

Q= Detective Christofer Nybeck
Q2= Detective Diane Nelson
A= Nellie Jean Klitzka

Witness Interview

Q: All right. Today's date is 11/10/2017. It's approximately 9:01 in the evening. Detective Nybeck, Detective Nelson, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. We're at the Crystal Police Department, and we're here with – can I get your full name, ma'am?

A: Nellie Jean Klitzka.

Q: Can you spell all three for me?

A: N-e-l-l-i-e. Jean, J-e-a-n. Klitzka, K-l-i-t-z-k-a.

Q: And date of birth, please?

A: January 14th, 1948. I'll be 70.

Q: 'Kay. Can you tell me, what is your relationship with, uh, Ronald? Is – brother? Husband?

A: He's – he's my husband.

Q: Okay.

A: Ronald Klitzka is.

Q: Okay. And we're – we're just jumpin' into this, so I may ask questions that seem very obvious to you, but to – to Diane and I, it's something that we just – we're not familiar with yet. Uh, where do you guys live?

A: 5128 Angeline Avenue North, Crystal, Minnesota 55429.

Q: Okay. And does anybody else live there?

A: Just my two cats and two goldfish.

Q: Okay. And how long have you guys been married for?

A: Uh, for 38 years.

Q: Okay.

A: 1978.

Q: 1978. Uh, just in your own words, can you kinda tell me what happened today?

A: Well --

Q: From the beginning, and then we'll work forward.

A: Uh, he got up this morning because Freddie's girlfriend, he has – well, not girlfriend, but friend, a girl, a lady, him and – her and Ron were going to take care of some of Freddie's business that he committed suicide last week. It's in the paper today. Frederick Klitzka.

He was – he was 57 years old. They were takin' care of business, uh, disconnectin' his phone, and then checked on some cards. And, um, Ron came home, they were gone for like about three hours, and then Ron came home and he says, Nellie, is there anything that you wanna do? And I said – I said, Yeah, I wanna go to Target, I wanna get some of that pop, four for \$10. He said – he says, Okay, we can go. And I said – I said, Do you feel all right to go? Yeah, I do. So, went up to the DAV, I like the Goodwills, so went up there for a while, everything was all right, and I know he – his legs bother him a lot, so I know he don't like to walk around, but we were in there for about 35 minutes, and then he – he says, Nellie, are you hungry? Why don't you – uh, why don't we go get something to eat? I'm just gonna have pie and coffee. I said, Ron, you gotta eat something more than that, because he's a diabetic. I – I said, You wanna go to Perkins? He says, No, let's go over here to Country Kitchen. I said, Okay. So we got to Country Kitchen, and he ordered meatloaf, and he wanted some bread pudding, but the bread pudding came with the meatloaf. So he ate – ate the meatloaf and ate the mashed potatoes, and then the lady came out with his half a piece of bread pudding, gave it to him, and then we leave there after about 40 minutes. Oh, my neck is gettin' stiff. 40 minutes, and then I'm heading down 36 here and then gonna go to Target and get my pop. And I said, Would you like to come in or do you wanna stay out in the car and wait? And he says, uh – he said, Nellie, if it's all right, I'll just stay in the car. So I said, Okay, I'll be right out. And I was out in about 10 minutes, just long enough to grab four 12-packs. And in the meantime, he was sorta talkin' a little funny, you know, like I – I – the guy was really tired because he's been up over his brother's committin' suicide, and he – and he kept blamin' himself for like three, four days, sayin', If I only would've gave the guy a thousand dollars, that's all he wanted, but Freddie needed a little bit more money than that 'cause his rent was due, his tabs on his car was due, you know. And I don't know what else was bothering Freddie. Um, and, um, and then his sisters – his one sister came up from Wilmer when he found out that – uh, see, now I'm gettin' into another day. I'm going back to the day. So then he gets home and I – I says, I'll carry the stuff in, Ron, you take off your coat, just throw it on the floor, I'll hang it up and you go check your blood, 'cause he's a diabetic. He went in there and I – I says, Is your blood all right? He said it was like 250. It's been up like sometimes 300 and stuff like that. And then I went back out to the car, and I was carrying stuff in and I walked back in the bedroom, and then I asked him, Well, how's your blood? And he says 250, and he was laying in the chair, the – that platform rocker, and, uh, so I took the blanket and I covered him up, and I just said, Good, I can go to sleep tonight, you know, 'cause I thought he went to sleep. And then I was in the kitchen doin' my scratch-offs, you know, havin' coffee, and then he started to talk. You – you know, like, Freddie, why? Why? Why did you kill yourself? Why did you kill yourself? It's all my fault. It's all my fault. And I thought, God, I thought he was sleepin', you know. Then he come out to the kitchen about half an hour later, he had a bottle of, um – I don't know if it was Wild Turkey or what he had in his closet, he had it there for like about three years sayin', This is – this is, uh – I'm gonna open this when, um, uh, this is to celebrate with or whatever, I don't know what he was savin' it for. So he started to drink that, and I said, Ron, you keep drinking that, I'm gonna call 911 'cause you're a diabetic, and we're not drinkers. I mean, we're not drinkers. And then he – he says, You shut up, and you can get the hell out of my house. I says, It's not your – it's both of our houses. You know, we wasn't really arguing, that's

