

Q = Det. Christofer Nybeck
Q2 = Det. Diane Nelson
A = Sgt. Brandon Dorr

Statement of Sgt. Brandon [REDACTED] Dorr

Q: Alright, today's date is 11/11/2017. It's approximately 12:33 AM. Detective Nybeck, Detective Nelson, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. We're at the Crystal Police Department conference room, and we're here with- what's your name, sir?

Q2: Are you still going?

Q: Yeah.

Q2: Okay, awesome.

A: Uh, Brandon Dorr.

Q: Middle name?

A: What- middle name?

Q: Middle name too, please.

A: [REDACTED]

Q: With a [REDACTED] or a [REDACTED]?

A: With a [REDACTED]. Yep.

Q: Okay. Uh, date of birth, please?

A: [REDACTED]

Q: Okay. And, who are you employed by?

A: City of Crystal.

Q: How long have you been employed by the City of Crystal?

A: Little over eight years.

Q: And, in what capacity?

A: As a police officer, and the last three years I was a sergeant.

Q: Alright. Were you assigned to work today?

A: Yes.

Q: And what were your assigned hours?

A: Uh, 0630 to 1830.

Q: And your call number for today?

A: 3307.

Q: Alright. Uh, did you receive a call today regarding an incident that was- that occurred at, uh, Angeline.

A: On Angeline, yes.

Q: Okay. Can you just walk us through it, uh, timewi- or uh, chronologically?

A: Sure. Um, I guess I can't remember exactly when the call came out. It was close to maybe like, 5, 5:30. Um, it was dispatched as one who was suicidal. Uh, it was secondhand information from a daughter, stepdaughter, from uh, her mom that the uh, dad was threatening to shoot himself and/or shoot police officers. Uh, I was at the police department. I s- had a- I went up there, en route. Um, just the information that we were getting' from dispatch, it w- it seemed legit. Um, right away, I started askin' for Robbinsdale and New Hope. And I think everybody kinda felt the same, because usually you ask for other departments, give me like, one or two, well we were gettin' everybody. So, everybody was comin' to help out. Uh, we got up there. Um.

Q: I'm sorry, real quick. And- and- that's common, 'cause you guys border each other, that's kind of a mutual aid type thing?

A: We're always helpin' each other out. Um, usually if we need help, it's maybe one or two.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, the big calls, the calls like this, you know it, we'll- we'll get everybody. Um, then everybody was comin' on this one, right away. Uh, we got up there and staged at uh, Quail and- and Angeline. Uh, we didn't really know what was goin' on. Uh, we- we didn't know- the mom was supposed to have left but we didn't know where she was. Uh, we didn't want to go to the house immediately, 'cause we didn't want it to turn into like a- a- a hostage situation or anything. Uh, it was secondhand information in and of itself, there's so many times where that turns out to be nothing. Um, we eventually were able to speak to the stepdaughter. I can't remember her name. And then eventually the mom, who had left the house, but she was just in a car, um, outside of the house. She came out to where we were. We were able to talk to 'em. In talking with them, uh, it just became more legitimate. They were- they were worried, they were concerned. He was threatening to kill himself, saying his goodbyes. Um, he had his guns. Um, and he was upset, uh, we found out that he's- his brother had shot and killed himself on Monday. And he was extremely upset and was blaming himself because apparently his brother needed a thousand dollars, and um, he wasn't able to get it to him that day. And then his brother committed suicide. So they said that he was blaming himself for that, and then, he kinda just recently has fallen off- had fell off the deep end, between then and now. Um, they

said that he had a permit to carry. Or, we had- we had that information from somewhere. Um, he had at least two guns on him. And, I mean I- I asked his wife, I said, "do you think that this is a legitimate possibility?" And she said "yes, I think this is a legitimate possibility." So.

Q: Did the wife, um, or daughter, explicitly say anything that like, he made threats against the police or—

A: Yeah.

Q: —neighbors or anything like that? Where he wanted to do harm, or?

