. How close does he get to you before you fire the gun?

MD: Maybe to the front tire.

GM: So show me where. Tell me when to stop.

MD: Stop.

GM: Okay. So right here?

MD: Yeah.

GM: Okay. Um, was he charging after you?

MD: Two steps running.

GM: Okay. Well, he was -- you're saying he was running?

MD: Well, it would have been running when he got out of -- behind the car.

GM: Okay. All right.

MD: I gotta get off --

GM: Okay. Yeah. I don't want you to hurt yourself.

MD: No.

GM: You need help?

RR: What did you think, then, Mike?

MD: Say again, buddy?

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Narrative - Continued

RR: What did you think when that happened?

MD: I've never been in that situation, ever. I thought kicks were coming.

RR: Okay.

GM: So you thought he was gonna --

MD: I thought kicks were coming or at least he'd be on top of me.

GM: You need -- you need help?

MD: No. I got it.

GM: Okay.

MD: My left arm's pretty (unintelligible).

GM: So you're thinking he's gonna come kick you?

MD: I'm thinking he's coming to do the rest of it.

GM: Did you see him with a firearm?

MD: No, sir. I didn't see him with anything.

GM: Okay. What do you mean "the rest of it"?

MD: Whatever beating was coming after that.

GM: Okay. So you thought he was gonna beat you and stuff?

MD: You're not kidding.

GM: Okay. All right. So --

MD: If he's gonna hit me that hard to begin with from -- from -- blindside from the get-go, what else should I expect?

GM: Okay. All right. So you're on the ground. You -- you said he was running at you but he only took, like, a step?

MD: He would have if he had cleared the -- you know, cleared that and come around towards me again with that second foot --

GM: Right. Okay. So he only made --

MD: -- that would have been it.

GM: He only made one step.

MD: He barely made the second step before I pulled the trigger.

GM: Okay. What kind of gun do you have?

MD: A Glock 23.

GM: Okay. All right. It's a 9 --

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Narrative - Continued

MD: .40 cal.

GM: Oh, .40 cal. I'm not a gun guy, so I'm not -- I can't keep track. So do you know how many rounds you had in the mag, stuff like that?

MD: Oh, yeah, sure do. There should be 13 left in that bag right there.

GM: So it was fully loaded?

MD: One in the pipe.

GM: Okay. All right. Yeah, 13, 14 -- 14 rounds? Okay.

RR: Why -- why'd you think the guy's gonna beat you?

MD: Because I just got blindsided out of nowhere. Why -- what else would I think?

RR: Oh, I'm just asking. Just to clarify.

MD: I've -- I've never been in that situation before. First thing I think if I'm getting hit like that, somebody's coming at me for more.

RR: Okay.

GM: What did the female do at that point?

MD: Uh, the female just started screaming.

GM: Was she in the car or out of the car?

MD: Out of the car.

GM: Okay. She's -- she's screaming that you just shot him or --

MD: I'm pretty sure, yeah.

GM: Okay. And you just hear her screaming?

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: Okay. Um --

MD: I'm not paying attention to her anymore because I moved away from her. She's not a threat to me anymore.

GM: Okay. All right. Uh, let me ask you a question. You mentioned early that you asked some staff about video and stuff like that?

MD: Correct.

GM: That there -- do you think the video would show him charging you or running at you?

MD: It should.

GM: Okay.

MD: There should be an angle right on that parking spot.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Okay. What happens if I told you that I looked at the video, and at no time in point does he come running up towards you? He actually takes a step back?

MD: I would disagree.

GM: Okay. I -- I'm just asking. Okay.

MD: Yeah, I would disagree in a heartbeat.

GM: Okay. All right. So you said after he runs in the store and stuff like that?

MD: Did you see me get hit?

GM: Oh, yeah. Yeah, absolutely.

MD: Where'd he come from? If you don't mind me asking, where did he come from?

RR: Well, we'll get into all that.

GM: Yeah, we'll get -- we'll get into that.

RR: We'll -- we'll break it down for you.

GM: But did -- did -- did she, uh -- she walks around the vehicle. Does she go anywhere? Do you see her go anywhere?

MD: She went to the front of the store. She was inside for a while. Then she got in and moved her car.

GM: Okay. So she came back outside the store?

MD: She did.

GM: Did you guys have any discussion?

MD: The only thing I said to her was, "Somebody's trying to see if you've got keys for your children."

GM: Okay. All right. Okay. All right.

MD: That was all. But after -- after our initial (unintelligible) --

GM: She didn't say anything else?

MD: No. No.

GM: Okay.

MD: Not to me, no. And I --

GM: Like, start swearing at you or anything like that?

MD: No. Negative. Negative. Our argument was totally about the handicap spot.

GM: Before she runs in the store did she make any threats or --

MD: I wouldn't know. I was trying to assess my own situation, sir.

GM: Okay. Did, um -- when the gentleman -- before you fired the gun, did he make any threats towards you after he pushed you?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: I never heard a word.

GM: Okay. So he didn't say, "I'm gonna kick your ass"?

MD: I never heard a word of anything.

GM: You --

MD: Once I got hit, the only thing I heard was her, and I never heard him until he was hit, until he was shot.

GM: What did you -- okay.

MD: And then he started saying things.

GM: What did -- what did you hear her say?

MD: Screaming.

GM: No, no. Beforehand, before you shot. You said you heard her say something?

MD: Oh, no.

GM: Okay. So no. Okay.

MD: No.

GM: But you didn't hear him say -- after he shoved you, did you hear him say anything?

MD: I -- just pain. I -- I -- which is why I assumed he was hit.

GM: Okay. What do you mean "pain"? Can you explain it?

MD: "Ow, ow."

GM: Okay.

MD: Yeah. Yeah.

GM: All right.

MD: And then back to the store.

GM: Okay.

MD: 'Cause to me it looked like -- when I shot, he spun a little bit.

GM: Uh-huh.

MD: And his -- he just kept going with momentum and went that way.

GM: Okay. Let me -- let's kind of back up 'cause I'm -- I'm just trying to understand. Excuse me. Before, um, you -- you shoot him, okay, um, and he -- he had already shoved you, right, you said you thought he was going to come kick you and basically finish the job?

MD: Uh, yeah.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Okay. Did you hear him make any statements?

MD: Negative. He never made a word until I fire.

GM: Okay. Like, "I'm coming to -- I'm coming --"

MD: He never said a word until I fired, but then, uh, he never said a word when he dumped me, either.

GM: Right. So you never said --

MD: No, sir.

GM: -- "What -- what the hell, dude?" Okay. So you guys don't have any type of --

MD: I barely even saw the man.

GM: No. I mean, after --

MD: Oh, no.

GM: -- he pushed you, you were on the ground.

MD: There's --

GM: You're trying to get to your sidearm.

MD: No talks between us.

GM: Okay.

MD: At all.

GM: You don't ask him, "What the hell, dude? Why'd you push me?"

MD: No.

GM: Um, he doesn't make any statements, "I'm gonna come kick your ass"?

MD: No. Negative.

GM: Okay.

MD: He didn't say a word to me.

GM: So he made no threats that he was gonna come finish his job?

MD: It was an assumption, definitely.

GM: Okay. So you just assumed he was gonna come do that.

MD: Uh, any smart person would, yeah.

GM: Yeah.

MD: I mean --

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Okay. I get it. I understand that. So -- and then you shoot him. Um, just one time. Correct?

MD: One time, sir.

GM: Okay. Um --

MD: Neutralize.

GM: And then he --

MD: That's it.

GM: Just neutralize it?