about it. And then all his eyes looked really beady, you know, like – and they were sittin' way back in his head. And then I called my daughter, I says, Ron's – Ron's on the telephone with somebody sayin' that he wants to shoot people and that they can't – uh, if he can't kill himself, he ain't drunk enough to kill himself yet, he's gonna make some cops do it. And I just – I told Kari that, and Kari says, Ma, why don't you just leave? So then I got in the car, and I thought, well, I'm gonna take the white car, so in case he gets hurt, you know, I'm thinkin' a shot or whatever, um, the ambulance would have nothin' to go in there with a stretcher. So then I went across the street with the car, and I just sat there for a long minute. Lookin' down at the end of the block, I thought what the hell is all that traffic doing down there? And I sat outside for like about half an hour down there, and I thought, hmm, I wonder where the cops are, you know. What happens when there's a real emergency? They should have been here by now, but they were all lined up at the end. So I thought I'm gonna go down to the end, so I went down there, and that's when I ran into the cops. We never fought today. I was surprised that he ate the meatloaf. But his doctor gave him – um, the pills were sittin' on the table, and, you know, Ron's not, um – and I left the doctor's card on the table from the VA, and the doctor said this would – uh, this will be sorta hard to, uh, take, make sure that you don't drive and stuff like that. So I don't know. You got me.

Q2: What kind of medicine was it?

A: You know, I, um – the paper I got in my shredder by my fish aquarium in the front room, I never shredded it up, just in case like if he did overdose on something 'cause it said do not mix it with anything, like morphine or – see, I'm not a pill person. I know just this. Um, and I thought, well, I better save that so they would know.

Q: Um, what – um, what was the name of the female that Ron went over to take care of his brother's house with?

A: Her name's Lorna, but I don't know her last name. I – I got her number in the cupboard in my kitchen.

Q: Okay.

A: She – 'cause she just gave it to me today. I was not close to her, but his brother really enjoyed being with Lorna and her kids 'cause he sorta was a grandpa to the kids. They weren't boyfriend and girlfriend, but really good friends.

Q: All right. What time did you guys go to Country Kitchen today?

A: Uh, I know it seemed really late 'cause I wanted to get home. Um, but it was only like about 2:15.

Q: Okay.

A: I wanted to get home. I was cold and then my belly was full, and I just thought – and I was so happy when he crashed in the chair, I just thought, Ah, I'll be gettin' some sleep, 'cause the last four days have just been miserable on me.

Q: How 'bout this, and you don't have to be specific --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- for a minute, but we're just kinda -- kinda create a timeline.

A: Mm-hmm.

Q: When did Ron go with Lorna over to his brother's house today?

A: Oh, no, it wasn't today.

Q: Oh, not today?

A: No. Today Lorna and him went to go take of business, to, uh, disconnect his cell phone, 'cause his niece ran off with the -- that ear piece, and they took -- see, now I'm gettin' back into another day -- uh, other days.

Q: All right.

Q2: But for today, when --

A: Okay.

Q2: -- he and Lorna --

A: Oh, they left -- Lorna came over and picked him up, and they left like probably about twenty to 10:00, and they got back about five after 1:00.

Q2: Okay.

Q: So he was at home from about five after 1:00 until about 2:15 when you guys went to --

A: We left -- we left like about 1:30 --

Q: Oh.

A: -- to go -- we went up to the DAV, and then from the DAV we went to Country Kitchen.

Q: What's the DA- --

A: Goodwill.

Q: Okay. Okay. Uh, so you got to Country Kitchen about 2:15?

A: Yeah.

Q: And then from there you went to --

A: Target.

Q: -- Target to get the pop?

A: Mm-hmm.

Q: So what time did you guys get home then after Target?

A: You know, I think it was like about a quarter to 4:00.

Q: Okay. And then when he got home is when he p- --

A: I told him to go in your room and check your blood, and I'll go out to the car and I'll bring the pop in. 'Cause he -- he had a hard time carrying stuff, he... And I carried the pop in, and I hung up his jacket, and then when I went back to the room, I says, What was

your blood? And he says 250, and he was laying in the chair already, you know, sorta sleepin'. I thought, good, he's gonna go to sleep, and I took the blanket and covered him up. I was out in the kitchen doin' my scratch-offs, you know, and, uh, it was probably like about 4:15 --

Q: Is when he -- when he laid down?

