

SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

LO: Detective Luis Ojeda #1795

CASE #: 22-80828

NK: Detective Nathan King #2399 NK

DATE: 9/24/2022

AU: Amber (Victim's Assistant)

TIME: 1149 Hours

DG: David Gregory

SF: Sergeant Friday

JS: Deputy Jackson Stroud #3087

LO: (unintelligible) just not very confident, but it's gonna -- but it's gonna capture our interview. You know what I mean?

DG: Yeah.

LO: And we can just -- thank you, sir. I really appreciate it. If you need anything at all, these guys are gonna be here. Okay. [Leaves room].

DG: Thank you. Oh. Goddamn. I'm freezing my fucking ass off. Oh, fuck me. Well. Oh, boy. (unintelligible). Okay.

NK: Are you David?

DG: Yes.

NK: [Go to 00:44:50] Hey. Detective King. Sorry to have to meet you on these circumstances.

DG: (unintelligible) with you.

NK: Are you -- are you good?

DG: Yeah.

NK: You feelin' all right? The best as you can.

DG: Yeah, I guess.

NK: Yeah. Well --

LO: I'm Detective Ojeda, like we met earlier.

DG: Right.

LO: And this is our victim's assistance, um --

AU: Amber.

LO: -- Amber. So, you know, we just want to get some of the details of what happened. Okay. Um, we just want to get the full picture. Um, we want to get a little bit of history on what's going on. Okay.

DG: It's a long history with this kid, man.

LO: Okay.

DG: (unintelligible) the whole neighborhood.

LO: No, I -- I -- I -- I get that.

DG: I didn't want --

LO: Would you be willing to give us consent to go onto your property so we can process the firearm that was used today?

DG: You know the .380 was on that table.

LO: Right. Right.

DG: (unintelligible).

NK: Yeah. We (unintelligible) it to the table. The table --

LO: We just --

NK: -- the table --

LO: -- we just have to go onto --

DG: (unintelligible).

LO: -- uh, it's considered the curtilage of the property.

DG: Whatever it takes, yeah.

LO: Okay.

NK: All right. We got your consent to do that?

DG: Sure.

NK: Okay.

DG: If that's what you need to do, go ahead.

NK: Yes, sir.

LO: Yeah.

NK: Yeah.

LO: Yeah. That helps the investigation a ton. Um, we're -- we're gonna go talk  
to your wife for a second, and then we'll be back in here. Okay?

DG: All right. You good, David? I know -- I see you got some water. You need  
anything else?

NK: Bathroom break or anything or?

LO: You just had one. Right?

DG: Yeah.

NK: Okay.

LO: Okay.

DG: I don't know (unintelligible).

NK: We're -- like I said, we're gonna go talk to your wife. Okay. We're gonna get -- get that side. Then, we'll come over, and we will have a --

DG: Okay.

NK: -- talk with you.

DG: Okay.

LO: Little chat. Okay.

NK: Okay. We'll try to get to you as fast as we can. All right. [Leaves room].

DG: Great. I'm sorry, baby. (unintelligible) fuck with the (unintelligible). Sorry baby. I can't believe I'm going to (unintelligible). (Unintelligible). Oh, my goodness.

SF: David.

DG: Yeah.

SF: Hey, how you doin'? I'm Sergeant Friday with the Sheriff's Office. Uh, the deputies that took you here told me that you are -- you have some neck and back issues.

DG: Yeah.

SF: Would you like a different chair?

DG: It won't matter.

SF: It won't matter at all. I mean, I can get you one that's got cushion and reclines.

DG: No. It's just -- it is what it is.

SF: Discs?

DG: Disc. Yeah. I've got 2 through 6 is gone. I've had a discectomy, and then fused my neck.

SF: Oh, my gosh. I was -- I was L5-S1 --

DG: Yeah.

SF: -- a long time ago with a discectomy.

DG: My arms are like four inches around, yeah. It's terrible.

SF: Oh, my gosh. Yeah, it's -- that is excruciating pain. All right. Well, we'll -- we'll have this. Again, I -- I mean, I don't know --

DG: Okay.

SF: -- if it's gonna be --

DG: I appreciate it.

SF: Yeah.