MD: Neutralize and then that's it. There's no reason to --

GM: What do you mean? Can you elaborate? What do you mean "neutralize"?

MD: Neutralize the immediate threat.

GM: Okay.

MD: And then that's it. I don't -- no reason to go overboard any way.

GM: Sure. Okay. I get it. And then he runs in --

MD: I shoot -- I shoot to save my own ass and that's that.

GM: Okay. And then he runs in the store, um, and then by that time Fire Rescue --

MD: Things are -- yeah, everything's going --

GM: Okay. You unload your gun. You have contact with deputies?

MD: Correct.

GM: How often do you go to that store? You said --

MD: Every day.

GM: -- every day. Okay. Um, do you ever have any type of issues with people parking in that --

MD: Once. Uh, that's it.

GM: Okay. What -- can you kind of talk to me about that?

MD: Oh, yeah. That was a business, a big old septic truck parked there.

GM: Okay. How long ago was that?

MD: Many weeks.

GM: Okay.

MD: Don't know.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Like a month maybe?

MD: Yeah, many weeks.

GM: Okay. Can you kind of talk to -- talk to me about that?

MD: We had an argument.

GM: What's that?

MD: We had an argument.

GM: So --

MD: 'Cause he didn't like me walking around the truck taking pictures, too.

GM: Where was the truck parked?

MD: In the handicap spot.

GM: Okay. Um --

MD: It was a tank truck.

GM: Facing the store, as well? Basically the same as --

MD: Same thing.

GM: -- the young lady's car?

MD: Except his was easy. They're a local company.

GM: Sure. All right. So you were walking around the vehicle?

MD: Yeah.

GM: Doing the same thing?

MD: Just took pictures that time.

GM: Okay.

MD: And then he got out and confronted me.

GM: Okay. What -- talk to me about that.

MD: And wanted to come at me, wanted a piece of me. Of course --

GM: Did he say that?

MD: Yeah. Then the boss -- then I called his boss and then that was over and that was it.

GM: Anybody make any threats?

MD: "Kick your ass, motherfucker." You know?

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Right. Okay. Did you say that back to him like (unintelligible) --

MD: No reason to. He's about four foot taller than I am.

GM: Ooh, Jesus. Um, so you said local company. What do -- what do you mean by that?

MD: Um, AA. They're, uh, right up in Dunedin.

GM: Okay.

MD: And their drivers do that on more than a few occasions. They --

GM: Is the phone number on the side of the truck?

MD: Sure is.

GM: Okay.

MD: That's one of the bad things about putting a phone number on the side of your truck.

GM: Yeah. You took --

MD: That's why it was called.

GM: Did you take a picture of the phone number or something?

MD: Yeah, definitely.

GM: Okay. All right. So you called the company, you said?

MD: Sure did.

GM: Okay. And talked with the boss.

GM: All right.

MD: Yep.

GM: What did you tell the boss man?

MD: Told the boss man where his truck was parked, all this, and how his -- his employee was acting after I took pictures of it and stuff, too. That was that. He said he'd work it out with his man. I said, "Fair enough."

GM: Okay. Any discussion about you having a gun or anything like that?

MD: I had no gun. There was no gun shown.

GM: Okay. Did you have your sidearm on you at that --

MD: I always have my sidearm.

GM: Okay. You got a CCW, I'm assuming?

MD: Correct.

GM: Okay. All right. I'm -- there's nothing wrong with that.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: No.

GM: I'm just asking.

MD: I've been carrying --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- I've been carrying my whole adult life.

GM: Yeah, I mean (unintelligible).

MD: (Unintelligible) before that.

GM: Sure. I don't blame you. Do you go shooting a lot?

MD: Not anymore, no.

GM: Okay. When was the last time you went shooting?

MD: Years.

GM: All right.

RR: What kind of firearms training you had before you -- you got your CCW and were starting to shoot (unintelligible)?

MD: Uh, well, besides hunting, my father was a state cop for 20 years. So I've had the drill.

RR: I mean by you, you personally. What kind of training you had.

MD: Yeah, I had training with my dad a little bit.

RR: Okay.

MD: And I had training with other cops at the range. But, uh, as far as, uh, formal training, no.

RR: Any prior military, anything like that?

MD: Oh negative. Negative.

RR: Prior law enforcement?

MD: I wasn't allowed to be a cop. He said he'd break my arm. Twenty years of shit for working bullshit.

GM: Your dad said that?

MD: Yes, sir.

RR: What kind of drills did he run you through?

MD: Uh, three -- uh, one, two, three; one, two, three; one, two, three. Reload. You know what I mean?

RR: Yeah. You ever practice from your back or anything like that in the past?

MD: From my what?

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Narrative - Continued

RR: You ever practice shooting from your back in a position where you're on the ground or --

MD: Oh, yeah, I've practiced sitting before. I've never practiced laying on my back.

RR: Okay.

MD: But I knew sitting would always be -- come into play at some point in time.

RR: All right.

MD: Besides the fact I was a driver for Uber, so --

RR: Okay.

GM: All right.

MD: I -- I've never been on my back before, no.

RR: All right.

GM: Let me ask you a question. Um, you -- you had mentioned, um, that you -- that you go to the store all the time and you had that one incident with the, uh, septic company.

MD: Yeah.

GM: Any other incidents prior to that?

MD: No.

GM: You ever have any discussion with the owner of the store?

MD: Yeah. No, he saw me that day.

GM: No, no. I mean about -- about this handicap -- somebody parking in the handicap spot.

MD: Yeah, I -- I talked to him the day of the septic truck.

GM: Okay.

MD: Yeah, we both --

GM: Was that, uh, Mustafa? Is that his name?

MD: I don't know his name 'cause there's another guy, too.

GM: Oh, okay.

MD: And I can't keep them straight.

GM: What did you tell him?

MD: Same thing. He's, uh, parked out there. I gave him the phone number and you could see the company logo on the side of the truck.

GM: Okay.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: That was that. There's -- there's no -- he doesn't have any reason to come out and stop people from parking in his handicap spot.

GM: Did you --

MD: You know what I mean?

GM: Did you ever have a discussion with the owner and stuff saying, "Hey, you guys need to enforce this"?

MD: No.

GM: Okay.

MD: That's his prerogative.

GM: Well, I know, but, I mean, clearly there's an issue with people parking there, wouldn't you say?

MD: Oh, well, yeah.

GM: Okay.

MD: I'm not always there.

GM: All right. So --

MD: I'm not trying to get in arguments with people, either. You know what I mean?

GM: Right. Absolutely.

MD: But when they see me doing stuff like that, they automatically think, hey, what's this guy trying to do, fuck me?

GM: Right.

MD: And --

RR: Wouldn't you think that a little bit if somebody came taking pictures around your car?

MD: Well, that's exactly what I'm trying to do.

RR: Exactly. But if somebody came and take a picture around your car, you'd probably think the same thing. Right?

MD: I'd ask the question first instead of going with the mouth.

RR: Let me --

MD: I know better.

RR: Let -- let me ask this. That -- that parking space -- and this is just that parking lot in particular. There's actually other, like, empty parking spaces that are probably closer and have better access to the front door.

MD: That's the only one that has access to that ramp.

RR: So in -- in this particular situation, though, if somebody can park right next to the ramp, walk around to it, does it really matter all that much?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Um, I'm not sure where this is headed. What's this got to do --

RR: I'm just curious.

MD: -- with me getting hit from behind?

RR: Whether or not it's worth -- worth, uh -- worth an argument over the parking space.

MD: Yes. Yes. I think it is.

RR: Do you?

MD: Yeah.

RR: All right.