A: Started to talk to himself.

Q: Okay.

A: You know, Freddie, Freddie, why did you kill yourself? Why did you kill yourself? If I only would've gave you the thousand dollars.

Q: Now -- now, when he did that, was he talkin' in his sleep or was he awake and --

A: No, he was awake 'cause he was on the phone with somebody else. I think he called up one of his, um, old, um, you know, where people come out and they do your blood pressure, you know, nurse service. He called up one of those, an old company, and the woman couldn't get across what he was even talkin' about, you know, and he -- he said, um, I -- you know, he had the door shut, and I was scared to open it up. I just thought if you're -- if you've got some guns loaded and you got that -- that drink in there, I'm not gonna open that door, and I just thought I'm gonna stay away from walls.

Q: Okay.

Q2: What time did he start, uh, drinking? Was it right when y'all got back?

A: Yeah. And he couldn't have drank that much 'cause I only seen him like go from the -- the neck of the bottle, the -- it would probably be about a fourth of a cup, but, you know, he kept going [hacking noise], you know, 'cause he was drinkin' it straight, and I don't know how much that he drank 'cause the door was shut.

Q: So how long was he in the chair for? If he got there, I think you said, about maybe 4:15?

A: He was probably in the chair probably for -- probably about 25, 30 minutes, and then he came up to the kitchen with that bottle, and he took the cork off, you know, to do it, to show me in front of me. And I said, Ron, if you're gonna drink that, I'm gonna call 911 'cause you're a diabetic. And he says, Don't you tell me what to do, and if you -- and if you do, I'll -- I'll hit ya. And this is my house, you get the hell out of it. I says, It's not only your house, it's both of our houses. I mean, we weren't arguing, we weren't, you know, no arguing or no hittin' or nothin'.

Q: Well, after he made those statements to you, how much longer did it take for you to then leave the house?

A: I called my daughter, and I said, Ron is talkin' crazy. I could hear him in the bedroom arguing with this woman on the phone, 'cause he was askin', Send some cops here, send the cops here, and if they come through -- if they come in my house, I'm gonna shoot 'em or I want them to kill me. I said, I gotta get outta here.

Q: Was this call from a cell phone or a landline?

A: I -- I can't tell you that because the door was shut.

Q: Okay. Do you guys have a landline in that --

A: Yeah, I got -- I got my phone. See, I ran outta that house with my phone, but it don't work because I'm away from the house. And Ron had a cell phone.

Q: Okay. Do you know, was it a -- what kind of -- was it an Apple?

A: No, we don't got one of those. Flip phone.

Q: Flip phone. Do you know what color that was?

A: I think black.

Q: Black, okay. So from him goin' into the chair at 4:15, what time did you leave the house then?

A: Oh, God, Probably about five after 5:00. That's when I think I called Kari, 'cause I thought, God, I wanna watch real news 'cause I like news, you know, and I like Channel 5 News, you know, and I just thought -- I got mad 'cause I just thought, God, this has been going on four or five days, I just wanna sit down and watch some TV and relax. My neck is so stiff.

Q: And did -- I just wanna make sure I -- I didn't hear ya wrong, but it's -- you took the -- the white car, and you just went across the street, or did you --

A: I pulled up, uh -- I backed into Jackie and Dave's house, they don't live there no more, it's a empty place.

Q: Okay.

A: And I just thought 'cause I could see in, I could -- if he was walkin' around in the house, I could see him from there.

Q2: Is that the house with the For Sale sign?

A: It's gone now. And then I pulled out of there, and then I parked in front of the other house that's got the For Sale sign.

Q: And how long -- how long were you on -- kind of in that park --

A: You know, probably like for about 20 minutes, 'cause I was lookin' down at the -- at the end of the block, and I just seen all kinds of stuff goin' down there, and I just thought, I wonder where those cops are? 'Cause it was like --

Q: Well, I -- I'm sorry, you were wondering where they were or why they were there?

A: No, I was wondering where are they, you know, I thought they were -- I didn't know that it was lining up like that, but I just seen all kinds of traffic down there.

Q2: Had -- had you called them?

A: No, my daughter did.

Q: And to rough -- again, your best guess, but do you know what time the cops started linin' up in your neighborhood?

A: Um, I wanna say probably about 5:15.

Q: Oh, that quick?

A: Yeah, but I didn't know that they were -- 'cause they were way down at the -- 'cause I kept lookin' at the clock in the car, it said 5:27, and I just seen more cars down there, and I just thought, Where are the cops at? You know, I thought they would drive down Angeline.

Q: How --

A: And then I thought, I'm gonna go down there. I was really thirsty. I thought should I go to the store and get me a cup of coffee or something? But then the cops just pulled me over then, and I'm like -- I left the car over there around the corner.

