

SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(The following may contain unintelligible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

AR: Detective Andrew Rowe#2187 *AR*

CASE #: 22-80828

BJ: Beth Johnston

DATE: 9/24/22

TJ: Tobin Johnston

TIME: 1131 hours

AR: Today's date's Saturday, September 24th, 2022. Time is 1131 hours. I'm
Detective Rowe, ID 2187. This is -- reference to case number 22-808028.
We're presently at 1799 Highland Road. Uh, present with me is Beth and
Tobin, who goes by Tobi. Uh, could you both raise your right hand for me?
Do you swear and affirm the statement you're about to give is the truth to
the best of your knowledge?

TJ: Yes.

BJ: Yes.

AR: Okay. Go ahead and put your hands down. We'll start with Beth. Beth, what
is your middle initial?

BJ: S.

AR: Your last name?

BJ: Johnston, J-O-H-N-S-T-O-N.

AR: Your birthday, ma'am?

BJ: 1/28/1975.

AR: And a phone number for you?

BJ: 717-887-5924.

AR: And this is 1799 Highland. This is gonna sound really stupid. I need your height and weight.

BJ: Five, 7, 130 --

AR: That sounds good.

BJ: -- one.

AR: Uh, hair color, eye color?

BJ: Uh, hazel eyes. Uh, black hair.

AR: Do you work, ma'am?

BJ: I do not.

AR: Okay. Tobi, your middle initial, sir?

TJ: M.

AR: As in Nancy?

TJ: Michael.

AR: Michael.

TJ: M as in Michael.

AR: Same last name?

TJ: Johnston, with a T.

AR: Your birthday, sir?

TJ: 5/31/1967.

AR: A phone number for you?

TJ: 717-424-8447.

AR: Well, that's pretty, uh -- lot of fours in that number.

TJ: Yeah.

AR: All right. Okay. How tall are you, sir?

TJ: Six, 2.

AR: Approximate weight?

TJ: Two forty-five.

AR: You have the same hair problem I have.

TJ: Yeah. No hair. Hazel eyes.

AR: Do you work, sir?

TJ: Yes.

AR: What do you do for a livin'?

TJ: Uh, part-time. I have an online auto parts business.

AR: That works.

TJ: We're semi-retired, just not --

AR: Good for you.

TJ: -- not 100 percent.

AR: Okay. So, we're here regarding the incident that happened this morning,
uh, out on -- I think that's Highland out --

TJ: Highland.

AR: -- there as well.

BJ: Yes.

AR: Um, so, uh, the parties involved are David Gregory and Steven Colon. Um,
and the reason we're talkin' to you is you live basically next door to Steven.
And, uh, so, I kinda want to get your take on who David is as a person first.
So, whoever wants to go first, go ahead.

TJ: Uh, I've -- I don't know how long I've met David, but it's probably been around a year.

BJ: I would say --

TJ: Uh --

BJ: -- a year is fair.

TJ: I've met him in the street. He walks his dogs with his wife pretty much four or five times a day. Um, yeah, I think he, uh, used to be a -- work at an airport, he's told me. Uh, nice guy. And he's never been nothin' but 100 percent --

BJ: Very friendly.

TJ: -- very friendly to us.

AR: Okay.

TJ: And never aggressive or in any kind -- I never have had a problem with him.

AR: So, you've never seen him have any argument with anybody in the neighborhood?

TJ: I've never seen it. No.

AR: Okay. Um, do you know David to carry a firearm?

TJ: I don't know that he does.

AR: Okay. You wouldn't -- it's nothin' that he's disclosed to you?

TJ: No. He's never --

BJ: No.

TJ: No.

AR: Okay. Um, so, let's talk about Steven for a bit. Steven lives a couple duplexes or units down from you.

TJ: Yes.

AR: Uh, what's -- uh, what do you know about Steven?