GM: I mean, wouldn't you -- instead of an argument -- 'cause you just --

MD: Not an argument if you --

GM: Right.

MD: -- you know, (unintelligible).

GM: A discuss --

MD: Agreeing with what he just said, absolutely.

GM: Okay. But don't you think, um, instead of putting yourself in that type of circumstance that it may escalate? 'Cause people are crazy, I mean, right? There's -- you have road-rage incidents. You got people getting shot all the time, all -- all kinds of stuff. Right?

MD: (Unintelligible).

GM: So hear -- hear me out. Wouldn't it be best instead of putting yourself in those circumstances to contact law enforcement and have a deputy come out there, or Clearwater Police?

MD: Okay. Well, Clearwater Police and I don't get along. We have some Fourth Amendment issues.

GM: What -- what is that? What do you mean Fourth, uh --

MD: Clearwater Police illegally searched my car, well, you know.

GM: Okay. How long ago was that?

MD: (Unintelligible). Oh, last summer.

GM: Okay. So --

MD: Yeah. They -- they took it upon themselves to go through my glove box when all they had to do was replace something back in my vehicle.

GM: What was that?

MD: My firearm.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Okay. So they took your firearm out of the vehicle?

MD: Always.

GM: Okay. All right. But again, back to the question, just, I mean, wouldn't you think it would be better instead of putting yourself in that type of circumstance that could escalate --

MD: What -- okay. What does this have to do with --

GM: I'm just asking. I'm --

MD: -- me be being on my back and --

GM: That -- that does. You told me you were on your back and stuff, but I'm just saying don't you think that it would be best to notify law enforcement? You said you don't like to argue. You said you don't like to have confrontations. Wouldn't it be --

MD: Okay. Well, point taken, but, um --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- you know, we're straying a bit off course I think --

GM: No, we'll -- we'll get back to that, but I'm just asking you a simple question. Do you think it would be best to call law enforcement and have them address that issue?

MD: You'll never make it.

GM: Okay. Because the person what?

MD: They leave.

GM: Will leave? Okay.

MD: They'll never make it.

GM: All right. So it's -- it's --

MD: Unless you guys are literally parked there, do you really think you're gonna --

RR: Sometimes we are. Sometimes we're real close.

MD: Right. Right. But you're not gonna drop, uh, an important something for --

RR: Sure.

MD: Okay? Why bother you with stupid things like that?

GM: Okay.

RR: I -- I'll ask a --

MD: I'm sorry. I'm not after -- I'm not after being a justice kind of guy, but when I just say something to a person about being parked there, I don't expect it to go where it went.

RR: So that's why you don't call? Because by the time you call --

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Always, man.

RR: -- he'll be gone?

MD: They always are.

GM: Okay.

RR: I'll ask a related question, though. When you take the pictures, what are your plans with the pictures?

MD: To show his boss.

RR: Like, what -- what's -- what's the purpose in -- in taking --

MD: That's for his boss.

RR: Do you take pictures of other people's cars, though?

MD: No. Actually, no. Just the --

RR: Like, if you see -- if you see cars --

MD: -- just commercial. I won't take a picture of their car. There's no reason to. I'm not gonna turn them in to anybody. I just want to ask them if they think it's right to be parked where they're parked.

RR: Okay. Do you -- do you understand that? I mean, do you -- does it ever go through your mind that when you go up and -- and talking to these people, informing them of -- of them being parked in a handicap spot, that they might not take that right? That this might go sideways a little bit?

MD: Um, well, sure. But that's why I take precautions, as well.

RR: Like what? What kind of precautions?

MD: Well, I'm a very careful person and I have a permit.

RR: Okay. Do you think you'd go knock on these people's -- or I shouldn't say knock on these people's windows.

MD: Yeah. I don't confront --

RR: Do you think if you go confront them --

MD: -- anyone right to their face.

RR: -- I mean, it's -- it's -- it's -- it's approaching. So we use the term approach instead of confront.

MD: Okay. But it is up to the person who's in the car to actually confront.

RR: If -- if you go up to somebody and approach them, they can take that as being confrontational. You can't really interpret --

MD: And that can make them confrontational.

RR: -- how they're going to take it. But if -- if you go up to somebody and you approach them about being parked in a handicap spot, um, do you think you'd be willing to do that and take that risk if you didn't take these precautions?

MD: I've done it before.

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Narrative - Continued

RR: 'Cause you don't know how people are going to react.

MD: I've been carrying a gun most of my adult life so I -- I can't really answer that in a way that would satisfy you. You know what I mean?

RR: Okay. But would you approach these people if you didn't?

MD: Once again, I -- I don't know. I would have to say yeah.

RR: Okay.

MD: But I wouldn't know because like I said, I --

RR: You always carry.

MD: -- I've -- I've always carried a firearm.

RR: Okay. Since how long? How long have you carried it.

MD: I was 22.

RR: How old are you now?

MD: Forty-eight.

RR: Okay.

MD: Forty-seven. Sorry. I'll be 48 in August.

GM: Me, too. So, um, and we'll go -- dive back into the whole him shoving you and stuff like that.

MD: I think that's where it all lies.

GM: Sure. And the video and everything like that. Um, if -- let's say on the video -- I watched the video, whatever, and he -- he doesn't approach you or make any steps towards you like you indicated. Um --

MD: Exactly what I saw, though.

GM: Okay. So you saw him come towards you?

MD: Yes, sir.

GM: Okay. What happens if he -- if he didn't come towards you, would you still have --

MD: Hell, no.

GM: -- fired a round?

MD: There's no reason to. If he's retreating then I don't need to use my firearm.

RR: What if he's just standing still?

MD: I still don't need to use any firearm.

RR: All right. Did you see -- when you saw this guy after he pushed you, did you see anything on his face? Did you see any facial expressions or anything like that?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Negative.

RR: No?

MD: All I saw was a man trying to do me.

RR: What were his hands doing? Could you see that?

MD: I have no clue. Okay? I'm --

RR: Were you able to see them? Were you able to see the guy's hands?

MD: I didn't see his hands per se and I didn't see his face at all.

RR: Okay.

MD: I don't know what he looks like.

RR: Could you see his legs, his feet, anything like that?

MD: I might have seen his legs. I know he was a black guy. That's it.

RR: Okay.

MD: Waving his arms. I'm not sure.

RR: Could you see anything he was doing other than --

MD: Watching his feet, watching his hips.

RR: All right. So if he was standing still you would see no reason to --

MD: No, sir.

RR: -- pull the trigger? Okay.

MD: If he hadn't have twitched I never would have pulled that trigger.

RR: When -- when that gun was out, did you make a decision to -- to shoot when you pulled the gun out or was this --

MD: Negative.

RR: -- decision made afterwards?

MD: Negative. The decision I made, as soon as he moved.

RR: Okay. Did you remember how many times you think in processing --

MD: I had no time to think.

RR: But you think --

MD: As soon as that gun was out that -- the twitch goes. That's it.

RR: Okay. But you said you actually pulled the gun out before you made the decision to shoot, right?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: There's about -- well, I'm not pulling it out with the intention of pulling the trigger.

RR: Okay.

MD: Okay? If I come up on target --

RR: Now, if --

MD: -- and it's -- I need to shoot, I'm shooting.

RR: -- if you would have pulled that gun -- between the time you pulled that gun, if you would have been on your back and you pulled that gun and you had it on, if you would have been standing still, do you think that trigger would have gotten pulled?

MD: No.

RR: Did you have time to really look at him and -- and tell that he was coming towards you?

MD: The feet said he was coming towards me.

RR: Okay.