Q: How long, um, was it -- okay, so you're in the -- the -- by the house with the For Sale sign, and you see the cops kinda staging.

A: I see cars down there, I didn't -- I couldn't tell if it was cops. I mean, somebody pulled up on the -- on the side of Angeline, and I thought I wonder who they are, you know, in a blue car. And then I thought, well, I'm gonna go down there, 'cause there's a lot of traffic down there. And that's when I -- I think I went down there probably like about 5:31.

Q: And when you went down there where the traffic was at, did it turn out to be police officers then? And did they ask you questions or --

A: They just sit and -- Kari was in the car and, um, the cop says, That's my mom.

Q: Okay.

Q2: So Kari was down there?

A: Mm-hmm. She was in a squad car.

Q2: Okay.

Q: Did the officers ask you any questions regarding your husband at that time?

A: Um, [inaudible] what -- what was he wearing?

Q: Okay.

A: And I said blue jeans and a gray sweatshirt that said Morris on it with a horse,

Q: Did they ask about if there were weapons in the house, or if your husband made any --

A: No, I'm sure that -- I think Kari probably told them that.

Q: Okay. Did you know -- what kind of guns did your husband have in the house?

A: Uh, God. I can't -- I don't know if even my daughter would know. I think he's had like about three guns.

Q2: Do you know if he has like the handguns, the smaller --

A: They're handguns.

Q2: Does he have any rifles, the longer ones, for hunting or anything like that?

A: Yeah, but that's not at our house.

Q2: Okay.

Q: So once you went – you were across the street for about ten minutes, then you went down the street --

A: Mm-hmm.

Q: -- you drove down the street, that's when the officers --

A: Yep.

Q: -- met with you and talked to you?

A: Yep.

Q: After they talked – met and talked with you, how long did it take for them to approach your house when – with your husband inside?

A: You know, because I was around the corner, I couldn't see what was going on down the block in front of my house. I mean, I – they kept comin', askin' questions, and they were tryin' to negotiate with him or whatever. And he wouldn't answer the phones or he had it turned off or whatever –

Q: So –

A: -- [inaudible] --

Q: So, uh, did the cops ask you like what's the phone number so they –

A: Yeah.

Q: -- could call inside?

A: Yeah.

Q: Any other questions you can think of that the officers ask you?

A: No, they said they're sorry.

Q: Did they ask you – can you think of – and I'm not trying to put --

A: I know --

Q: -- anything in your mind --

A: -- ask away.

Q: -- but did they ask you like, um, did he make any, uh, threatening statements to others or to himself? Um, has he been acting violently? Did he --

A: No, and Ron's not violent, but, um, the – his – the death of his brother took a lot out of him.

Q: Okay.

A: And he's been going through hell with his niece and his step-sister. They – cause they says, uh, What are you so worried about with Freddie left – uh, what Freddie left? Uh, we

should get it 'cause we're his real, uh, sister and I'm his niece, you ain't nothin' to us, you're only your -- a half brother, and you're not even our -- my real uncle, you know, and that set him off a little bit the other day. I mean, we've had people at our house, and then Ron was there and seeing them guys, you know, take stuff out of the apartment, Freddie's apartment and stuff like that. And he said they were just like a bunch of vultures. And then, um, Kari took Ron over, uh, had him cremated, and they're -- they were supposedly supposed to call today, but they never did, 'cause Ron was really against Freddie laying down at the morgue on a slab.

Q: How long can you -- your best guess, how long were you with the officers, um, by their cars while the other officers were tryin' to speak with your husband?

A: Oh, I was probably -- I was sittin' with my, um -- in my daughter's car. I was in the cop car probably for like about twenty minutes, and then Kari said, well, we can go to her car, and that was just parked around the corner, and we stayed down there probably for about a hour a half or a hour. And then the ambulance come and it went down there, and then it turned around and left and I -- I knew.

Q: Were you able to i- -- sounds like you weren't able to see anything, but could you hear anything? What was going on? You couldn't hear if the officers were giving orders or directions or trying to communicate with your husband?

A: I just knew when they all started to walk up here it was done with, up the Angeline.

Q: Okay. Can you think of anything else as far as just today before we start going back in time a little bit or...

Q2: Where would Lorna's -- Lorna's phone number's in the house, right? It's in the cupboard you said?

A: Um, it's, you know, where, uh, the -- the -- the door, the sliding glass door, it's right there on this cupboard, open it up, and it's hanging up there. I just hung it up today with one piece of tape, and it has Lorna and Stevie.

Q2: Okay.

Q: And when your husband communicated in the house --

A: Today?

Q: Uh, no just in general.

A: Okay.

Q: Um, did he typically talk on a cell phone or on the landline inside the house?

A: Oh, a cell phone.

