

Q = Det. Diane Nelson.  
Q2 = Det. Christofer Nybeck  
A = Sgt. Douglas Brunner.

**Statement of Sgt. Douglas Brunner**

Q: Okay, this interview is being held at the City of Crystal conference room. It is 2337 hours. This is Detective Diane Nelson. It is, uh, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. With me is my partner, Detective Chris Nybeck. And your name, sir, for the record?

A: Douglas Brunner.

Q: Can you spell that please?

A: Uh, D-O-U-G-L-A-S, B-R-U-N-N-E-R.

Q: And your date of birth, sir?

A: [REDACTED]

Q: Okay. And you're currently employed by who?

A: The City of New Hope.

Q: And what's your position there?

A: Uh, patrol sergeant.

Q: And how long've you been employed by the uh, City of New Hope?

A: Since 1997.

Q: Today you were assigned as, uh, as sergeant in the City of New Hope?

A: Yes.

Q: And what were your work hours?

A: Uh, 7 AM until 7 PM.

Q: Okay. And at one point during the evening you became aware of a call in the City of Crystal. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

A: I heard a call that came over the air, uh, regarding a suicidal male. Uh, armed with, uh, possibly two handguns, or access to two handguns. And Crystal was responding, and they ended up asking for assistance from neighboring agencies.

Q: And, given that this is a- a smaller area where a lot of agencies but up against each other, is that fairly common?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay, so did you respond?

A: Yes.

Q: And what was your call number for the evening?

A: 4104.

Q: Okay. Do you know who else in your city responded?

A: Officer Harty, Officer Kuyper, Officer Bardon, and Officer Black.

Q: Do you recall what time the call came out?

A: Uh, I don't recall the exact time, no.

Q: Okay, and do you recall the address?

A: Uh... All I knew, it was on Angeline.

Q: Okay. What happened next, when you received the call for mutual aid?

A: I responded to the area, and uh, tried to find out where 3307 was. And I responded to his location to see if I could assist him in, um, running the scene.

Q: Okay. And where- where was that, that you met up with 3307?

A: Think he was at Angeline and Quail.

Q: Okay. And uh, just for the record, who is 3307? For Crystal?

A: Uh, Sergeant Dorr.

Q: Is that D-O-R-R?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. Once you arrived and spoke with Sergeant Dorr, what did he tell you?

A: He basically was running the scenes, and I just stood to the side and gave some suggestions here and there, on some things that might help the situation. Or set things up for us, uh, running the scene.

Q: Okay. Like, what type of uh, suggestions?

A: Uh, you might wanna start a K9. Uh, since, at the time there was a um, wife, that was still out in front, to maybe get a team that- a rescue team or arrest team organized, in case we have to go, if he goes off shooting. Um, that kind of a thing.

Q: Okay. What happened next, after you all were making that initial plan?

A: I knew that the reporting party, who I believe was the daughter of the, uh, individual threatening suicide, arrived on the scene. And they were making arrangements for a negotiator to speak with her. And eventually they had the wife come down, and they were speaking with her.

Q: Okay. And did you talk to her at all?

A: I did not.

Q: Okay. So, what happened next, after they were talking to various people- there's people arriving, there's a lot going on- what did you do?

A: I, again uh, stayed with Sergeant Dorr. Um, a team was formed to respond down the street near the location where the individual was at.

Q: And were you on that team?

A: Yes.

Q: What happened once you began your approach?

A: We basically just made our approach slowly, and we were able to arrive at the house directly east, to the individual's home. And we placed ourself, uh, with barricades, at the front steps of that residence.

Q: And who was all with you?

A: Myself, Sergeant Dorr, Sergeant Kusick with, uh, Crystal. Officer Kuyper, and I believe, Officer Albers.

Q: Were you to the east- was- the house that you were at, was it the one immediately to the east of the target house on the same side, so the north side of- of Angeline?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. Were you body bunkered?

A: I was not. Uh, the individuals there were. I basically was off to the right of them, um, behind the home.

Q: Okay. As you approached the uh, residence, the target residence, what did you see?

A: I only saw houses. There was nothing indi- that we really ended up seeing and, that really stands out.

Q: What could you hear?