DG: I do.

SF: Just use this if -- I mean, it's up to you.

DG: Right.

SF: Um --

DG: It's just (unintelligible) I guess.

SF: Yeah. I got ya. I got ya. Well, I think I'm considerably younger than you,  
so --

DG: Yeah. I'm 61.

SF: Okay. Well, mine -- mine happened when I was --

DG: Goddammit. [Grabs shoulder]. Ouch.

SF: You -- you okay.

DG: Yeah. I'm just having (unintelligible) man. It's -- the -- the --

SF: The shooting pain.

DG: Yeah.

SF: Yeah.

DG: I'm sorry guys.

SF: It's okay. You're good. You're good.

DG: (unintelligible).

SF: Is it -- is it anything you need an ambulance for?

DG: I don't believe so. I just --

SF: You don't think --

DG: -- I live like this, dude.

SF: Okay. Again, I --

DG: I really do.

SF: -- well, 'cause I'm only concerned 'cause you're grabbing your left arm.

DG: Well, everybody -- I'm numb all the way down, but it's --

SF: Um.

DG: -- because of my --

SF: Not heart though.

DG: -- (unintelligible) pinching the nerve. It's --

SF: Yeah. Yeah.

DG: (unintelligible).

SF: It's not a heart issue.

DG: (unintelligible).

SF: Okay. All right.

US: You want me to roll one just in case?

SF: Huh?

US: Want me to roll one just in case?

SF: Um --

DG: This has been going on for a year and a half.

SF: All right. Is it -- is it (unintelligible).

DG: I mean, these three fingers are completely fired.

SF: Yeah.

DG: And these two are numb.

SF: All right.

DG: It's just --

SF: You're positive --

DG: I'm positive I'm not having a heart attack.

SF: Okay. All right. I think we're good for now. Let's just keep an eye on it.

DG: Yeah. Let's just do that. Yeah.

SF: Um, just because I didn't xx00:49:49(unintelligible). I -- I know what he -- I don't know exactly what he's going through, but I had the same issue with mine. [Leaves room].

DG: Oh. (unintelligible).

SF: (unintelligible).

DG: Why did this happen to me? Jesus. (Unintelligible) at all. (Unintelligible) got to happen. God sakes. God, he's obviously (unintelligible). Fuck. I'm gonna die aren't I? I hope that kid is okay. God dammit I just wanted my neck fixed and to be working. Fuck. It's driving me crazy being in this fucking place. Can't wait. I can't believe it.

I love you Amy, I'm so sorry. Goddammit. This is gonna suck for the rest of my life, isn't it. Oh, I'm hurtin' Oh, that chair don't work that good. Mm, Mm, boy I gotta pee. This is crazy. I'm sorry, guys. Can I go to the bathroom, again? I'm so sorry. I guess I gotta quit drinking that fucking water. Is that the return or the air. Goddamn. Fuck, fuck, fuck. Gimme a cup.

They're gonna lock me up for life 'cause this kid was picking on me, goddammit. I'm exhausted. Guys, can I please go to the bathroom, guys, please? I'm so tired.

JS: [Opens door].

DG: I'm sorry, guys.

JS: Oh, you're good, man. No worries.

DG: [Leaves room].

JS: [01:12:49 Returns to room]. It shouldn't be too much longer.

DG: Okay. Thank you.

JS: Yeah.

DG: Yeah. Oh, fuck. Fuckin' freezing. Oh. I can't fucking believe this.

Goddammit. This sucks. This sucks. (unintelligible) this sucks.

Goddammit. God fucking damn. Oh. I can't believe this. All righty. Oh, fuck. Oh, God. Oh, fuck.

Goddammit. No good. Holy fucking God. I can't fucking believe this. I

miss my puppies... Alrighty, I guess I better. Goddammit. This sucks; this sucks. (Unintelligible) sucks. Goddammit. God, fucking damn. God damn it. Oh.

NK: 01:33:32 All right, Dave.

DG: Yeah.

NK: Do you need a more comfortable seat? You want this one or?

DG: No. That one was no good for me, sir.

NK: It didn't work either.

LO: Let's take it.

NK: Okay.

LO: I got it.