Q: He was a cell phone --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- guy?

Q2: Do you guys text back and forth, or was he not much of a texter?

A: No, he --

Q2: No?

A: -- uh-uh.

Q2: Didn't really do that?

A: No. Uh-uh.

Q2: Yeah, my mom's gotten into the texting thing --

A: And I don't got no --

Q2: -- [inaudible].

A: -- cell phone, I'm not -- I don't have no -- I don't know how to -- I'd have to look for the on and off or a computer. I don't know. Yep, I don't wanna be bothered with that stuff.

Q2: Yep, it's just too much.

A: Mm-hmm.

Q2: So what time did you guys get up this morning?

A: Uh, I got up at, I think, quarter to 7:00, but I've been up early this whole week. But it felt good to sorta sleep 'cause if Ron fell asleep like probably like about 3 o'clock in the morning, then I just went out, 'cause I get up early to feed my cats 'cause they're walkin' on me and then I got the two fish.

Q2: Did Ron wake up at the same time?

A: I went in there and I said, What time do you wanna get up? And he -- he says, At 8 o'clock, and then Lorna called a little while later, said she's running late, 'cause she was gonna be there at 8:30.

Q2: Mm-hmm.

A: Lorna says, Nellie, I won't be there, not until after 9 o'clock, and she came like about 9:33 --

Q2: Mm-hmm.

A: -- and they were gone until like about 1 o'clock. You know, Ron was really in a -- I mean, not -- not happy jumpin' around, but he says, Nellie, is there anything you wanna do? And I said, Well, I'd like to go to the DAV, and then like I wanna stop and get my scratch-offs and stuff like that.

Q2: Mm-hmm. Yep.

A: We went out to eat.

Q2: Did you talk to any of the officers after they walked down Angeline and they -- they came and -- and met with you and Kari?

A: I -- I just said, What's going on down there? And I seen 'em, I -- I mean, I -- I knew.

Q2: Do you remember what any of the officers said?

A: They said that they got a, uh – they – they don't know if – one said, I don't know, I wasn't around down there, and, um, we'll get – we'll get back to ya and let ya know.

Q2: And did someone come and talk to ya at that point?

A: Uh, the lady did.

Q2: [Inaudible] did?

A: She said – yeah, she said, Nellie, I'm sorry.

Q2: And were you – where were you when that happened?

A: In my daughter's car.

Q2: Okay. Okay. And then someone brought you back here?

A: My daughter did.

Q2: Okay.

A: How fast your life can change.

Q2: In – in an instant, right?

A: Mm-hmm.

Q2: So what – let's – let's talk a little bit about what's leading up to today.

A: Okay.

Q2: Now, you mentioned that Ron's brother --

A: Mm-hmm.

Q2: -- um, committed suicide last week. What – what was – is Freddie, is it also Klitzka?

A: Yep.

Q2: Okay. And what – what city was that in? What --

A: Brooklyn Park.

Q2: Brooklyn Park?

A: Mm-hmm.

Q2: Okay.

A: And it's in today's paper, so you could probably pick it up on your phone.

Q2: Mm-hmm. So what day was that?

A: Um, the coroner don't know when he died. He – but Ron said, you know, that his eye was hanging out and some of his teeth were missing, and Freddie was – he already had rigor mor- -- rigor mornus – or I can't even say that word. But, um, I figured he probably did away with himself probably on the 1st, and then he never called Ron back 'cause Ron called him and Freddie was always good at callin' Ron back. So Ron says, I gotta go over there and see why he's not calling me back. And Freddie always said if the TV's on, you

can open up the sliding door and you can come in that way. And Ron did, and he turned on the bedroom light and there goes Freddie.

Q2: So Ron – Ron found him?

A: Yep.

Q2: So let's just move a little bit forward --

A: Okay.

Q2: -- from that point. What – how did – how did Ron handle that?

A: He called – he, uh, ran out in the hallway, and he called the – uh, Somebody call the cops, somebody call the cops because this guy's dead down here. I – I wasn't there, that's all --

Q2: Sure.

A: -- I heard.

Q2: Sure.

A: And then I couldn't believe it, I just thought, Freddie killed himself? I mean, he liked to eat and he liked to go fishing and stuff like that, I can't picture, I mean, people doing this stuff.

Q: So how did Robert's demeanor – was it --

A: Robert?

Q: I'm sorry, Robert, his demeanor change after seeing –

Q2: Ronald – Ronald, how did --

A: Ron.

Q2: -- how did Ron change after that?

A: Ron said, If only I would have gave him the thousand dollars, he probably wouldn't have killed himself this week, but it could've probably been next week or the week after. I said, Ron, you cannot watch somebody 24/7. And you can't.

Q2: No, you – you really can't.