MD: And so did the hips.

RR: What kind of twitch was it?

MD: The -- the hip twitch. Right foot comes around this way like he's going to come right past that car thing and that was that.

RR: How much time you think it was between when you pulled that gun out and when you --

MD: I don't know.

RR: -- actually pulled the trigger?

MD: I don't know.

RR: How much time did it seem like to you? 'Cause I'm --

MD: It seemed like a split second.

RR: Okay.

GM: All right, Michael. Uh, we'll be right back. You gotta use the restroom or anything?

MD: No, I'm good, thank you.

GM: You need any more water, pardner?

MD: (No audible response).

GM: Okay. We'll be right back. All right?

RR: We gotta look at a few things to see if -- kind of placing together with what you're telling us. All right? (Leaves room).
[Go to 03:47:56]

JS: Michael?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Yeah.

JS: How you doing, sir?

MD: All right.

JS: So, uh, we spoke before. I'm Detective Shields with the Sheriff's Office. We're here to do a buccal swab which is a swabbing of your cheeks. If you consent to it I will -- we're going to go over a Consent Form here. Um, and then we're going to do some overall photographs of your injuries and overall photographs of you and --

MD: What's this for?

JS: Well, it's just -- it's --

MD: The swab.

JS: -- the swab is just to collect any DNA or anything like that that might go along with this incident here.

MD: (Unintelligible).

JS: Let me grab a, um -- let me grab one that's not written on already. (Leaves room). Do you have one? No?

US5: Consent form?

JS: Yeah.

MD: And you need to be taking my DNA why?

JS: Sir?

MD: You need to be taking my DNA why?

JS: Well, I'm going to go over the form with you and if you -- it's a consensual buccal swab.

MD: No, I was just curious.

JS: Yes, sir. Just because you're involved with this incident, and we want to see if there's any, um, DNA that comes up with matching on the gun or what -- you know, all that good stuff.

MD: I hope not. That was a Dover, Delaware cop's gun.

JS: Sir?

MD: I said I hope not. That was a Dover, Delaware cop's gun.

JS: Oh, really? All right. Let me -- excuse me for one moment. Let me make sure -- (leaves room).

MD: GYA175. The other gentleman left out here.

JS: Okay. Thank you. Um, oop. All right. Today's gonna be July 19th, 2018. Location is gonna be here at our North District Station. We're gonna go over Consent for a Buccal Swab. "I --" print your name here -- "agree to provide a buccal swab to Detective --" I'm gonna put my name in -- "of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. I understand that the law enforcement personnel will take this buccal swab of my saliva and have it analyzed. I also fully understand that the results of the analyst -- analysis can and will be used against me in a court of law. I have been fully informed that I -- I am under no obligation to provide this sample and I can refuse to consent. I --" and then there's your name -- "acknowledge that I am freely and voluntarily providing this written consent for law enforcement to take the buccal swab. The law enforcement personnel have not made any threats or promises of any kind to induce me

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Narrative - Continued

to give this consent. I have the -- had the opportunity to ask questions and consult with a lawyer if I so desired. Having being fully informed, I authorize law enforcement to take my saliva samples --" which is the buccal swabs -- "from my person on or before --" and then today's date. If you agree to that -- are you agreeing to that?

MD: I -- what happens if I don't?

JS: If you don't, it's -- and we don't collect it.

MD: Yeah. I don't think there's any reason, really.

JS: Okay.

MD: Yeah, truthfully.

JS: So you're --

MD: I mean, I'm already -- you already know I'm involved with this so --

JS: Yes, of course. But --

MD: Yeah. So I -- which is what you explained that this would be for.

JS: Yes, sir.

MD: So if you already know then I don't think I need to do that.

JS: Okay. Do you want time to consult with an attorney?

MD: Tonight? That's not gonna happen.

JS: Well, no. I'm not saying tonight.

MD: (Unintelligible).

JS: I'm just saying before you consent to it.

MD: Oh, I (unintelligible) --

JS: Or if at all possible to consent to it?

MD: Yeah. I know he'd love that.

JS: Okay. So you're refusing at this time?

MD: Yeah, tonight.

JS: Okay.

MD: Yes. Okay. We'll do everything else if there's anything else.

JS: Okay.

MD: I mean, there -- there's no question that I am who, you know --

JS: Sure. So we have at 9:17 p.m. --

MD: Man, it's that late?

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Narrative - Continued

JS: Yes, sir.

MD: And it turns out it's necessary, well, then I will be more than happy.

JS: Okay. I'm just putting on here at 9:17 p.m. you refused.

MD: Okay.

JS: And I've signed it as a witness and my badge number. Okay?

MD: All right.

JS: Um, and now we're gonna do some overall photographs of you, sir, and of any injuries that you may have. Okay? So if you could stand up right here for me, sir? These are our forensics technicians. Uh, forensics specialists that work here at the Sheriff's Office. And they're going to get some overall stuff.

FT1: Now, Michael, if you'd just stand up right here I'll just take some overall photographs of you.

JS: Actually, would you -- one second.

FT1: Uh-huh.

JS: Would you be able to put the shirt back on?

MD: Back on?

JS: 'Cause you had that on at the time.

MD: Oh, yeah. I just --

JS: So if we could just get --

MD: -- basically just trying to unbutton it so --

JS: -- you to (unintelligible) on for now. No. I understand.

MD: -- I don't look like a slob.

JS: That's all right.

FT1: Thank you. I'm just gonna get one of your face. It's gonna be a bright flash. Okay. Now if you could turn and face the wall? Just gonna get your side. And can you turn and face the back so I can get your back? Thank you. All right. And -- yeah. Thank you. Okay. I'm just gonna see -- where were your injuries? Yeah. Right --

JS: You can take the shirt, Michael, off.

MD: Now, this is -- this is --

FT1: -- you can take this right --

MD: -- basically it as far as noticeable injuries. Everything else is just muscular and on the inside.

FT1: Okay.

MD: So as far as, uh, the only visible one, that's it.

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FT1: Okay. You can take your shirt off, like the detective said. Okay. Do you have any tattoos? (Unintelligible)?

JS: I believe so. You might as well.

FT1: Okay. We'll have --

FT2: Yeah.

JS: (Unintelligible). I mean --

FT1: All right. So I'm gonna get -- well, this one. Just gonna put a scale next to it. I'm gonna take a photo of your tattoo, as well. Okay?

MD: There's one under the sleeve.

FT1: Okay. Under this sleeve?

MD: Uh-huh.

FT1: Okay. If you'll lift it up?

FT2: Casey, get this right here, too.

JS: The abrasion on his back?

FT2: The -- yeah.

FT1: Oh, okay.

FT2: (Unintelligible).

FT1: Okay. I didn't see this abrasion back here.

MD: Oh, something else, huh?

FT1: Yeah. Do you mind holding it?

FT2: Yeah. I'll hold it.

FT1: (Unintelligible) a shot right there.

FT2: Good.

FT1: Good. Thanks.

FT2: Did you get tatt upper arm?

MD: Huh?

FT1: This one?

FT2: Yeah. And the other one also on his upper arm?

MD: No, nothing on the other upper arm, no.

FT2: Did you get this one?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Just these two.

FT2: That one --

FT1: Oh, is there one up there?

FT2: -- up here? Yeah.

MD: Yeah. That's the one I was trying to show you.

FT1: Oh, okay. Oh, I think I did.

JS: Yes.

FT2: Okay. And then we'll just go to his legs.

FT1: Yeah. Okay. Do you mind lifting up your pant leg here so I can get a photo of this? Oh, I know your arm hurts.

MD: That's okay.