A: Yeah, so that was, that came out in the initial call from the daughter and I- I'm pretty sure the wife said that he was making threats, uh, about that. And um, she was af- she was concerned and afraid, and that's why she got out of the house. I don't remember any threats about the neighbors, but um, we were- we had definitely been told that there were threats towards police officers. And that, um, I guess I can't remember exactly who said it, but there were threats that he wanted to die at- by police officers. Basically, suicide by cop.

Q: Alright, after you received this information from the wife and the daughter, what were your next step of actions, and who did you do it with?

A: Okay. So, we had tried to create uh, a little bit of a makeshift perimeter without actually having him see officers in the area. And we also, because of the- the temperature, I didn't wanna have people outside of their squad cars, um, getting cold, for a long period of time. So I tried to get people into some type of position in their squad cars, but we don't drive up to the house because that would give us away. Um, I figured if you drive- drove a squad car up there, he'd just start shootin' at the squad car. If- if he was, if it was legit. Um, so I started, I called uh, Lieutenant Underthun. I let him know what was going on. Um, just the situation. Uh, I had tried to call Lieutenant, or uh, Deputy Chief Leslin, who apparently was childhood friends with this guy, um, but I wasn't able to get ahold of him. I started uh, kinda comin' up with a plan. Uh, I sent two Robbinsdale officers on 53rd in their squads to set up a north perimeter. I sent um, two of the- another two Robbinsdale officers, um, to the south, um, and they went along the railroad tracks to kinda set up a south perimeter. And uh, we tried to get a team together to go up and set up a close perimeter, and I wanted to start a, uh, line of communication with our uh, with Officer Torvill, who is one of our uh, SWAT team negotiators, who was on scene as well. He was working his regular shift. So, it was me, uh, Officer Jared Kuyper from New Hope, Sergeant uh, oh... oh, I can't think of his name. It's the New Hope- New Hope sergeant. Um.

Q2: Is it Sergeant Brunner?

A: Brunner, yep. And uh, Plymouth K9.

Q: Larson?

A: Larson, yes. Uh... I don't think I'd ever met him before actually, so. So it was- um, and Officer Albers from Crystal. So we were the initial team. We made our way on the north side of Angeline, through the yards up to the house directly east of the, um, target house. Uh, we posted up on the uh, southeast corner. At one point we tried to move to the southwest corner, but it just- we didn't have enough cover. It was too dangerous to be there, so we went back to the southeast corner. Uh.

Q: Once you guys got into place, what did you see?

A: Um, not a lot. It was starting to get dark. Um, we were trying to figure out what was going on, um, seeing hearing things. We could hear a lot of yelling.

Q: Wh- what did- what did you hear?

A: Well, it was hard for me to hear things because of where we were. It was like a wind tunnel, and I was behind a bunker. What I- what I heard was angry. Very angry. Um, it- it was muffled to me. I couldn't hear a lot. Um, but it was screaming, it was angry, uh, it was upset. Um, you could hear little- I mean you could hear- I- I could hear, just parts of what he was saying and it was, you know, a lot of swear words. Um, "die." Um... it was- it was things that I was f- it- it- it made me really uncomfortable. I mean, really uncomfortable.

Q: Approximately how far east were you? Like one house, two house, three?

A: We were- so the houses are actually pretty close together. We were at the house directly east of him.

Q: Okay.

A: Yep. So we were, it was his house, and then the house- the neighbor directly east, we were just on the other side of that house.

Q: Did you see him at all? Did he come out of the house or the garage?

A: Once. We saw him once. Um, and we were on the southeast corner. I had- we had two bunkers at the time. I had both bunkers and I was creating basically a wall in front of the, um, officers behind me, who had lethal cover. And um, he had walked out and the officers on the south side were describing what he had in his hands, and they s- um, I think they initially said that he had a cigarette and then something else in his hand. And actually saw him take a- he had walked directly out, down his driveway, probably about halfway down his driveway. And he was parallel to us. And um, we didn't know what he was doing. And he was just stopped. And he took a drink out of something. Uh, I'm assuming it was some type of bottle. But you could definitely see he took a drink out of something. And then one of the other officers, I think, he s- at first I think they thought it was a cigarette and then somebody said, "I can see a laser on his foot." And they said, "is that- is that one of our officers?" You know, as in, is one of our officers? And one of the

officers on the south said, "I think he's got a laser on one of his guns." Because he could see the laser moving.