TJ: Um, I know Steven's family. I know his grandparents. I know his mother. Uh, and I know his mother has talked to me about Steven and asked me to try to reach out to him, um, that he doesn't talk to anybody. Uh, which I never really did try to do because when I saw him, he would just dead stare and walk away from me. Uh, so, that was okay with me. Um, I have been walking in the neighborhood before where he has pulled up in his vehicle and stopped beside me, and he put his window down and just stared at me, um, and then drives away real slow. Um, I've seen him walking all hours of the night, uh, around the neighborhood. And about three weeks ago --

BJ: Yes.

TJ: -- I was bringin' the trash in. He was behind me bringin' in his can.

BJ: It's -- it's come to the point where we just don't --

TJ: Acknowledge him.

BJ: -- acknowledge him.

TJ: Because we're not --

BJ: So, we just --

TJ: We don't want to --

BJ: -- do our thing.

TJ: We don't --

BJ: I wanted --

TJ: We're not --

BJ: -- to say that.

TJ: We're -- yeah, we're trying --

BJ: (Unintelligible).

TJ: We don't acknowledge him because --

BJ: It's just become too uncomfortable.

TJ: -- it's getting to become a situation here.

AR: So --

TJ: Uh --

AR: -- you would say since you first met him it's become increasingly worse?

TJ: Yes.

AR: Okay.

TJ: Well, three weeks ago, I'm bringin' my trash in. I made the corner. I know he's behind me draggin' his can. And I didn't even look at him. He has his EarPods in, and he's draggin' in his can. I'm about -- I'm the house past the -- he's attached to one other --

AR: Uh-huh.

TJ: -- house. I'm just about past that garage door, and he yells, "You fuckin' pussy." And I turned around, and I said, "What did you say?" And I started towards him, and he ran in his house.

AR: Okay.

TJ: And that was three --

BJ: About three --

TJ: -- weeks ago.

BJ: -- weeks ago.

TJ: Um, so, he didn't come -- he didn't approach me. He ran from me. Uh, and I haven't really seen him since.

BJ: Um, so, I'm the secretary of our HOA.

AR: Okay.

BJ: So, last week we had a major driveway project going on. Um --

AR: I'm aware of this --

BJ: -- and --

AR: -- by now.

BJ: Yeah.

TJ: You were -- you might have been here.

BJ: Yeah.

AR: No. I was -- no. I've not been here.

BJ: So, um, and we knew this would be an issue. Everybody was notified in ample time, uh, cars needed to be removed, and we kinda figured this may be a problem. We called his grandparents in New York. You know, we tried to let -- give them fair warning, we need our cars moved. It's only fair. You know, everybody deserves to have this done to their driveway. So --

AR: It's a short driveway in Florida.

TJ: Yeah.

AR: It needs to be graded out.

BJ: So, last -- last week he refused. Um, we knocked on -- Gary knocked on his door quite a few times. He --

TJ: And --

BJ: -- did not come out.

TJ: And Gary asked me to be there backing him up 'cause he wasn't sure if it would become violent.

AR: Okay.

TJ: So, uh, I just stood over at the far house. And I -- he never came to the door anyway. But he was -- um, and Gary's not the toughest guy in the world. So, he just, uh --

BJ: He wanted a backup.

TJ: He wanted backup --

BJ: And he just wants it. That's exactly --

TJ: -- 'cause he -- well, he was afraid to go by himself.

AR: Okay.

TJ: And she said she'll go, and I said, "No. You can't go." Uh, 'cause I --

BJ: It's been very unnerving is just the best way to --

TJ: Well, I won't let her walk the dog at night because of him for the last six months. And --

AR: So -- other than the trash can incident, is there any --

TJ: That's all that's happened --

AR: Have you --

TJ: -- to me. Now, I have sat down with his grandfather when he was still here, which was probably six months ago.

BJ: Six months. Yeah.

TJ: Uh, his grandfather waved me over, who -- his grandfather's very nice. And, uh, said, "Oh, sit down." He's Italian, and he's like, "Sit down. Have some wine," blah, blah, blah. And, uh, Steven pulled up, saw me, and backed out of the driveway, and never came back. I said, "What -- what's up with that?" And he goes, "Oh. He won't come near if somebody's here." Um, so, then his grandfather had his arm in, like, a --

BJ: A cast.