FT1: Okay.

FT2: Oh, it goes together.

FT1: What does that say on your tattoo?

MD: "Madness is sadness." Used to -- her name --

FT1: Oh.

MD: -- her -- her initials were S-A-D. Mine are M-A-D so --

FT2: Oh.

FT1: Oh, that's cool.

MD: Yeah. No, that's --

FT1: Do you have any on your back? Those are it?

MD: No. Yeah, that's it.

FT1: Okay. Okay. Do you want me to do, like -- lift the shirt up and everything?

FT2: There's no need. Did you -- you --

JS: I don't believe so.

FT2: No.

JS: Do you have any -- do you feel like there's any injuries on your back or anything, sir?

MD: No. No. Just --

FT2: We'll just -- no, well, just that one.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: -- this shoulder where I landed and obviously --

FT2: Um, actually, do you have --

MD: -- (unintelligible) --

FT2: -- any marks on this shoulder?

MD: On the shirt, probably.

FT2: Just the shirt?

MD: But on the -- yeah. On the back I --

FT2: Can we just go ahead and take a peek?

MD: -- don't think (unintelligible).

FT2: Just lift up your shirt.

MD: There you go. I don't think I do.

JS: Just to make sure.

FT1: Yeah. Just wanna --

FT2: I don't really see anything.

MD: Yeah.

FT2: You have a scar on your back. Okay. Okay. Thank you.

MD: Sure.

FT2: All right. So what's on your arm -- your hand right here?

MD: Oh, that's probably from the handcuffs.

FT2: Okay. We'll just go ahead and document that, also.

FT1: Okay. Let me just (unintelligible).

FT2: Yeah. That -- okay.

MD: Those, too.

FT2: Yeah. We'll just document that, as well.

FT1: Sorry.

MD: That's okay.

FT2: Do you have anything on that wrist?

MD: No.

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Report Date: 07/19/2018

Narrative - Continued

FT2: No? Okay. Let's do this way. Okay. Can you flip it over for us? Oh, yeah. There's a little mark right there.

FT1: Yeah.

FT2: Thank you.

MD: Sure.

FT2: Okay. Go ahead and have a seat again. Thank you.

MD: Uh-huh.

FT2: I'm just gonna actually check your shirt out and see if there's a mark on the shoulder area. That was just some, um, scuff marks right there.

FT1: Where? Oh, I see. I see.

FT2: It's right there, yeah. Do you want me to put this back?

MD: Damn, ripped it, too.

FT2: Okay. Would you mind doing me a favor and standing back up and putting this back on and we can document it --

MD: Put it back on?

FT2: -- as you were wearing it, please?

MD: Thank you.

FT2: Oops, sorry.

MD: That's okay.

FT2: There you go.

MD: Appreciate it.

FT2: Okay. We'll start with the front. And we'll work with, oh, the tear right there.

FT1: Sorry.

JS: And that is something new from today, sir? The rip?

MD: Yes, it is.

JS: Okay.

MD: This was a very good shirt.

FT1: Okay. All right. Turn around.

FT2: We might as well document that. Oh, and the -- his sleeve.

JS: His right sleeve, yeah.

FT2: Uh-huh. Okay. Thank you.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Thank you.

JS: Um, let me consult with Detective Moffett and they might take his shirt as a --

FT2: Yeah.

JS: -- sort of evidence so I don't know if you guys talked about that before?

FT2: We did. And, um, we also need to do a GSR of the hands, and, um, Michael, we're just going to observe your clothing for any possible blood. If there's any possible blood on your clothing, then we're gonna have to collect that, as well. Okay?

MD: All of it?

JS: Whatever may be --

FT2: We still need to kind of consult.

MD: Good. No, I'm not worried. I'm just -- just wondering. That's all.

JS: Sure. Sure.

FT2: Yeah.

MD: I'll be walking out of here naked.

FT2: We'll give you like a suit --

FT1: No. Yeah. We'll --

FT2: -- or something.

FT1: These gloves. Yeah, go on and stand up again for us. Sorry. Get this done.

FT2: You can just go back against the wall. Thank you.

FT1: Yeah. Thanks. Let me see where --

JS: There is something on his left sleeve beside --

FT2: Left?

JS: -- little dark mark.

FT2: I saw that but --

MD: Oh, ink stain.

FT2: Yeah, that's what it look -- from your pen.

JS: Okay.

MD: Yeah.

FT2: Okay. Okay. Just put your arms out by your side for me. Was this closed, like, buttoned or was it hanging open?

MD: No, it was not buttoned.

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Narrative - Continued

FT2: Okay.

MD: It was open. I don't know if it was hanging open but it was -- no, not buttoned.

FT1: Okay.

FT2: Okay. I see a little something right there. We'll get that. That's a hole. Okay. Could you turn and face that wall for me, please? Okay. And can you turn and face this wall over here to my right? Okay. Right. I wanna have you just photograph this little area right here. Yeah. Oh, that's actually a hole.

JS: Is it?

FT1: Oh, yeah, it is.

FT2: Yeah, it's a little hole.

FT1: Okay.

FT2: It looked like a little -- before you stretched it, it looked like a little red mark.

JS: You can see through?

FT2: Yeah.

JS: Yeah, you can.

FT1: Uh-huh.

FT2: Uh-huh. Okay. I don't see anything that's popping out at me right now other than just the marks on his shirt from where he fell.

JS: Okay.

FT2: Um, you can go ahead and have a seat. And thank you. We're just gonna do this GSR kit. Okay? Michael, were you wearing that hat at the time of this incident?

MD: Yes, I was.

FT2: Okay. And we'll just grab a couple of photos of that.

FT1: Okay.

FT2: Yeah.

FT1: Maybe, if I can get this open.

JS: Poke the pen in there.

FT1: Uh-huh. Get it open eventually. Now I get to ask you a bunch of fun questions. What's your full name? Middle name included.

MD: Michael Andrew Drejka.

FT1: Okay.

MD: Excuse me.

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Narrative - Continued

FT1: It's D-R-A-K --

MD: D-R-E-J-K-A.

FT1: Sorry about that.

MD: No worries. Nobody's been able to spell it my entire life.

FT1: And are you right- or left-handed?

MD: Right.

FT1: Okay. Have you washed your hands since the incident?

MD: Unfortunately they didn't tell me quick enough in the bathroom when I went here the first time.

FT1: Uh-huh. Okay.

MD: It's a habit and I almost got to washing them but --

FT1: But you didn't?

MD: We stopped and just threw the water off my hands.

FT1: Oh, so you were --

FT2: Okay.

FT1: -- there was water on it but you -- no soap or anything?

MD: Yeah.

FT1: Okay.

MD: Just on the inside. It --

FT1: Okay.

MD: -- nothing out here.

FT1: Okay. And what's your occupation?

MD: Retired.

FT1: You're retired? Okay.

MD: Yes.

FT1: And what are your hobbies?

MD: Uh, I don't have -- I can't afford hobbies anymore.

FT1: Okay. All righty. And what have you done? Like, what are your activities since the incident and now?

MD: Uh, been involved with you folks.

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Narrative - Continued

FT1: Okay. Did you call 911?

MD: No. I didn't.

FT1: You didn't?

MD: The -- no. I --

FT1: Okay. Someone else did?

MD: -- went into the store and I imagine that was taken care of very quickly.

FT1: Okay.

MD: Yeah.

FT1: Okay. And did the -- did you ride in an ambulance or anything? Were you injured?

MD: No.

FT1: Okay.

MD: No.

FT1: They just brought you straight here?

MD: Oh, yeah. After sitting there for a while, yeah.

