

Q = Detective Lisa Kasperek  
Q2 = Deputy Zastera  
A = Officer Joshua [REDACTED] Heasley

Statement of Officer Joshua [REDACTED] Heasley

Q: It's November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:53 PM. I'm Detective Kasperek with Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.  
Q2: Deputy Zastera with Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.  
Q: And you are?  
A: Officer Heasley, Robbinsdale Police Department.

Q: Can you spell your name- name?  
A: J-O-S-H, H-E-A-S-L-E-Y

Q: And your date of birth?  
A: Uh, [REDACTED]

Q: What's your middle name?  
A: [REDACTED] And it's Joshua, sorry.

Q: Alright, and what is your position? What agency are you with?  
A: Uh, the Robbinsdale Police Department.

Q: In what capacity?  
A: As a patrol officer.

Q: How long have you been with Robbinsdale Police?  
A: Uh... almost seven months now.

Q: And what was your shift today, hours?  
A: Uh, day shift. Uh, 6 AM to 6 PM.

Q: Okay. Can you explain what happened today?  
A: Sure. Um, at about 1713 hours, I believe it was, the Crystal Police Department was dispatched to the report of a mental, suicidal issue at 5128 Angeline Avenue North. Um, while they were en route, uh they got some further information that the suspect, or the in- the individual in the residence um, had- was armed with two handguns, I believe it was, and that he wanted to harm himself, or to shoot himself in the head. Uh, they got some further information on the way over, and they requested additional assistance from uh,

New Hope and Robbinsdale. Uh, I went en route along with uh, pretty much everyone I was working with. I arrived on scene. Um. Met up with Sergeant Dorr. Um, and we were establishing a game plan. Um, I originally had a less lethal, that was going to be my, um, role. It was determined um, while I- while we were kinda setting up, that myself and Officer Landherr would, um, make our way to uh, a vantage point to check for uh, his mother that was uh, supposed to be somewhere around the uh, residence, possibly there, possibly not. And to get eyes on the residence, as nobody was at a vantage point from where we were. Um, I dropped my less lethal back in my squad car. Um, then myself and Officer Landherr made our way over to the railroad tracks and we went west, um, however many houses down we ended up. Uh, we ended up taking up a position directly across the street from the target residence where we were able to uh, view the garage and the front bay window, so basically the whole front of the house we were able to view. Um, while we were there, uh, we took up a position under, or behind cover. Uh, Officer Landherr was armed with a uh, long gun, and I just had my handgun. And we just took up an observation point at that point.

Q: What happened next?

A: Uh, while we're observing, we began to um, notice that there was a family in the house directly to the west, the next house directly to the west that was coming in and out of the house. I noticed uh, at least one or two adults, and I believe one or two kids that were coming in and out of the house. We were getting updates in the event that uh, the individual came out. Um, we were being updated kinda continuously by uh, dispatch and uh, incident command that uh, the individual wasn't responding to- to attempts to speak with him and he was making more statements that he wanted to shoot it out with the police. Um, that sort of thing. We were given that information. Um, while we were observing the house, I um, made contact with uh, the three houses directly across the street, advised the residents in those houses- oh, there was only two residents I made contact with- to take shelter in the basement, advised them of what the situation was. Um, while we were in our observation point, at one point, uh, the suspect, uh, I believe his name was Ronald Klitzman, did exit the residence and begin walking out towards uh, the street of the house. Uh, we were updated of what he was- or supposed to be wearing, and we confirmed that with myself and Officer Landherr's observations. Uh, he appeared to be smoking a cigarette. He came out, walked down the driveway, went back into the house. Uh, we could hear yelling from inside the house and it sounded like a phone ringing at the house, that we were advised was not uh, anyone from law enforcement attempting to make contact with him. Uh, we continued to observe as uh, the individual uh, came back out of the house into the garage. It appeared he was armed with a handgun or some sort of a weapon as there was a red light we could see from our vantage point. It looked like a laser sight, or laser point—I don't know if you wanna call it a laser pointer—on the ground. Um, suspect was walking back and forth in the garage, um, yelling things incoherently. While we were observing, uh, the individual did fire off one

round from the handgun that he had in a- his right hand. I'm assuming it was a handgun, just 'cause there was only one round, it wasn't automatic fire or anything like that.

Q: You said it was in his right hand?

A: It was in his right hand.

Q: Was that it- same as the red light you saw on the ground? Was that his right hand?