TJ: -- black --

BJ: Like a --

TJ: -- cast, like, a --

BJ: -- brace, a brace.

TJ: Like a brace.

BJ: Yeah.

TJ: And, uh, evidently, he mentioned that Steven had pushed him and did that. Uh, and then one day when I left, his tire was flat. So, I called his daughter because I know Paula. We actually bought her car. And --

BJ: Steven's mom, Paula.

TJ: Steven's mom, Paula. I called her and said, "Hey. Your dad's got a rear flat tire." And she goes, "Oh, okay. I'll call him and let him know." And, uh, so, then I talked to Al though when we were sittin' down there. I said, "Oh." I -- I

said, "What happened to your tire?" He goes, "Oh, Steven sliced it. Uh, he's crazy," blah, blah, blah. And but they won't ever call the police on him because it's their --

AR: Is Steven known to carry weapons?

TJ: I don't -- I don't know that --

BJ: We don't know.

TJ: -- he does.

BJ: Which has been very unnerving for us --

TJ: But that's --

BJ: -- because we don't know.

TJ: That's -- that's why the whole neighborhood's -- like, that's why Gary was, like, uh, "I'm afraid he -- uh, does he have guns? Does his grandfather have guns?" I said --

BJ: We don't know. Yeah.

TJ: -- "We're not sure."

BJ: We don't know.

TJ: But that's -- that's why the whole neighborhood's been --

BJ: On alert.

TJ: -- on alert.

AR: Okay. Um, so, were you aware of -- that -- do you speak to David much?

TJ: Just --

BJ: I mean, we --

TJ: Just if --

BJ: -- probably see him a few times a week, just --

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: -- walking dogs or --

AR: Uh --

TJ: Yeah.

AR: If --

BJ: -- we stop at --

TJ: I wave at him almost daily.

AR: Has he expressed any altercations he may have had with Steven?

TJ: Yes. Uh, I don't know if I -- honestly, I don't know if I heard it from him, to
be quite honest with you.

AR: Okay.

TJ: But it might have been from Brad across the street. But I heard he had had
an altercation months, six months ago.

BJ: Yeah. Quite a few months ago.

TJ: Uh, where, uh, Steven had spit at him. And that's --

BJ: Threatened his --

TJ: -- all I heard.

BJ: Yeah.

TJ: But he -- he actually never told me about it personally. I think I heard it from
a neighbor.

AR: Okay.

BJ: Yeah.

AR: Um, so, that wasn't overtly recently? That was probably --

TJ: I --

AR: -- a while ago?

TJ: I feel like that was --

BJ: I would say six months ago.

TJ: Six months.

BJ: Five or six months --

TJ: Uh-huh.

BJ: -- for sure. It's been -- yeah.

AR: Okay.

BJ: Uh-huh.

AR: Um, is it --

BJ: A few months.

AR: You said it's commonplace for David and his wife to walk the dogs in the neighborhood.

TJ: Yeah. Multiple times a day.

AR: Okay.

BJ: Yeah. The same area, same -- it's --

AR: Do they have, like, a typical path they travel that you know?

TJ: I see 'em come -- they always come down through here. I don't know if they

BJ: Right in the -- that area -- like, they --

TJ: They -- I think they may go left. And they -- they pretty much -- it doesn't take much --

BJ: Their dogs are --

TJ: -- to travel whenever --

BJ: -- small and sickly.

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: So, they don't go far. They carry them, and then they put 'em down and --

TJ: Yeah. I think one --

BJ: -- you know, they're not --

TJ: -- one has diabetes and --

AR: Okay. Uh, so, we'll go on to today. Did you hear anything, uh, today?

TJ: No. I didn't hear anything. Uh, my wife woke me up and, uh, said that Gary had called her. And I guess he was walking his dog and saw Steven --

BJ: Right.

TJ: -- laying on the corner.

BJ: Yeah. He --

TJ: And --

BJ: Whenever he --

TJ: -- she woke me up and said, "Steven's dead in the street. You gotta get up."

