

Q1= Detective Diane Nelson

Q2= Detective Christofer Nybeck

A= Officer James Bardon

Witness Interview

Q1: Alright, this interview is being conducted in the, at the Crystal Police Department in the conference room, time is 23:58 hours. This is Detective Diane Nelson, with me is my partner, Detective Chris Nybeck. And your name for the record, sir?

A: James [REDACTED] Bardon.

Q1: Can you spell that, please?

A: B-A-R-D-O-N.

Q1: And your date of birth?

A: [REDACTED]

Q1: Okay. And you are, uh, currently employed by whom?

A: The New Hope Police Department.

Q1: And what is your position there?

A: Patrol.

Q1: And how long have you been em-employed there?

A: Uh, 13 ½ years.

Q1: Okay. What time is your shift today?

A: Uh, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Q1: And what was your call number?

A: 4118.

Q1: Okay. At some point in time during the day you became aware of a call in the city of Crystal.

A: Yes.

Q1: Uh, can you tell me a little bit about that?

A: Uh, suicidal male, two guns to his head, Crystal was calling for assistance. Initially, uh, everybody took off. I kept, I kept, uh, myself in service with, uh, and New Hope with Ben. We were the only two cars left in New Hope and I'm a negotiator, so I was kinda waitin' to get paged out as a negotiator. Um, later on, uh, uh, 4127, Kuyper, needed a bunker, so I responded to the scene, relieved Kuyper, so he could go into the, uh, with the arrest team, and just maintained a spot at, um, Angeline and Scott.

Q1: Okay. Do you know what time the call came out?

A: Uh, it was about, uh, 5 o'clock, 5:00 p.m.

Q1: Okay. And given that it's a relatively small area geographically, do you commonly back-up other agencies including Crystal?

A: Yes.

Q1: Okay. So once you arrived at 5:00, uh, p.m., can you tell me one more time where you set-up?

A: At, uh, Scott Avenue and Angeline Drive.

Q1: Okay. And do you know where that was in relation to the target house-

A: About-

Q1: -in this incident?

A: Directly to the west about two houses.

Q1: Okay. Was there anybody with you?

A: Uh, off and on. Uh, 4115, Todd Black, showed up once, and, uh, escorted him to a position, uh, south of, south of the location he, he moved around across the cul-de-sac. And then, uh, Christine Lang from Robbinsdale was with me, we began, uh, trying to evacuate houses that were nearby the, uh, suspect's residence.

Q1: Okay. During this time, did you have a view of the residence?

A: No.

Q1: Okay. Could you hear what was goin' on?

A: Yes.

Q1: And what did you hear?

A: Uh, well towards the end we were tryin' to evacuate the resident who was, uh, two houses down, we were in the back of the residence, so pretty much around the corner, we would'a had a, a view of the, the garage. Could hear a lotta yelling, um, 'member lookin' at Christine, she was across the fence, I had gone over the fence to, to get to the backdoor and, uh, asked her, y-, can, can ya hear that, she was like yeah I hear the guy yelling. Um, and then we heard a, we heard a loud shot, um, figured that was the, uh, the sniper. Heard another pop maybe five seconds after that, and, um, after that there w-, heard the radio that the, uh, suspect was down, moved around to the, um, the garage where the, uh, where the officers were, um, saw the, uh, suspect down. Uh, group was forming up to go inside and clear the house, so I joined them, and we, we cleared the house without incident.

Q1: Mm-kay. You said you'd hear yelling and screaming, could you hear what was being said?

A: No.

Q1: And was anybody talking back? Was it one person? Was it several people? Could ya tell?

A: All I could hear was, uh, one person yelling.

Q1: Okay. And how many shots did you hear in total?

A: One shot.

Q1: Okay. And where were you, and-

A: There were, there were two shots-

Q1: Mm-hm.

A: -throughout the incident, uh, once when I was back by my car, and then another when we were up trying to evacuate that family, I heard a second shot, uh, which they called out as the, the suspect was shooting, that's when I told the family just to get inside, get down on the floor. Then it was probably, I don't know, 10, 10 minutes after that that we heard the, uh, sniper shooting.

Q1: Could you tell a difference?

A: Oh, yeah.

Q1: What would the difference be based on your training experience?

A: Oh, well, i-, the, the pistol round was quieter, more muffled. There's a loud that the loud sniper shot you can tell was a rifle, or is caliber rifle.

Q1: Once you approached the residence, tell me again what you saw.

A: I saw the, uh, suspect down. His feet were towards the, uh, driveway, he was partially inside the garage, uh, top of his head was missing where his brains, uh, near the, uh, left, uh, be his right side of his head.

Q1: So he was obviously deceased?

A: Yes.

Q1: Okay. What was he wearing?

A: God, I don't know. It was dark.

Q1: Okay. Could you see anything in his hands or near his body?

A: His hands were handcuffed at the time.

Q1: Okay. Did you see any handguns or weapons?

A: I did not.

Q1: Okay. Once you went inside the re- you helped clear the residence, correct?

A: Yes.

Q1: And was there anything unusual within the residence that you noticed?

A: No. It was pretty, uh, we, we cleared it slow, but there was a lot of cops inside, so like it was cleared pretty quickly. Um, left, I went back to, uh, the, uh, the res- the residences next door just to let them know that everything was okay, then I got called out to the, uh, cul-de-sac to, um, hang out with, um, Officer Harty.

Q1: Okay, so you were his escort officer then?

A: Right.

Q1: Okay. Um, did you have any direct interaction with the suspect?

A: No.

Q1: And did you see him at all before, uh, the shooting?

A: No.

Q1: Okay. Did you know if anybody else attempted to reach out and talk to him from the perimeter?

A: Uh, I know we had a, uh, negotiator that possibly made contact with him on the phone, but, uh, I—from where we were at I couldn't tell.

Q1: Did ya talk to Officer Harty at all?

A: Yeah, I did.

Q1: And what was his condition or demeanor?

A: Uh, surprised. Um, mentioned how this was all surreal. And Ben, uh, Ben wanted to go home that night, he didn't wanna get involved in this. He wanted to, to stay away, and, uh, go to his off-duty gig tomorrow, and I think he had a date tonight, so he was, he was intent on gettin' out of there at, uh, 7:00 p.m.

Q1: Okay. Ny?

Q2: Do, uh, were you able to stay—were you able to monitor the situation by the radio?

A: Yes.

Q2: Were you being constantly updated?

A: Yes.

Q2: Okay. So you, even though you couldn't see what was goin' on you were able to hear everything that was bein' relayed by dispatch or officers over the radio, correct?

A: Correct.

Q2: Okay. I don't have anything else.

Q1: Okay. Is there anything else you can think of that you'd like to add or that would be important to know?

A: No.

Q1: Okay. Very good. Uh, this interview will be concluding at 12:05 hours. Thank you.