A: I believe so, yes. Um, the position he was in his- in the garage- he was deep in the garage, so he was, from our vantage point, it looked like he was either kind of in line or behind the car, and it looked like he fired downwards into the garage, kind of in the direction of the car. So I guess that would be southwest-ish, that kinda direction. Um, once the shot was fired, both myself Officer Landherr took cover. Uh, we advised incident command that a shot had been fired. Um, then we observed the suspect, still yelling, go back and disappear into the house. Um, while he was kinda goin' back and forth in the house, there were lights going on in the house, then in the garage, and then off, and they would kind of alternate. Um, which was strange. Um, we were advised after the first shot was fired, I believe, that incident command was gonna have a, uh, sniper team work towards us because we had the best vantage point of uh, the residence and what was happening. Um, after the first shot was fired, I- I believe it was two more additional times the suspect did exit the house, stand in the garage and was shouting things incoherently. We couldn't understand what he was saying. He was just kinda shouting in any direction. Uh, he did make his way down the driveway again, and he was still armed with what appeared to be the handgun as we could see uh, the laser sight kind of illuminating his right hand and the ground as he was pointing it at the ground. Um.

Q: Did you see anything in his left hand?

A: It appeared at some point he did have a cell phone in his hand. I couldn't tell from my vantage point, it looked like it was a cell phone. It looked like there was kind of a glow that would illuminate his hand, and it looked like he was talking to somebody at some point, when he exited the residence at some point. Uh, he did go back into the house again. Came back and forth a number of times. Um.

Q2: How was his demeanor when he exited the second time?

A: The second time he- it was the same. It was just shouting, screaming incoherently. Uh, we couldn't make out anything he was saying. He was- it wasn't- it didn't look like he was shouting at anyone in particular. He was just kind of looking around and, shouting up into the air. Um, we tried to make out what he was saying, but I mean, nothing was making any sense. Um, at some point during all this, I don't know if I said- mentioned this or not, but the family that was seen coming and going from their house did get into their car and leave uh, down the- the cul-de-sac to the east. So they were out of the picture at that point.

Q: Did you tell them, or not?

A: Uh, we were debating, trying to figure out how to go and tell them, because, after he had come out and was kinda ranting and raving and- and we were worried for their safety. Because uh- I believe it was one, maybe two children, we couldn't really tell in the dark, were at this house and- and we were concerned for their safety, especially with the knowledge the knowledge that he um, armed with handguns and there had been mention of rifles as well, so.

Q2: Had they left prior to the first shot?

A: I believe they left prior to the first shot being fired. I believe they did, yes. Um.

Q: You still hadn't made contact with the neighbors at that point?

A: We had not made contact with the neighbors. Once the shots started to be fi- being fired, then I believe uh, Crystal had a team that cleared the north side of the street, and then I did what I could to clear the residences in the general vicinity of where the shooting was. Or where the- sorry- where the shooting was- where the suspect's house was, adjacent to- I mean, was closest to and the easiest target if he was to pop out and start shooting rounds at a- at a- at a residence.

Q: So, he was in and out of the house, and then what happened?

A: Um, in between the first and second- second shots being fired, he did emerge from the house again, standing in the garage, still shouting co- incoherently. At that point, another round was discharged. We advised incident command. Um, from what I could see from my vantage point, when the round was fired, I couldn't tell where it was aimed at, because his arms were kinda flailin' around, so, we couldn't really pinpoint a direction of where it was. Um, once that second shot was fired, that was a short time later once uh, the New Hope sniper arrived. We advised him of what we had seen and he took up a position about uh... five to ten feet away from where Officer Landherr and I were. Um, at some point Officer Landherr um, began spotting and kind of... ranging in where he was in the garage. And I just was advising them of what I saw. Uh, at that point my radio battery is dead, so I was relaying everything that I was seeing to Officer Landherr and Officer Landherr was relaying it then to incident command.

Q2: How far apart were the three of you?

A: I was standing directly next to Officer Landherr, so, no more than a foot. And then, uh, together we were in between five and ten feet. Um, we were taking cover behind the corner of a house. There was about five feet and there was a chainlink fence. Uh, Officer Harty, the New Hope officer, was on the other side of the fence. I mean, we were all within, close enough we could have a conversation in a normal voice about what we all were seeing.

Q: What happened next?

A: Um, at this point uh, the individual did exit the house again. Um. While Officer-

Q: Was this after the third shot or was that after the second shot?

A: This is after the second shot. Um, Officer Harty was set up. Uh, he was going in and out of the house, there were lights going on and off inside the house, um, we could see in the front bay window, uh, the lights were off but we could see what looked like a laser pointer just kinda scanning the area from the front bay window. We weren't sure if he was trying to acquire a target or, or what he was doing. We were just kinda making our observations. At that point, or whenever this—he had exited the house into the garage. Began again shouting incoherently. Uh, not making any sense. Uh, something about police or something like that, I believe I heard at some point. He then went back uh, deeper into the garage, out of uh, our vantage point. I believe Officer Harty still had a vantage point on him, and I think advised that he went into the back yard, cons- s- continued shouting at—whatever, nobody could make anything out. He then emerged back into the garage. And as he emerged into the garage, he still had—. I should go back. When he emerged- anytime he emerged, we could still tell that he had a handgun in his hand because we could see a red glow from the right hand that appeared to be the same laser we had seen. Um, as he emerged back from the backyard, huh, the- we uh- appeared he was still armed. His arms were kinda swinging around. At that point, Officer Harty fired, uh, from his position.