So, then we came out. And by that time, the police were already there. So --

BJ: And he was already in the ambulance. So --

AR: Okay. So, you didn't hear anything?

TJ: Uh-uh.

AR: Um --

TJ: And you -- and she was outside. And you --

BJ: I mean, I was out --

TJ: Ten --

BJ: -- three minutes --

TJ: -- minutes earlier.

BJ: No. It was not even that. It --

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: -- was, like --

TJ: But she didn't --

BJ: -- three minutes.

TJ: -- hear nothin'. Yeah.

BJ: But I didn't hear -- no, I didn't.

TJ: But we -- we do get a lot of traffic noise off --

AR: From, uh --

TJ: -- 41.

AR: -- 41?

BJ: Yeah.

TJ: So --

BJ: It's hard to tell if it's a backfire.

AR: Backfire or --

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: Yeah. I --

TJ: Or somebody draggin', like, a --

AR: So, uh --

BJ: I've --

TJ: -- sander down the street.

AR: -- have cops been to Steven's house?

TJ: Several times.

BJ: Numerous --

TJ: They were here for the driveway incident --

BJ: They -- there were here --

TJ: -- a week ago.

BJ: -- two or three times last week.

TJ: Yeah.

AR: Do you know who normally calls the cops?

BJ: With this driveway situation, it's been Gary.

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: Because he's the president, and he's just been having to deal with it.

TJ: I think, uh, the lady next door -- what's her name?

BJ: Yes. Um, Colleen. That's --

TJ: Colleen has --

BJ: -- the neighbor right -- she's --

TJ: -- called.

BJ: And she's got some camera -- she's had to get cameras. He's done some things --

AR: Yeah.

BJ: -- you know, kinda --

TJ: Well --

AR: Apparently, she's not home right now. I tried to go talk to her.

TJ: Oh, yeah.

BJ: Oh --

TJ: She had to leave.

BJ: -- she's leaving. Yeah. She's --

TJ: But she --

BJ: She --

TJ: -- put up cameras because --

BJ: You need to --

TJ: -- of him.

BJ: And she's --

AR: I left my card at her door. So --

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: She'll call you.

TJ: She'll call you. She's a real estate agent. She probably had to be
somewhere.

BJ: She's been very --

TJ: But -- but --

BJ: -- concerned.

TJ: -- somebody was leaving really strange notes on her door, and she --

BJ: She'll -- she'll inform you about that.

TJ: -- she -- if you talk to her, she thinks it was him.

AR: Do you know anybody by the name of Jordan Gallick --

TJ: Uh-uh.

AR: -- or Garlock?

TJ: Uh-uh.

AR: Okay. Okay. Um, have you ever seen Steven -- you said you've never seen
Steven with a knife in his hand?

TJ: Nope.

AR: Just the -- the sliced tire incident is the only thing you know --

TJ: That's it.

AR: -- about if he --

TJ: And I hear -- he's in there in the -- he's in the garage all the time. I just
assume it's him because there's nobody else there. Uh, and he has, uh,
weights set up, and he just slams 'em for hour -- I mean, just --

BJ: All night last night. The --

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: He -- well, he --

TJ: Evidently, he --

BJ: -- was up --

TJ: -- was doin' it --

BJ: He was up all night --

TJ: -- all --

AR: All -- all night last night?

TJ: Yeah.

AR: Okay.

BJ: Sherry, who lives in --

TJ: Across the street.

BJ: -- front of him --

TJ: Said she was so pissed off 'cause she didn't sleep all night because he was
-- he just -- I don't -- it -- it's like he just picks 'em up and throws 'em down
for hours. It's like --

BJ: You can hear -- it comes the whole way. It shakes --

TJ: It --

BJ: -- the house.

TJ: You can hear it down here.

BJ: It's -- it's -- yeah.

AR: Okay. So, he was out doin' that last night. What --

TJ: And then, uh, he --

AR: What time are we talkin', do you think?