A: Uh, and I said – I says, You got people that care about you, don't let yourself, you know, go to hell, you know, like don't sit down and eat a bunch of sweets. He told me today that he was gonna quit takin' his shots and all that, but, see, he cared enough, he went in there and tested his blood.

Q2: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. So in the last four, five days since –

A: Oh, it's been bad.

Q2: What kind of – when you say it's been bad, what kind of things?

A: Okay. Ron called his sister that lives down in Wilmer, and then the niece lives in Shoreview. They all – Peggy came up here from Wilmer and everything. They met at our house. Oh, wait, the – they met over at, uh, Freddie's house, and then they came back to

our house. And them guys, the next day, it was like a vulture. Ron said they were takin' stuff off the walls, askin' where's the keys, where's the [inaudible], where's the gold coins.

Q2: So there's arguments about --

A: Well, Ron was sorta mad the way that they were handling themselves. I get that, I want that, and, you know, Ron was really mad. And then Ron set up to have, uh, his brother picked up at the morgue and then they were gonna cremate him, and that's about it.

Q: In these four days, did Ron make any statements about harming himself? Harming others?

A: He wants to die, he wants to die.

Q: When did he start -- did he say that after his brother passed away or...

A: He really said it more after his brother passed away. He said -- he said, I can never forgive myself.

Q2: Why do you think he -- just because of the money or...

A: He said that he killed his brother. I mean, you know, for not givin' him the money.

Q2: Had -- had Ron in the past said these types of things?

A: Once in a great while, but, I mean, not -- I mean, there's been times where he's said something, but I couldn't -- you know, it wasn't like it was day after day. But for the last -- let's see, we went to the show last -- yeah, we went to the show, and it all started really bad like the 28th when we were comin' -- the 27th or -- yeah, that's when we went to the show. And then Freddie took the kids on a -- some kind of -- not hayride, but maze or something. And I thought, well, God, if he can afford all that, why does he need a thousand dollars? You know, champagne taste, beer pocket money. But Freddie did pay his bills, I guess, and stuff.

Q2: So had Ron ever tried to kill himself? He made -- has he -- he's -- he's said it, he's talked about it, has he ever --

A: Yeah.

Q2: -- taken steps?

A: Um, God, I hate to say -- I mean, I don't think so.

Q2: You mentioned that he goes to the VA --

A: Mm-hmm.

Q2: -- and what kind of medical stuff does he have there?

A: Oh, he -- he was in a group meeting, but then they canceled that, um, because the doctor left or whatever. And then he was seeing Dr. Stenseth. There's a card on my kitchen table that I left there.

Q2: Okay. And -- and what was he under treatment for?

A: He went there the other day to get some pills 'cause he told the doctor that he can't take it no more, and he has a appointment Tuesday at 2:30.

Q2: So he can't take it anymore, he was wanting to address --

A: That -- that's what he told me he went and told Dr. Stenseth, and it -- the card's on the kitchen table.

Q2: Okay. Had he had mental health treatment at the VA for -- for --

A: Uh, he's had like shock treatment before, a long time ago, probably like 25 years ago.

Q2: What was, uh, the diagnosis at that time?

A: He -- he was -- I mean, it was all --

Q2: Depression?

A: Yeah, yeah.

Q2: So he served [inaudible], where did he --

A: Vietnam. He was a Marine. But I think this last -- these last four days had took a real toll on him with his sister, his niece sayin' that, Why are you worried about it? You're -- wasn't even his brother, you know, and that -- that hurt him.

Q2: So --

A: But it was his brother. His dad and his -- his dad's brother had relations with each other. That's where it comes in.

Q2: So there's some family dynamics out there?

A: Mm-hmm.

Q2: So it's -- what day was it that he met with Dr. Stenseth?

A: Um, probably, uh, the 7th. The 6th or the 7th. It coulda been the 6th 'cause the pills that doctor gave him was on the table in a plastic bottle. And he's supposed to meet with him Tuesday at 2:30.

Q2: So it sounds like today he was makin' some pretty pointed statements. In the past couple of days, what were those statements like in regards to his life?

A: He wants -- he don't wanna live because of Freddie dying. And he blames himself for Freddie killin' himself.

Q2: Did you -- did any -- did -- was there any police response in the last couple of days or just today was the day?

A: Yeah, to- -- I mean, I couldn't believe it 'cause he went -- he went -- he -- I mean, he went out to eat and he ate, and I just thought God, and then when he went home and he sat in a chair after doing his blood work, sat in a chair and I said, I'll wake you up later or -- or, you know, 'cause he takes medication at different times.

Q: What was he diagnosed with? Or what did he see the doctor for? Was it more medical?

A: He has dystonia.

Q: Okay.