FT1: Okay. After sitting at the --

MD: Yeah. I didn't go anywhere else but from there --

FT1: -- gas station? Okay.

MD: -- to here.

FT1: Okay. All righty. I've just got two swabs. I'm gonna do both of your hands. Your right hand first. You just kind of wanna hold it up like this on the table.

MD: That's better.

FT1: Okay. I know it hurts. I'm sorry.

MD: No. (Unintelligible) do what you gotta do.

FT1: Just let me dab here.

MD: We already know it's there so it's a --

FT1: Uh-huh.

MD: -- moot point.

FT1: Yeah. It's just, you know, procedure.

MD: It's gotta be done.

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Narrative - Continued

FT1: Yeah. And I'm just gonna get your palm. I know if it hurts I can piece --

MD: That's all right. I gotcha.

FT1: Okay. Okay. It's quiet.

MD: (Unintelligible).

FT1: Yes. It's a little (unintelligible).

MD: (Unintelligible).

FT1: Okay. All right. And we're all set with that.

MD: And my hat, ladies?

FT2: And put your time on there.

FT1: And then --

FT2: 2130. Thank you.

FT1: Uh-huh.

JS: You wanted to check his hat?

FT1: Yes, we're gonna --

FT2: Yes, we're (unintelligible) the hat so --

MD: Take it (unintelligible).

FT1: I'm gonna photograph it.

JS: Oh, okay.

FT1: 2130, you said?

JS: 2130.

FT2: Yeah, 2130.

JS: You said you're retired, Michael. What kind of work did you do before?

MD: I'm a clearance tree trimmer. Means I cut the trees around the power lines.

JS: Oh.

FT2: Oh.

MD: So I spent many, many weeks here in Florida before I finally moved here.

FT1: Where did you live prior to moving here?

MD: I'm a Delawarian.

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Narrative - Continued

FT1: Oh.

MD: Born and raised, if you can believe it. That little tiny state up there, you know?

FT1: Right next to Rhode Island.

MD: First one to ratify the constitution, yeah.

FT1: I hope I turned it on.

MD: It's all right. I'm waiting for you.

FT1: It's hard.

FT2: Get all sides like the shoe we did earlier. Please. Thank you.

FT1: Very good.

MD: Embarrassingly dirty.

FT1: Hats are always dirty. Is there a size or anything?

FT2: No, it doesn't matter.

MD: One size fits all.

FT1: Oh, okay. I'm just gonna check -- okay.

FT2: Okay. Very good.

FT1: Thank you.

FT2: And that was a no on the buccal?

JS: Correct.

FT1: All right. So we'll --

FT2: All right. We're going to --

FT1: -- step outside.

FT2: -- step out. Thank you, Michael.

FT1: Yes, thank you.

MD: Good night, ladies. Thank you.

JS: Go ahead, hang out for a few for me, Michael. Hang out for a few. Thank you.

MD: Yes, sir.

JS: Thank you. (Leaves room).

[Go to 04:12:22]

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Hmm. Son of a bitch, that hurts.

[Go to 04:19:26] Oh, motherfucker. Phew.

[Go to 04:25:22]

MD: Hey.

GM: Sorry, man. You good on water and stuff like that?

MD: Yeah.

GM: Okay.

MD: I've been -- people was just here so I'm good.

GM: All right.

RR: Rockports. You know Rockports went out of business?

MD: No.

RR: Yeah.

MD: Shit.

RR: Yeah, I know, man.

MD: This is gonna be my last pair.

RR: It's depressing, isn't it?

GM: Mike, we just wanna talk to you, kind of seal up a few things and go over a few more things. Is that all right? Just to go over just to kind of clarify things?

MD: Clarify away.

GM: All right. If you don't mind me asking, um, kind of what type of activities do you do? Do you do any, like, karate or anything?

MD: No.

GM: Okay.

MD: No. I am definitely not that active and I am not in that good of health to be that active.

GM: Oh. I'm not active, either. Um, what's your -- what's your health issues or -- you got health --

MD: Uh, I've got GERD. I've got some -- some breathing problems from my smoking over the years and, uh, that -- that's really about it as far as serious goes. Cholesterol was serious but under control -- under control.

GM: How long -- how long -- okay. That's a good thing. How long ago did you retire?

MD: Oh, 2007.

GM: 2007? Where from, if you don't mind me asking?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Asplundh Tree Expert. A-S-P-L-U-N-D-H.

GM: Say that again. I'm sorry.

MD: A-S-P-L-U-N-D-H.

GM: Tree?

MD: Tree -- Tree Experts.

GM: What -- what is that?

MD: It's Asplundh.

GM: No, no. I mean, what -- what -- what did you do? What did you do there?

MD: A -- we -- oh, I'm a clearance tree trimmer. They are the original company that started trimming trees for power companies back in 1928.

GM: You're a brave man. You would climb trees and stuff like that?

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: Holy crap. And that's -- you retired in 2007?

MD: 2007.

GM: Okay.

MD: My mother dies and left me a little --

GM: Sorry to hear that.

MD: Yeah, me, too. It's not the way you want to get it.

GM: No. Um, but in regards to your -- your medical status, stuff like that, I mean, you're in good shape for the most part?

MD: Uh, it's just the breathing. I -- you know, I've been smoking for so damn long, you know, I can't get up a -- a --

RR: You still smoke?

MD: Yeah. Almost two packs a day.

GM: So I mean, do you take -- are -- you take asthma medicine and stuff like that or --

MD: No, negative.

GM: -- that -- you -- you're not asthmatic or --

MD: No, I am not.

GM: Okay. Or suffer from asthma?

MD: Maybe a little pre-P -- COPD but not asthmatic, no.

GM: Oh, okay. All right. Um, do you do anything since you've been retired? I mean, you do any activities?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Uh, we used to go boating and then we sold the boat. We used to do motorcycling. Then we sold the motorcycles. And now it's basically just time for me to go back to work and she's still working, my wife.

GM: Okay. What -- what do you do on a daily basis? Just sit around?

MD: Right now packing.

GM: Do what? I'm sorry.

MD: Packing.

GM: What do you mean packing?

MD: We have to move.

GM: Okay. Do you mind if I ask you why you gotta move?

MD: Uh, yeah. Uh, these -- our neighbor's our landlord. He just had a granddaughter -- or a grandson.

GM: Okay.

MD: And he's taking our house and folding it into his business, which is based right next door at his house.

GM: Okay.

MD: So, yeah, we knew -- we knew this has been coming for a couple years now.

GM: All right.

MD: We've been there almost eight years. Eight, nine.

GM: You gonna stay in the area or --

MD: We can't. Can't afford to.

GM: Okay.

MD: Yeah.

GM: Yeah, Pinellas County's --

MD: It's tough.

GM: Yeah.

MD: Well, we got a hell of a deal so -- but that's over.

GM: We're gonna kind of bounce back to the -- to the incident. Okay? Um, a little bit.

MD: Yeah, you keep bouncing a lot.

GM: Yeah, I do -- I do that a lot. I got a lot --

RR: It's been a long day.

MD: No, it's not.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: -- um, so in regards to -- to the incident at the store, um, you had mentioned early on when I was talking to you about after he shoved you, okay, and you fell to the ground --

MD: Shoved me nothing.

GM: Well, it, I mean--

MD: A shove is somebody standing in front of somebody and pushing their arms out straight.

GM: All right.

MD: Just felt like I was run at and tackled.

GM: Okay. All right. So after he tackles you or whatever, in your -- in your words, um, you fall to the ground, correct?

MD: Very correct.