BJ: Sherry --

TJ: Sherry said --

BJ: If you'll ask --

TJ: -- it was till 5 in the mornin'.

BJ: Sherry can tell you. Her dog was not settling because --

TJ: And -- and there's an Asian lady who was out here this morning I talked to
who lives back here in these -- older. And she said --

BJ: She wouldn't --

TJ: -- she saw him walkin', pacin' up and down -- uh -- uh, Steven pacin' up and down this street --

BJ: Early this morning.

TJ: -- early, like, before the incident --

AR: Okay.

TJ: -- for a while. So, he must've been out there early doin' --

BJ: Apparent --

TJ: -- laps.

BJ: Yeah. It sounded like they had a confrontation in the street last night. Sherry, who lives directly in front of Steven. Um, they were talking in a group, and he kinda walked through their circle.

TJ: Yeah. He -- he, like, walked through their circle, like, rushed through their circle.

BJ: But didn't -- I don't think anything was said or --

TJ: Uh-uh.

BJ: -- anything, but he was strangely walking about last night. And then she -- Sherry was up throughout the night because her dog wouldn't settle because of the pounding of the -- so, it sounds like --

TJ: It sounds like --

BJ: -- he was up --

TJ: -- the last 12 to 15 hours for him he's been --

BJ: Pretty -- mad.

TJ: -- pacing --

BJ: He's --

TJ: -- the neighborhood --

BJ: Yeah.

TJ: -- and --

AR: Does he, uh -- do you think he is possibly involved in narcotics, uh, what --

TJ: I -- I --

AR: -- doin' narcotics or anything?

BJ: We can't say for sure.

TJ: I can't say for sure, but I know when the parking incident happened, when the police were here, his mother went in the house, and she said there were spoons and powdery substance layin' over the kitchen. But the police never went in.

AR: Yeah. We're not allowed to do --

TJ: Yeah. I -- I figured you probably weren't.

AR: We're not --

BJ: Yeah.

AR: -- allowed to --

TJ: Uh --

AR: -- do welfare checks --

BJ: But, I mean --

AR: -- on all --

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: -- was he taking steroids? We don't know.

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: We can't say yes, he was.

TJ: But only from what --

BJ: We just can't say that.

TJ: -- uh --

AR: Was Steven kind of a well-built gentleman? Or --

TJ: He's thin. Um --

BJ: Tall. He's --

TJ: -- 6 foot.

BJ: -- tall and skinny.

TJ: Very pale. Never has any hair.

BJ: And never --

TJ: And -- yeah. And does not socialize at all unless he's aggressive.

AR: Okay.

BJ: Yeah. Uh, yes. When he is aggressive, he will say, spit --

TJ: It's almost --

BJ: (Unintelligible).

TJ: -- like -- it's almost like he's two different people.

BJ: Uh-huh. Well --

AR: So, is -- he's not discriminating. He'll do it to anybody?

TJ: Yes.

AR: He --

BJ: Women. Uh, Colleen, she's been spit at. Um --

TJ: Yeah.

BJ: -- his -- the -- the lady that you left your card. Yeah, she's -- she's really had to --

TJ: But he --

BJ: Their doors face.

TJ: But he did --

BJ: So, she's --

TJ: But he did run from me, which I was surprised.

BJ: Yeah.

TJ: Because I think he likes a confrontation. But maybe he likes it with people he thinks he can --

BJ: Bully.

TJ: Yeah.

AR: Okay. Um, is there anything else that we haven't discussed that you think I need to know about Steven, Dave, or the situation between the both of 'em?

TJ: No. I mean, like I said, I heard about the one situation that they had where he spit at him, I believe. But I heard that from a second party.

BJ: Yeah.

TJ: Um, but Dave's never been nothin' but a great neighbor to us.

BJ: Yes.

TJ: And a nice guy and --

BJ: Him and his wife both are wonderful people. Solid.

TJ: Yeah.

AR: Okay. Uh, time is 1145 hours. That will conclude this interview.

(Conclusion of Interview)

Transcribed by: skb/skb/ss