A: And he's, um – he, uh – he got a, uh – one time he was with, um – man, all this stuff, it just runs through your head. He, uh – who do you call that where, you know, you have that thing up on the wall, um, on the icebox where if you die you don't want no --

Q2: Like a DNR type of thing, like the no extraordinary measures --

A: Yeah.

Q2: -- the – the treatment --

A: He had – he was in, um, hospice, and then he quit all the pills, the medication, and he got – he got off a lot of those, and he was on other medication. But, you know, him being a diabetic really affected him because the guy liked to eat like a donut or something, and his blood – his blood sugar would rise up sometimes to 300 to 400, and he was really mad at that, you know.

Q2: What was his hospice for?

A: He was in pain. He – I mean, the guy wasn't dying, dying. I mean, and hospice don't really mean that neither, I mean --

Q2: It's more of a palliative.

A: Yeah.

Q2: So he had the dystonia and he had the diabetes. He had some mental health stuff. Outside of the VA, where else did you guys doctor at primarily?

A: He went just to the VA.

Q2: 'Kay.

Q: What were the psychological reasons he saw a doctor? Was it depression? Was it anxiety? Was it a combination? Was it something --

A: You know, I could tell you, but I really – I'm gonna say the guy was depressed a lot.

Q: Okay. And had he been stopped and placed on a hold by Brooklyn Park Police --

A: Mm-hmm.

Q: -- Department? When did this happen?

A: Uh, God, the night he went over there and they found the body and he – and the cops found out that he had a permit, but he didn't take his gun over there, and, uh, he took off his – I wasn't there, but he told me he took off his jacket and he said, You guys come on, I'll fight ya, you know – you know.

Q: Was this at Ron's place then, when he --

A: Freddie's.

Q: Freddie's, when Ron was over there? I'm sorry.

A: Mm-hmm.

Q: So, okay. And then --

A: And Brooklyn Park called the ambulance and had him dropped off at North Memorial, and he signed himself out.

Q: Do you know how long he was there for?

A: Probably like for a hour and a half 'cause he called me, You come and get me right now. And I thought, God.

Q: Did he tell you specifically what he said to the officers that led them to send him to the hospital?

A: He said that he -- now, this is what -- this is all just second stuff. He told me that he told them he feels like gettin' in his car and runnin' in a wall.

Q: He told the officer -- or this is what you heard that --

A: Yeah.

Q: -- he said?

A: Yeah.

Q: Who did you hear -- did you hear that from the officers or did --

A: No, he told me.

Q: He told you?

A: Mm-hmm.

Q: Okay. All right. How long had he been suffering for depression for, 'cause I think you had mentioned that?

A: You know, I wanna say it's probably been a long time, but it came and gone, 'cause Ron was a very nice guy. I mean, he wasn't like, you know, get the hell away from me or something. Ron was a very nice guy. And, I mean, he had his days, but...

Q: Had he been taking his medication for this or did he transition off?

A: The -- the VA knows that he tried to -- I mean, he was gettin' off s- -- a lot of 'em.

Q: Okay.

A: And then he went to Dr. -- I think his name was Stenseth, and said that his brother killed himself and he needs something.

Q2: You mentioned earlier that -- that Ron was -- today he was sayin', you know, I'm -- I'm gonna hit ya, I'm gonna hurt ya if you don't get out. Is -- is there a history? Have you guys --

A: No.

Q2: -- had history of any type of --

A: Uh-uh.

Q2: So was that kinda --

A: 'Cause I was tellin' him, If you're gonna drink that bottle, I'm gonna call 911. And I thought that would probably straighten him up, because, you know, I knew he would probably lose his permits, you know, if you argue and stuff --

Q2: Mm-hmm.

A: -- 'cause you just hear that stuff on TV.

Q2: And so he is a permit holder?

A: Yep.

Q2: Okay.

A: You know, and I told him, I says, uh, Well, you got these people you're arguin' with 'em or havin' a dispute, don't carry your gun because they would say, you know, you pointed it at them, so don't carry your gun.

Q2: Okay.

A: You know. You mind if I go to the restroom?

Q2: Not at all.

A: Okay. I'll be right back.

Q2: Can you grab that?

Q: Oh, sure.

A: God, your neck gets so stiff.

Q2: It does.

A: I feel like sayin' have you got an empty jail cell.

[No speaking from 0:39:27 – 0:41:40]

Q2: You doin' okay so far, Nellie?

A: Yeah. I mean, I was -- I just can't believe this happens twice in a week.

Q2: Yeah.

A: I mean, two...I don't know.

Q: If we have any follow-up questions, is there a good phone number that we can call you at?

A: You can call me -- well, I don't got a cell phone, but you can call me at my house.

Q2: What's your home number?

A: Uh, 763 --

Q2: Mm-hmm.

A: -- 537 --

Q2: Mm-hmm.

A: -- 2722

Q: And – okay. How much does the daughter know about what happened today?