GM: Okay. 'Cause I don't want to put words in your mouth.

MD: Nope.

GM: And then, you know, you're -- you're working on getting your firearm out because of what reason?

MD: I laid on it when I fell.

GM: Okay. But you're -- you're working on trying to get your firearm out?

MD: I had to drag it out from under me.

GM: For what reason, though?

MD: If I -- you had just been blindsided with no idea who was attacking you, would your firearm be out next move you made?

GM: Probably so. I -- I mean, I -- I don't know.

MD: That's exactly why.

GM: It's hard for me to -- to make that --

MD: That's exactly why.

GM: -- it's an opinion. Okay. So you thought --

MD: No, I don't think so. That's a training --

GM: Okay. When you looked up and you see him, what -- what do you -- what's going through your mind?

MD: What's going through my mind?

GM: Uh-huh.

MD: Is he coming back at me again?

GM: Okay. To do what? What -- what did you think he was gonna do?

MD: I'm thinking he's gonna finish what the hell he just started.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Okay. And -- and to you, like, what do you -- what do you mean? Kind of elaborate a little bit on the "finishing."

MD: Uh, I have no clue because he didn't do anything.

GM: Right.

MD: I can't elaborate on something I don't know about.

GM: Well, what do you think he was gonna do?

MD: No clue. Come after me again. That's about it.

GM: Okay.

MD: What he would have done is just pure conjecture.

GM: Oh. So did you think -- think he was maybe gonna get physical with you?

MD: Sure.

GM: Okay.

RR: In a fair fight, you think you can take him?

MD: Negative. I do not fight. Never have been a fighter.

RR: Never?

MD: Never.

RR: Ever?

MD: Ever.

RR: All right.

MD: I didn't even fight in school.

RR: What kind of work you gonna go back to doing?

MD: It's gonna have to be indoor, sales, something like that.

RR: All right.

MD: Unknown as far as what. Whatever I can get.

GM: Do you still do any activities now or no?

MD: Uh-uh. I don't have --

GM: Like the boating and stuff like that?

MD: No, we have no boats. We have no motorcycles left.

GM: All right. Do you go out and do activities or anything?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: No. We can't afford --

GM: Ride a bicycle or anything?

MD: No, uh-uh. We can't afford it.

GM: Okay.

MD: I'm at home with my dogs.

GM: Did you -- when you looked up at this gentleman -- I know you -- it was so quick.

MD: Uh-huh.

GM: Did you see his physical build or did any of that go through your mind?

MD: Medium-height person.

GM: Okay. So you didn't, like, think -- go through your mind, holy shit. This guy's huge?

MD: Nope.

GM: He's gonna -- okay. So --

MD: Anybody can be anything.

GM: Sure. Absolutely.

MD: Huge has nothing to do with it.

GM: Right. No. I agree. Absolutely without a doubt. Um, but it goes through your mind that he's coming to finish the job?

MD: Very correct.

GM: Okay. I mean, what do you -- "finish the job." What do you mean? I'm just trying --

MD: Finish whatever he started. I have no clue what he started and what his endgame was.

GM: Right. Okay.

MD: I was in the dark about that. So that makes me believe to myself I need a force multiplier because I don't know what's going on.

GM: What do you mean "a force multiplier"? What is that?

MD: Exactly what -- you know what a force multiplier is.

GM: No, sir, I don't. If I did I -- I -- I don't. I really don't.

MD: Well, a force multiplier is a sidearm. Anything --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- other than your hand.

GM: Okay. All right. I gotcha.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: A stick.

GM: Some type of weapon.

MD: Force multiplier.

GM: Okay.

RR: You know terminology that we don't.

GM: I -- I --

MD: I learned it from --

RR: Do you do a lot of reading or what -- what do --

MD: -- I learned it from -- yeah, I --

GM: I seriously didn't know what that meant.

MD: -- very -- very --

RR: A lot of reading? Is that --

MD: Yes.

RR: What kind of stuff do you read?

MD: Everything.

RR: No, but is it like tactical stuff like carrying side arms?

MD: Oh, no, no, no. Not specifically, no. And I literally mean whatever I can get my hands on I read.

RR: Okay.

MD: I definitely --

GM: About firearms or --

MD: No. Anything.

GM: Okay. All right.

MD: I know less about firearms than a whole shitload of other things in my life. But I've always been a reader.

RR: What's your thing, like, you know the most about?

MD: Uh, outdoors. Just because I grew up outdoors coming up, you know? But I can't do it anymore.

GM: Do you need glasses or anything? Is your vision --

MD: I -- I have -- I -- I just started with readers. That's it.

GM: Okay. So you just need glasses --

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Narrative - Continued

MD: One power.

GM: -- readers?

MD: Yeah.

GM: So your vision is -- is --

MD: (Unintelligible), yeah.

GM: -- relatively like -- okay.

MD: Anything past here I'm good.

GM: Okay. Um, what type of medication are you taking?

MD: I am on Xanax.

GM: Okay.

MD: For anxiety and two types of, uh -- what they call Effexor. That was also for anxiety. And Trazodone for sleep 'cause I hardly sleep.

GM: Okay. When you, uh, go to the store, you said based on a daily -- daily basis, right?

MD: Uh-huh. I go pick up a couple of drinks every day and just to say hey.

GM: What, like water?

MD: No. I get the Monsters. The white Monster.

GM: Oh, okay. The energy drinks?

MD: Yeah. Two and --

GM: How many of those do you drink a day?

MD: Two.

GM: Okay. And you just buy --

MD: Just buy a couple.

GM: -- two a day?

MD: Yeah. It's -- it's like the nice thing --

GM: Uh-huh.

MD: -- to do during your day. It's the one constant.

GM: Two for -- things like two for four bucks?

MD: Two for four, yeah.

GM: Two for four, yeah.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: It's the one constant, you know, that you do every day. It's your routine.

GM: Sure. Absolutely. Um, did you have a discussion with your wife about this, about this incident?

MD: No. I told her what happened and that was that.

GM: And what -- what did you tell her?

MD: I said, "There's been an incident up here at the thing -- or up here at the corner store."

GM: Did you say "incident" or did you say, "I shot somebody," or what --

MD: I'm pretty sure I told her I shot somebody.

GM: Okay.

MD: Yeah.

RR: What she say?

MD: "Oh, my God. I'm on my way."

GM: She was gonna come up to the store?

MD: Oh, she -- she passed around a couple of times, but she wasn't able to get in the parking lot, obviously.

GM: Yeah. Just chaos.

MD: Right. She's outside now, I think.

GM: Um, and -- and I just want to tell you this, you know? Just to let you know, the gentleman you shot is deceased.

MD: Huh. Thank you for telling me. Nobody else would give me a word on that.

GM: So, um --

MD: I did ask.

GM: Okay. Uh, you got any questions for me or anything?

MD: Uh, other than the stand-your-ground thing, and I did exactly what I thought I was supposed to be doing at that time considering what was happening to myself, no, sir, I don't think I have anything else to say.

GM: Okay. All right. Approximate time is about 2200 hours. Interview will be concluded with Michael -- pronounce your name.

MD: Drejka.

GM: Drejka. Oh, I didn't want to say it wrong.

MD: That's okay, man. My whole life.

GM: All right.

MD: It doesn't matter.

GM: Okay. All right.

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Narrative - Continued

RR: (Unintelligible).

GM: All right, Mike. Could you, uh, hang on real quick? I'll be right back. Okay?

MD: Yes, sir.

GM: You good, bathroom break?

MD: You can go, man. Appreciate it.

GM: Water? Okay. All right. (Leaves room).