A: Uh, when we arrived, just dispatch airing that different things were happening. Him calling, um, speaking to different individuals, and that's about it.

Q: Okay. Did you hear, at any point, what you thought or believed was, uh, gunshots?

A: Yeah, after we were positioned there for a short time, um, there was uh... a gunshot that did go off.

Q: Okay. And tell me a little bit about that. Could you tell from- where it came from?

A: Yeah. Directly to the west of us. Uh, very close.

Q: Okay. Could you tell if it was fired in your direction? Or could you tell directionality at all? Or was- just sound?

A: I could not. Just the sound.

Q: Could you hear anybody talking?

A: I could hear an individual yelling. Um, a male. And, just screaming. Seemed uh, very agitated.

Q: How did he- how could you tell he was agitated?

A: Because he was loud, screaming, just general yelling.

Q: Could you hear what he was saying?

A: I could not.

Q: Okay. Did anybody on your team, or anybody in the area, attempt to make contact with him? At least, to try to speak with him?

A: I believe the negotiators, and they were trying to make uh, contact with him on the phone, but in- in- the surrounding area, the people that were by the home, uh, nobody was trying to make contact with him.

Q: Okay. After you heard the one shot, what happened after that?

A: I heard the in- talking about, you know, he had been on the driveway. And he had walked down a bit to the driveway, and then he began walking back to the garage. And I believe he eventually went back into the home.

Q: Could you see him at any point?

A: At that point I did not see him at all.

Q: After he went back into the residence, what happened?

A: Uh, I believe they were able to make contact with him. And they weren't able to really maintain contact with him. He would blurt out threats about uh, shooting it out with the police. He's armed, more weapons or guns than the police. That he was going to kill them, kill neighbors, that kinda stuff. He's makin' comments to whoever was speaking with him on the phone.

Q: Could you hear that, or was that being relayed—

A: That—

Q: —to you?

A: —it's being relayed through dispatch.

Q: Okay. So after dispatch is relaying these comments that are being made, and he's gone back into the residence, what happened then?

A: Uh, eventually, he ended up, uh, making that statement of killing neighbors or anybody that he sees, according to dispatch. And then he came back out, um, of the residence, and he was outside. Um, I think that's when the- another gunshot was uh, that went off. Um, I do know that there were two shots that were fired by the individual, or at least other ind- people I believe were able to see that that's what it was. And, it was all relayed through the radio.

Q: Okay. You had your team that was to the east. Do you know where any of the other officers were set up?

A: I do know there were uh, other officers that were set up uh, just to the south of them. Um, did not, I did not know exactly where they were, but they were able to see the home and the front and open garage, and relay information.

Q: Okay. After the two shots went off, what happened then?

A: Um, again, very agitated. Yelling, screaming, lot of walkin' around um, that was being relayed. And, uh, I do know the second one, when he was out, um, or that, eventually he had made the comment, or it was relayed, about him shooting it out with the police, that he was walking out of the garage. At that particular time, I had positioned myself just above Dorr in a bunker and had my handgun out. And a plan was in place that if we saw him, that less lethal was- would be used, uh, to attempt to get him to drop the gun. And if that was not successful and a threat is there, that we would use lethal force.

Q: Do you know who was armed with less lethal?

A: Uh, I think Albers was.

Q: I'm sorry, what was that- Albers?

A: Albers, yeah.

Q: Okay. So as he's coming out, are you- are you cognizant of any of the radio traffic, or it just kind of, you're focused on what's- what's happening?

A: I'm hearing the radio traffic uh, but obviously uh, very focused on the front to see if we're seeing him come out, or what's actually going on.

Q: What happened at that point?

A: I- there was a gunshot that went off. I do believe I actually aired that that was a suspect shot. Um, and I believe immediately after that, it was uh, aired that it was an officer that had shot.

Q: How many shots total did you hear?

A: At that point, one.

Q: Okay. And then, did you- had you heard the others as you were approaching the residence, or did you just hear the one?

A: I heard the one, and then that the suspect was down. And at that point, then we started to make an approach, using the bunker. And to approach to see, after I believe somebody ended up saying that he was down, and nobody was a- actually able to see him moving.

Q: Okay. As you approached, what happened then?