NK: So, all right. We're gonna try to get this.

DG: I need to pee before we get going again here, do you mind?

NK: You wanna go. Yeah. No problem. (unintelligible).

DG: It must be nerves. (unintelligible).

01:34:00 leaves room; 01:35:09 returns

DG: Fuck.

NK: You cold, Dave?

DG: I am freezing my ass off.

NK: We're gonna try to get you -- get you going here.

DG: (unintelligible).

NK: So, let's, uh, just go ahead and state your full name for me.

DG: David Ross Gregory.

NK: Ross, is it?

DG: Yeah.

NK: And your birthdate?

DG: [REDACTED]

NK: And your phone number?

DG: [REDACTED]

NK: I'm sorry. [REDACTED]

DG: Yeah. [REDACTED]

NK: Okay. And your address?

DG: It's [REDACTED]

NK: Okay. Um, just like we -- we explained to your, uh, your wife, um, due to the incident and -- and what occurred today, and you know, you being here

at the Sheriff's Office, uh, we're gonna read you your Miranda Rights. You ever had those read to you before?

DG: Yeah, when I was younger.

NK: Okay. You -- as a kid.

DG: Yeah.

NK: Okay. I'm gonna read 'em to you, and if you don't understand, um, each line that I read to you, just say you don't understand, and I'll explain it to you further. Okay.

LO: It's procedural, sir, simply because you're here.

NK: Yes.

LO: Okay.

NK: All right. Today's date is, uh, September 24<sup>th</sup>, uh, 2022, at approximately -- it looks like 1149 hours. I'm Detective Nate King, ID 2399. Also present with me is Detective Ojeda, 1795. And this is related to case number 22-80828. Um, we are currently here at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations. Um, and we're here with, uh, David Gregory. All right, David. You have the right to remain silent. You understand that?

DG: [Nods head up and down].

NK: Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. Do you understand that?

DG: [Nods head up and down].

NK: You have the right -- is that a yes or?

DG: Uh-huh.

NK: Okay. If you could say yes or no --

DG: Okay. I'm sorry.

NK: -- so we can -- so we can hear you.

DG: I'm sorry.

NK: Uh, you have the right to talk to an attorney, have him or her present with you before and during questioning. You understand that?

DG: Uh-huh.

NK: If you cannot, uh, if you cannot afford to hire an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you at no cost to you, before and during questioning, if you wish. You understand that?

DG: Yes.

NK: Okay.

DG: I'm sorry.

NK: You can decide at any time to exercise these rights, not answer any -- not answer any statements -- or any questions or make any statements. You understand that?

DG: Yes.

NK: Okay. Do you understand each of these rights that I've explained to you?

DG: Yes, I do.

NK: Having those rights in mind, do you wish to speak to us now?

DG: I don't know what to do. I mean, uh, yeah, I will at the moment. Sure, I will.

NK: Okay.

LO: Okay.

NK: Um, okay. I -- I know -- I know that you have history with this -- this -- this man --

DG: Yes, sir.

NK: -- okay, um, that you were dealing with today. Um, what I want to first talk to you about is what happened today. And then, we're gonna go back, and we're gonna talk about the past that you might've had, the other -- other incidents that you might've had with him. Okay. So, today, can you just go ahead and tell in your own words.

DG: Uh-huh.

NK: What -- what time was it?

DG: Uh-huh. We were --

NK: And what happened?

DG: -- walking the dogs. Uh, what time? I have no idea. It was early. Um, we were walking the dogs early morning poop. Um, and we were down on the second dock, and we saw him come out. He came out to the street, walking. And so, we just kept on going the direction we were going because you know, with the last prior two times with him, we didn't want a run-in. And, um, he went down that street, and came back up, walked down the street, walked down back past us, which was out of his way. And, I was with the chihuahua, and Amy was with the terrier. And he walked by, and he spit at me twice. And I didn't say a word. I just let him go. And then, uh, he walked past, and he yelled something. I don't know what he yelled,

but that got my chihuahua to move toward him. And when I went, I grabbed the chihuahua. It was freaking out 'cause I was in trouble. And by that time, he had come up to me and had me by the shirt. He grabbed me by the shirt, and hit me in the chest. And I pushed him away. And that's when I got the pistol and shot him. (unintelligible). That was it.