[Go to 05:59:14]

MD: Come on, you two. It's 11:30. You waiting till midnight? Take me to --

[Go to 06:08:10]

GM: Hey, Mike?

MD: How you doing?

GM: Sorry, man, it's been a long time. Uh, I get it.

MD: I got no complaints, man.

GM: Okay. We're gonna have --

MD: (Unintelligible).

GM: Okay. Here's your wallet back.

RR: You want this open?

GM: Yeah, that's fine. Here's your lighter. Um --

MD: (Unintelligible) here.

GM: -- your keys.

MD: Yeah.

GM: Car keys. Um, here -- here's what's gonna happen. We're -- and again, this -- I apologize. It's been so long.

MD: You don't have to apologize.

GM: We're conducting a thorough investigation.

MD: Obviously.

GM: The investigation is going to be ongoing. Okay? We're -- we're not done with the investigation. There -- there's a lot to this to place all the parts together, review things and so on and so forth. Um, the video collection, all that stuff takes a while. Okay? It doesn't happen overnight. It's not like you see on TV. Okay?

MD: Yeah. No kidding.

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Narrative - Continued

GM: Okay. So however, with that being said, as part of the investigation, we're going to keep some of this stuff, okay, as evidence and process and stuff like that, including your green shirt and your black shorts. Okay? We unfortunately gotta take that stuff. We'll throw this on. I can call your wife. She was here.

MD: Yeah. She probably went -- left.

GM: She left and I tried to catch her before she left to let her know, "Sorry it's taking so long."

MD: Well, I'm sure she doesn't know a thing about that, either, so --

GM: But, you know -- yeah. So, um, you can call her or I can call her.

MD: My phone was in the bag.

GM: We have your phone. We're gonna keep your phone, unfortunately. Um --

MD: (Unintelligible).

GM: -- to put it -- put it in Evidence. What's that, I'm sorry?

MD: That's my only form of communication.

GM: I -- I -- I get it. But it's part of evidence. Okay?

MD: How?

RR: Phones are huge now. Everything leads back to phones. Everything leads back to electronics.

GM: Technology. It's crazy.

MD: Okay.

RR: Any investigation we work, they're -- they're -- they're huge.

GM: You'll get your phone back. We're not keeping your phone. But as of right now it's going to go into Evidence. Okay?

MD: How long do we think that might take?

GM: Um --

RR: Hopefully not that --

GM: -- hopefully --

RR: -- yeah, not that long.

GM: -- that's a -- yeah. Yeah. Hopefully --

MD: Yeah.

GM: -- a day or two.

MD: It's my only --

GM: Um, hopefully a day or two. And I'll call you and let you know in regards to that.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Okay. No problem.

GM: Did you --

RR: We're not -- we're not gonna sit on this for -- for --

MD: Yeah. That's -- that's -- that's all I wanted. Thanks, man.

GM: You guys already got overall photos of him and stuff?

FT1: Yes. (Unintelligible) get that shoulder (unintelligible).

RR: (Unintelligible) or --

GM: No. (Unintelligible).

FT2: (Unintelligible). Hold -- here, hold off on your shorts.

GM: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Keep those on there. Keep --

FT2: Don't -- yeah.

GM: -- let -- let -- we just want to photograph -- take your shirt off. Um, because we want to get this whole side. You never know. It may be bruised up now.

MD: Yeah. I don't know what's going on with it. It's sore as hell, though, man. And I know definitely I landed right here.

GM: Okay.

MD: Between the gun and concrete. It's gotta be --

GM: All right. Well, you may want to go get that looked at.

FT1: If you'll just stand up against the wall and I'll just photograph that.

FT2: Okay.

FT1: I'm gonna (unintelligible) of your shoulder. Okay? .

FT2: Take a front of it, also.

RR: He's got a blue shirt, too, there.

MD: Yeah.

FT1: Yeah. Just face me and I'll get the front side of --

FT2: Camera.

RR: Hey.

FT1: Okay.

FT2: Okay. Okay. Michael, we're just gonna have you -- we're gonna step out, and you're gonna disrobe your shorts into there and just change into this little, um, jumper. Okay?

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Yeah. This thing?

GM: Uh, that's gonna -- you can keep that.

MD: Okay.

GM: Okay?

MD: Thank you.

GM: (Leaves room).

[Go to 06:12:52]

MD: Good to go.

GM: You all done, pardner? All right. So you got your blue shirt on. Okay. You can, uh, yeah, throw your belt back on.

MD: All right.

GM: Um --

FT1: Is this his shirt?

GM: -- I'll call your wife, arrange for her to pick you up downstairs. Tell her I apologize for --

MD: Oh, no. You don't need --

GM: -- the length of time.

MD: -- you don't have to do that for us.

GM: Well, please. It is what it is, man.

MD: That's right. That's what I'm saying. That's why you don't have to go to that. That's not --

GM: Well --

MD: -- your fault. It (unintelligible) --

GM: -- I got a job to do.

MD: Yeah. I understand. Oh. (Unintelligible) if you would.

GM: Uh, in regards to all that, I would prefer, you know, just because the family knows of, you know, the -- the end result of all this, the family of the -- the victim. Okay? And --

MD: Okay.

GM: -- that's why I would suggest you go somewhere else and I would -- it would be good if your wife came and picked you up.

MD: Yeah. All right.

GM: I don't know if you guys have that capability of going somewhere else.

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Oh, (unintelligible). They've got my --

GM: But I'm just telling you --

MD: -- they've got my address and everything?

GM: No.

MD: Oh.

GM: No. None of that -- none of that's been released.

MD: Okay.

GM: Okay? However -- and I'm just telling you, um, you know, as -- because the victim's family's pretty upset.

MD: And if they can get into the house through the dogs and everything else then --

GM: Well --

RR: Well -- well --

MD: -- (unintelligible) --

RR: -- well, we're saying we didn't release your name. Okay? But --

MD: -- well, then, what are we worrying about?

RR: -- but the thing is, there's a lot of other people that are at that store. Okay? And a lot of --

MD: Uh-huh.

RR: -- people know who you are.

GM: And know what happened.

RR: All right?

MD: So I should be prepared, then?

RR: And they know you're (unintelligible).

GM: No.

RR: But --

MD: Yes.

GM: No.

RR: -- but what --

MD: That's exactly what that means.

RR: -- we're -- what we're suggesting is that you go someplace else.

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MD: I can't.

RR: That's it.

MD: There's -- no, there's no way. All right.

GM: Friends, family, anything like that?

MD: No. Okay. That is my wife and she's the only one I have here in Florida.

GM: All right. Well --

RR: She doesn't have any friends or anything like that you can stay with?

MD: No, sir.

GM: Michael, it's just a suggestion.

MD: (Unintelligible).

GM: You do what you want. You're a big boy.

MD: So I'm in danger, basically, is what you told me?

GM: No. I didn't say you were in danger. I just said --

MD: What do you mean?

GM: -- I'm laying that precautionary measure out because if the shoe was on the other foot, how would you feel?

MD: I don't know. I mean --

GM: Okay.

MD: -- throw it out there.

GM: Okay.

MD: Take it as -- as you said.

GM: Well, that's what I'm telling you.

RR: No. We -- we -- we didn't say anything. This is exactly what we said, that --

MD: Uh-huh.

RR: -- that you need to be careful.

MD: Exactly.

RR: All right?

MD: That's how I live my life.

GM: Okay. All right. Here we go. Get that, uh --

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Narrative - Continued

MD: Thank you, ladies.

FT2: Thank you.

(END OF RECORDING)

Transcribed by: slw/lam/slw/ms

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