Q: And were they communicating with you? They being—

A: Via radio.

Q: Via radio?

A: Yep.

Q: Okay. Was that red dot moving in tandem with the body that you saw in the driveway?

A: I couldn't see the red dot.

Q: Okay.

A: Yep. Uh, it was on his right side, and he was facing- his left side was facing us, so he was facing- we were facing, ea-, uh west, and he was facing south.

Q: Okay.

A: So.

Q: Besides the muffled sound of him speaking and an occasional word coming through, did you hear anything else, in- while you were staged up there?

A: No. I mean, I- just a lot of angry yelling.

Q: Did you hear any gunshots?

A: Oh, yes. Yeah, I'd- uh, that had come after that point. So, he was out there. Um, we were- I was about to s- say, let's make contact, and he actually turned around and went back in. Um, on two separate occasions we were advised that he came out into the garage from the house, and we heard gunshots. One gunshot ea- each time. Uh, the first time, I- er, we heard the shot, and there was just silence. And the first thing that came to my mind was he- he had shot himself. Um, and, we radioed that there was a shot fired, not by officers, and then the officers on the south side advised, um, that he was still moving. Um, at some point, I believe after the second shot, I think I asked, "what's he shooting at?" Because I didn't know what he was trying to do. I didn't know if he was trying to shoot himself, I didn't know if he was firing a round off at the ground, I didn't know if he was shooting at the neighbors. I had no idea, I- we- we hadn't- we couldn't see him. All we could do was hear him, so. Um, yeah, I definit- definitely two. Two shots.

Q: Were they in quick succession?

A: No.

Q: Or were they s—

A: No.

Q: —spread out?

A: Nope, he would uh. He came- he went back inside after we saw him in the driveway. We were advised he came out, we heard a shot. He went back inside. I think he was in there for- he was in there for a while. Maybe like ten, fifteen minutes, something like that. Came out again, um, then we heard a second shot. And again, it was, I didn't know what- what happened. I didn't know if he'd killed himself, I didn't know if he shot himself, I didn't know if he shot at a- a police officer that he saw. I- we didn't know what he was seeing. Um, we were trying to develop a plan, uh, based on what we were hearing. Um, because he had called dispatch a couple of times, and was basically saying, I wanna die, um, I'm gonna shoot everybody, I'm gonna blow the house up. So, we- we didn't know, I mean, in that situation, it was. You know, do we- do we con- make contact with him? You know, are we gonna, are we just gonna give away our position and become targets? Um, and, it- so, the plan we came up with was, if he came out to the point where we could see him again, we were gonna use less lethal. And attempt to- um, get him to drop the gun, uh, hit him with less lethal, give him verbal commands, and hopefully he would've dropped the gun, we would be able to get to him fast enough, and get him into custody. Um, it's- it- that's a dicey, dicey, dicey plan. I mean, I- I'm on the SWAT team, I- I was not comfortable with doing it. Everything would've had to've gone completely perfect. But at that point, we were at just such a standstill that it was- it was so, so dicey.

Q: Well, based upon what you heard relayed through your radio, that's why you guys didn't initially approach and make contact and identify yourself.

A: Absolutely.

Q: It's 'cause he made the statements to dispatch that he wanted to have a shoot-out with law enforcement.

A: And it was confirmed by family. I mean the, we're not gonna put ourselves in that situation.

Q: So, you heard that from two different sources.

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. Um, who was the officer that was equipped with the non-lethal?

A: I had sent Alber- initially, Al- Officer Albers came up with a lethal, and I had sent him back to get non-lethal. Uh, so he was the one who had the non-lethal shotgun. It's a twelve gauge, uh, beanbag round shotgun.

Q: Uh, what was the time dis- difference between the first shot and the second shot that the, uh, deceased fired? Your best guess.

A: Fifteen, twenty minutes.

Q: Okay. Um. And then how much later, uh, was the third shot.