A: Kari, I called her up.

Q: Okay.

A: I said, Ron's really talkin' goofy, like, you know, like he's got his guns loaded, you know, but I wasn't – I didn't – wasn't in the room, so I don't know. You know, 'cause he shut the door, and he took that bottle in there with him, and I thought, I am not opening that door 'cause how do I know he wouldn't hallucinate or something and take me for being a cop or somebody after him? I just thought I'm not doing it. I'm going out.

Q: And I think you said he maybe drank maybe from the neck down?

A: From what I seen in the kitchen.

Q: Okay.

A: It had to be about a fourth of a cup, and then he stood at the kitchen sink going [hacking noise] I killed my brother, you know, 'cause I didn't give a thousand dollars.

Q2: How long had been – had Freddie been asking for that loan? Had it been a – a – quite a while that it was kinda dragging out --

A: No --

Q2: -- with them or --

A: -- just a --

Q2: -- pretty recent?

A: Yeah. You know, 'cause we – Ron's helped his brother out before.

Q2: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

A: But, you know, if – if he can go to a maze, you know...as far as I know, I wasn't there, Freddie, you know, and take people with him, 'cause, you know, Freddie would always pay. I don't know.

Q2: Did Kari talk to her dad today?

A: You know, Ron called us when we were in the car.

Q2: He called you when you two were in the car and he was in the house?

A: Yeah, he said – he says – he didn't call – he called Kari on her phone. Kari, I love you and I love your mother. Good bye.

Q2: 'Kay. And was that after, uh, you had walked down Angeline, you were in the car with your daughter at that point?

A: We were parked around the corner --

Q2: Sure.

A: -- and he called, and Kari -- Kari said, Mom, Ron's callin' here. I don't know what phone he used 'cause I've got -- I got one phone, but that's a landline.

Q2: Mm-hmm. And did he say anything else? Or what else did he say?

A: Nope, he says, Kari, I wanna tell you I love you and your mother.

Q2: About how long was it after that that you saw people walkin' back?

A: Then I said, Kari, why don't you pull down the corner so we can see down Angeline, 'cause we -- you know, we were hearing that stuff. Pull down the corner, you know, and then I -- I seen people started to walk up this way and I knew. 'Cause the ambulance left.

Q2: So would you say it was -- it was a pretty good length of time between that call and when people came walking back --

A: Oh, yeah.

Q2: -- or was it -- how long do you think?

A: Oh, right about 25 minutes. To me, that's what it seemed like.

Q2: Were there any other calls?

A: You know, I think Kari said that he was -- he called his sister, but I don't -- I don't know. I mean, I don't understand them phones. You'd have to ask my daughter that.

Q2: Okay.

A: 'Cause it was her phone, I don't know none about.

Q2: Do you know, uh, his sister's number? And what's her first name again? I know you mentioned it earlier.

A: Peggy Hamilton.

Q2: 'Kay.

A: And Kari might have their numbers.

Q2: Okay. She might have that in her cell phone?

A: Yeah.

Q2: Okay.

Q: What city does Peggy live in?

A: Wilmer.

Q: 'Kay.

Q2: Is she still in town here or --

A: They're still [inaudible], uh, faxing or whatever they do with the phone, um, they were over by our house, because, hey, we – we see the squad cars all down there, what happened? 'Cause Brenda says that Ron was on the phone sayin' that he was gonna kill himself and me.

Q2: And who – who's Brenda?

A: His niece. And Ron would never even touch me. But not – that's what Brenda said, I don't know.

Q2: So they're – they're still in town, Peggy and Brenda?

A: Brenda is floatin' – was floatin' around the neighbor 'cause she knew that the cops – or the squads were all down Angeline. What's going on? How's your mother? You'd have to ask Kari 'cause, I mean, that's all I know.

Q2: Did you talk to Brenda or Peggy tonight?

A: No.

Q2: Okay. All right.

A: 'Cause Ron told me after those vultures did what they did to Freddie's house, and they went to his work and tryin' to get the money, and Freddie did leave his friend Lorna, I guess \$16,000, and, you know, if that was Freddie's wishes, we didn't need – we don't need no money. I mean, we're – we've got a roof over our head and our bills paid. You know, and Ron – and I – I said, That's no more than right because Freddie spent his time with that family. So...but the vultures were after it, and then that made Ron really sorta mad. But everything – they were at our house, um, probably, um, Monday the 6th or the 7th, but they got – they got over there and they just started to – Ron said that it was just terrible how they did stuff. And I – I didn't go 'cause I just thought that's not my business.

Q: I'm good. All right. I'm just gonna kinda – this is for the recorder here.

A: Okay.

Q: Uh, interview began at approximately 9 o'clock, and it's – we're gonna conclude the interview at approximately 9:50.

[End of interview. End of recording.]