A: Yeah, as we approached, we're behind the bunker. Um, makin' the safe ap- approach, looking out, seeing he's not moving. Uh, we were able to determine that there was no gun in his left hand. We could initially see the right hand and somebody did say yeah, the guns are down by his feet, or something to that effect. And then we were able to approach to, basically take him into custody.

Q: So, w- where- did you at some point see the guns?

A: Yes.

Q: —you said? And they were where?

A: There were three guns, um, and they were basically at his feet.

Q: Okay. And was there a cell phone or anything that you were aware of?

A: That, I'm not aware of.

Q: Okay. As you approached, what happened at that point?

A: I walked up. I actually stepped on his left hand to prevent him from moving. Uh, other officers were able to grab ahold of his uh, right hand, place him in cuffs, rolled him over and he eventually was handcuffed.

Q: At what point- at- at any point, did Officer Albers do anything with the less lethal rounds?

A: As we positioned ourselves, basically I believe, was at the corner of the home, before we actually made that approach to take him into custody, he did uh, use less lethal. Uh, bean-bang- bag rounds and, fired them at the suspect.

Q: How many times?

A: I believe twice.

Q: Was there any reaction or anything like that from the suspect at all?

A: No.

Q: Okay. After he was, uh, handcuffed, what happened at that point?

A: At that point I made the suggestion, or actually, asked uh, Sergeant Dorr if he wanted to clear the home.

Q: Okay. Did anyone attempt to give, uh, first aid to the suspect? Or was he obviously deceased?

A: He was obviously deceased.

Q: Okay. Did you... who- who went into the residence to clear the home?

A: I, at that particular time, I believe uh, Sergeant Dorr was the one that actually had the bunker, made initial entry. Um, Landherr was there. Um, I know Officer Barden ended up going in there. Officer Black, uh, myself, um, I'm not sure of the other individuals. I basically was the last to enter, and offered, um, more or less, cover in the back.

Q: Okay. And did you um, see or notice anything out of sorts or unusual once you went into the residence, or the area of the residence?

A: No.

Q: Okay. What did you do next?

A: Went back out. Um, immediately, um, went towards Officer Harty, who I was told was the actual person- or officer that shot the individual.

Q: And did you talk with him?

A: I asked him if he was okay. He said he was okay at that point. I then walked to where he was, because he was walking by me, and he was with uh, uh, Lieutenant Underthun. And I basically was going to make sure that his actual rifle was secured and somebody was going to be watching that.

Q: Okay, and was that being taken care of?

A: That was being taken care of.

Q: Okay. And then what did you do?

A: I notified my police chief, and was making arrangements to also have a union- person involved with the union, Officer Bardon- to them- go be with him and start taking care of that stuff.

Q: Okay. What did you do in the meantime, after?

A: After that? Uh, basically I started gettin' calls from uh, my admin, um, because I'd notified them. They just wanted to know what's going on, is everybody okay, and- and that was about it.

Q: Okay. And what's just a brief overview of what you did for the rest of the evening?

A: Uh, after that point, I then went to each o- one of my officers and instructed them that they needed to stop, take a time, call their, uh, families. Uh, make sure they know what's going on- or, that they're safe. Um, and I basically waited uh, to see what you guys were gonna do and what you wanted.

Q: Okay. At any time did you fire your handgun?

A: No.

Q: Okay.

Q2: Other than the negotiators, did anybody else on the perimeter try to make contact or communicate with the deceased?

A: Uh, I don't believe so. I think it was just all through telephone, uh, I think- assuming- primary reason was he was coming out obviously in an attempt to find an officer to have them shoot him. And if we did, then there would immediately be a gunfight.

Q2: And who was the, um... officer that was communicating with him through the phone?

A: Uh, I believe it was Officer Tourville, was the one that was uh, attempting to negotiate. But I do know there were other individuals that were speaking with him, and they were receiving information through dispatch, I believe, through a former um, medical person. Um, I think also um, the daughter or some family members of some sort. So in- information was kinda comin' in. He was communicating or talking with people on [inaudible].

Q2: I'm good.

Q: Okay. Uh, this interview will be con- concluding at 2353 hours, unless there's anything else you'd like to add at all?

A: Nope.

Q: Okay, very good. Thank you.

[End of recording.]