Q: Do you- did you hear him say anything?

A: I- Officer Harty, or this—

Q: Harty.

A: Uh, no I did not.

Q: What was the guy- was the suspect doing?

A: When the shot was fired, he was walking out towards our position. Uh, I- I don't wanna say towards us necessarily, but he was making his way back out of the garage and out of the driveway, and I believe he was, it looked like he was probably about five or ten feet out of the garage and into the driveway.

Q2: Could you hear any radio traffic? Prior to that, with your radio being dead?

A: I couldn't hear- uh, I- the only thing I could hear was what Officer Landherr was translating, and then I was catching bits and pieces of what other officers were saying. But we were trying to be as covert as possible, and with my radio being dead, I didn't really have the ability to hear too much.

Q: So what happened next after the shot was fired?

A: After the shot was fired, uh, Officer Harty advised us that the suspect was down. Uh, myself and Officer Landherr then advanced. Uh, when the shot was fired, the Crystal

team that was attempting to clear residences was on the north side of the street and we all, uh, converged on the suspect. Um, when myself and Officer Landherr arrived to the group, uh, we observed that the male subject was down on the ground. Appeared that he had a gunshot wound to the face. Uh, in his right hand, where his right hand wa- hand, um, was positioned on the ground, there was a pistol that was on the ground facing southbound, so facing out towards the street. And then he had another firearm um, at his feet. Uh, we advanced, uh, gave verbal commands to show his hands, uh they didn't um. We didn't receive any response from the subject. Um, I believe a Crystal officer, or somebody at some point, I couldn't tell who it was 'cause it was dark, fired a less lethal round at the individual. Uh, they didn't receive any sort of uh, movement. Uh, we then advanced further. Uh, the subject was placed into handcuffs and while the subject was being placed into handcuffs, there were two handguns that were directly at his feet and I kicked the handguns away from the subject back towards the house. I believe, I don't know what department he was, but uh that individ- or that officer moved up on the handguns and basically stood on them so they couldn't be picked up.

Q: When you got up to suspect was he in the garage? Down in the garage, on the ground?

A: He w- he was right at, I don't know if you wanna call it the f—. So basically, if this line right here is dividing the garage and the driveway, he was—

Q: Okay.

A: I mean, basically with his.

Q2: His waist would cut the— [inaudible].

A: Kind of intersecting it, yeah.

Q: Okay, then what happened?

A: Um, once the subject was placed into handcuffs, uh, myself and several officers from, um- Officer Landherr and officers from New Hope and Crystal, we entered the residence to clear it. Uh, we didn't find anyone in the residence.

Q: Then what happened?

A: Uh, once the residence was clear, um, we all made our way out of the house back into the driveway. I believe North Memorial Ambulance Service was on scene at that point. They did- I don't what they did. They did a quick evaluation and they left fairly quickly from the scene.

Q: So they came up to the scene—

A: Yep.

Q: —into the garage. Okay.

A: They came up to the scene, uh, they talked to Sergeant Dorr, and then they left fairly quickly. Um, then I went back to our original position, where they were starting to put up crime scene tape. And, um, myself and Officer Landherr basically um, sat with the rifle, the cartridge casing, make sure that the scene wasn't compromised or anything like that. From that end, that perspective.

Q: Is there anything else you can think of?

A: No, I don't. I- I strongly believe that uh, the individual meant, uh, to, I don't- I don't know how to put it, but it seemed like his end goal was to have a shoot-out with the police, just from everything that he did. And it was apparent that, from just randomly firing the rounds off that he did, that he was a danger to public safety. Uh, especially not knowing how many people were left in that cul-de-sac.

Q2: Was there anything different about the third time he came out, than the other two, or?

A: When he came out the—

Q2: Leading up to that, or—

A: W- when he came out the third time, he was much more animated, a lot more screaming. Um, not making any sense, um, it seemed that the agitation level had slowly built to a point where, I don't know if you wanna call it a breaking point but it, just his demeanor and his behavior was far different than the first. I want- I don't wanna say the first two times, but his demeanor had changed from the point where it started and just built up to the point where it'd gone to a point where I don't think anyone could predict what his next action was going to be.

Q: Can I get your work cell phone number, or do you have a work cell phone?

A: Uh, no. Uh...

Q: Just your PD number or whatever.

A: 763.

Q: If I need to get ahold of ya.

A: Yeah. 763-531-1220.

Q: And is that the office?

A: Yeah.

Q: Okay. Anything else? Okay, we will conclude the interview at 1011 PM.

Q2: Perfect.

[End of recording.]