A: [Sigh.] Probably about the same type of time frame? Maybe ten or fifteen minutes? I- I don't think they were too close together. Uh, it was happening really quick, just in my head, because we were also thinking about neighbors. Um, I was doing a lot of communication with dispatch about calling neighbors, getting them into basements or getting them out. I was having officers go up to the backyards, through the backyards into the house- er, not into the houses. But making contact in the rears of the houses to try to get people to be aware of what was going on. Um, so there was a lot going on. They weren't too close together. There was definitely time in between, and we were getting updates from the officers on the south side, um, of what he was doing. He'd go to the, he'd go back in the house, he would stand in front of the bay window. They could see his shadows, they could see him moving, there were lights coming on and off and things like that, so. It wasn't too- there was- there was a fair amount of time in between shots.

Q: Um, and when the- the third shot fa- was fired, the one by law enforcement.

A: Yes.

Q: Was that aired that that was shot by law enforcement?

A: So initially, I wanna say that, um, one of the officers in our group aired that that was not an officer that shot. And then, uh, I heard the term [REDACTED] And [REDACTED] is a term that we use on the SWAT team uh, for an officer-involved shooting to where we shoot, and officers are okay. So, um, I heard, [REDACTED] and at that point I understood what was going on. Um, and I relayed I- that I understood what was going on and we were gonna move up. Um, so that's- that's what happened with that. Uh, I had everybody else on scene who was not on the SWAT team, didn't know what that means. But they heard [REDACTED] and I know that they were kinda confused. So I started walking and they stayed, and they're like, hey what's going on? Just not thinking, I said "oh, he's down." We gotta move up.

Q: And you notified your officers? You translated for them.

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. So you guys, your group then approaches the DOA?

A: Yes.

Q: Wh- uh, once you get to his driveway, what do you guys do?

A: So, I had a bunker. Uh, we had uh, lethal and less lethal, uh we also had the K9 who was there still. We got to the, uh, driveway. I- we had the, Officer Albers um, shoot a less lethal round at him. Uh, we gave him verbal commands, you know, show us your hands. Uh, we- the reason we shot the less lethal round was to see if we got any type of reaction. Uh, I could see blood. Uh, I knew that he was hit. I didn't know how- what it was, how bad it was, anything like that.

Q: Where did you see the blood? What part of his body?

A: Towards his head.

Q: And was he face-up or face-down?

A: Uh, he was face-up. Because we had to roll him over to handcuff him. Yep.

Q: And then where did Officer Albers's beanbag strike?

A: Midsection somewhere.

Q: Okay. And no response was seen by law—

A: No response, no.

Q: —enforcement?

A: None. Um, so we made a decision to move up. He had two guns in between his legs. And then he also had a gun near his right hand. So he- it turned out he had three guns.

Q: Alright.

A: We were told initially two.

Q: So, it- just to go back a little bit real quick here. Uh, he was face-up. You roll him over, so he's face-down. Do you guys handcuff him?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay.

A: Wh- when I- when we went up, I actually, um, um, I actually used the bunker to- I- I actually put all my weight on the bunker onto him. To control him, to make sure that he didn't do anything until the first handcuff was on. Once that first handcuff was on, then we rolled him over and were able to handcuff him behind his back.

Q: Do you remember which officers handcuffed—?

A: I believe Officer Albers was putting the first handcuff on. I don't remember who helped him out, because there was an issue with getting his hand behind his back.

Q: Alright. Uh, once he was handcuffed and that area was secure, did you guys go inside the house immediately, or did you clear the general area around the DOA?

A: We cleared the general area around the DOA. Um, there were, like I said, there were three guns. We were able to move them to- uh, away from the body. Uh we- we posted an officer at the guns. Um, and then everybody who was there, um, o- other than the officers who were at the post outside, we then cleared the inside of the house.

Q: Uh, anything inside the house of note?

A: No.

Q: Alright. Um, based upon your training and experience, would first aid have saved this individual, or was it at a point where it was not an option 'cause he was dead and?

A: I had never seen so much blood come out of a body in that timeframe. Ever. I believe- I- I requested, I had- North was on standby. And I immediately requested them to come up. Um, and they uh, pronounced him when we were inside checking. Uh, so I- I'm not a doctor, that's their job, but he was dead.

Q: In what part of the body was he shot?

A: The head.

Q: Okay. Um, when you saw the three guns, did any of those three guns have a, like a red laser sight on it?

A: Um, I didn't look at 'em too closely, but just my knowledge of guns, it looked like uh, there was a small black one that, uh, kinda had a- it- it just looked a little thicker around the- the handle and the trigger. Um, that's what I assumed would have been the trigger. Or, I'm sorry, the- the laser.

Q: Alright. Did, um- I- I think you'd mentioned, and other people mentioned that they saw him drinking maybe a bottle. Did you see a bottle in the driveway, or in the house, or in the garage at all?

A: Not that I noticed. I guess I was so focused on finding a weapon, or finding another person there that, I didn't- I wasn't even looking at the bottle. Or uh- for a bottle.

Q: Alright. And was it clear, by radio traffic, this individual's intentions? Whether it was from officers to the south or information relayed through dispatch, that uh, he made statements about having a violent confrontation with law enforcement?

A: It was very clear. Um, by dispatch, by family members, um, by the reporting party. He wanted to die, and it was a possibility that he was gonna- he was gonna do it by taking officers with him.

Q: And how dark was it out then, uh, earlier this evening- or, late yesterday, I guess?

A: So when we got there, it was, I mean, it was around like, like I said, like 5, 5:30, something like that. It was- the sun was goin' down, it was gettin' cloudy. Um, you could definitely see, but it started to get dark pretty- pretty quickly. Um, by the time we moved up to the house, and took the position, it was pretty dark. To the point where, when he walked out initially, which is just after we got there, I guarantee he looked directly at us, and he didn't see us. And we were... forty feet away from him?

Q2: Did he make any type- type of reaction when he?

A: No. No, nothin'. I mean, it was- and it- I- I've never s- I've never heard six police officers be so quiet in our lives. I mean, everybody just kinda held their breath. Because I- I guarantee he looked right at us. And he didn't- he didn't notice or he didn't do anything. He just was standin' out there lookin' around, lookin' around, lookin' around, looked at us, looked back right, took a drink, and turned around and walked back in.

Q: From the time that you showed up, 'till the time that the paramedics cleared, approximately what was the timeframe of that?

A: Well, they pronounced him... lemme find it. They pronounced him at 1836. So, an hour and a half. An hour fifteen minutes, hour and a half, something like that.

Q: Do you have any questions to add?

Q2: How many less lethal rounds were fired by Albers?

A: One.

Q2: Okay. And, this may have been covered, uh, but did anybody that was standing that perimeter engage the suspect at all? Talk with him, attempt talk with him?

A: Uh, not any of us who were close. Uh, like I said, we had a negotiator on scene who was attempting to make contact via phone.

Q2: Mmhmm.

A: Uh, but nobody attempted to make contact in person.

Q2: Okay. Was anybody giving him any type of verbal directives, like show me your hands, anything like that?

A: No.

Q2: Okay. When he would go back in the house, could you guys see what he was doing in there?

A: Uh, officers on the south side would, uh, basically see him walking around. I don't think that they could necessarily see exactly what he was doing because of, um, how dark it was outside, and I don't think there was too much light going on inside. Uh, a lot of times, or not a lot but a couple of times, they said that they could see his outline or shadow in the, uh, the bay window.

Q2: Mmhmm.

A: But I don't think they could see too much as far as what he was specifically doing.

Q2: Okay.

Q: What was he wearing when you guys approached and handcuffed him?

A: Uh, that's a good question. I know he had... like a, I know he had a- a top and a bottom on. I- I can't even remember. I mean, blue jeans and a sweatshirt, I think. Uh, I think

Albers had, had a difficult time handcuffing him because of his sleeves. So I think there was something with long sleeves. If- if I remember right.

Q: Okay.

Q2: I'm good.

Q: Okay, it's approximately 12:57 AM, interview with Sergeant Dorrs completed.

[End of recording.]