NK: Okay.

DG: He came back out of his way. He spit at me twice. Walked past, said something. I have no idea what it was. And then, things escalated from there. And here we are.

NK: Okay. You guys step out of your home. Um, you cut -- you cut through, and you get onto Highlands. Okay. And you said the second block. What direction would -- once you step onto Highlands --

DG: We went left. We had already made our right. We -- my dog, the terrier, is sick, so she won't walk far. So, we carry her to a certain point, and we sit her down every day, five times a day. She's diabetic. She sleeps. She poops. You know. And we walked down the street, make a left up our little alley there, and into our house. And that's -- we do that five times a day. We --

NK: Okay. Before -- did you -- at what point do you first see him today?

DG: Um, when he was, uh, well, coming around the corner walking down stairs. There's a guy walking his dogs, and you can tell he -- he wanted some business with him 'cause it was one of his neighbors. And then, we just started walking, doing our normal walk.

NK: Okay. So, we're gonna go back -- we're gonna -- further back from that.

When -- when you said -- okay, so you're walking -- you guys are walking  
your dog, and you see another neighbor --

DG: Yes. It was --

NK: -- walking a dog.

DG: -- some guy with dogs (unintelligible).

NK: Okay. But you don't know him at all.

DG: I wasn't paying attention.

NK: But you see him. Then, you see -- do you know -- okay. The man that you  
were dealing with today, what -- do you know his name?

DG: I have no idea.

NK: You don't know who -- who he is.

DG: No. I know --

NK: Okay. But you --

DG: -- where he lives --

NK: -- you've dealt with him multiple times.

DG: I've had two -- two -- I've called you guys twice on him.

NK: Okay. Describe him for me. Describe what he was wearing today.

DG: Today, he was wearing a hoodie with a baseball hat, um, dark hoodie, gym  
shorts and tennis shoes, as far as I remember.

NK: What color was the hat?

DG: I wanna say black.

NK: Okay. And you called it a hoodie. You said a dark thing.

DG: Yes.

NK: Okay. Um, describe his, uh, physical size.

DG: 6' 2", 215, lifts weights, big boy.

NK: So, he's muscular you would say?

DG: Oh, yeah.

NK: Okay. Any -- any -- any identifying marks, maybe glasses, tattoos?

DG: Yeah. He had glasses.

NK: He --

DG: He was wearing glasses.

NK: What kind of glasses?

DG: Wire-framed glasses. All I know. clear.

NK: Oh, like prescription glasses?

DG: Yeah. Yeah.

NK: Okay. Okay. So, you see this other man walking his dog. Um, and then, is  
that when you seen this man -- this man?

DG: [Nods head up and down].

NK: Okay. His name is Steven --

DG: Okay.

NK: -- if you didn't know. Okay. Let's describe him as Steven.

DG: Okay.

NK: Okay. Um, where -- when -- when you see Steven, where -- where is he at when you first see him, and -- and this man with the -- with the other dog?

DG: They're walking down the side street, and I'm like -- like, we come out here between our place.

NK: Yeah.

DG: We make a right, go down (unintelligible) there's a street that goes straight down.

NK: Yeah. Westview.

DG: Right. Okay. Westview. He was walking down that street.

NK: Okay. You seen Steven going towards --

DG: Yes.

NK: -- the man --

DG: Yeah.

NK: -- that was walking? Okay.

DG: And the guy made the corner, then Steven came back up, and went down the street 'cause the next time I saw him, he was coming down the street from that way --

NK: Yeah.

DG: -- which is fine, you know, just -- I was hoping he was --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- out just going for a walk.

NK: So, as you -- now, he's getting close to you guys, what is -- what happens then?

DG: He gets close to us. He walks past us to the end of the street, at the corner. We don't say a word. We're minding our dogs in these people's yard. He walks past, spits. I stop and look. He goes [sound effect], spits at me again.

NK: What direction?

DG: At me.

NK: Does it hit you?

DG: No.

NK: Okay. Where does it land?

DG: Right beside me, on both sides.

NK: He spits twice.

DG: Twice. Uh-huh. Two loogies. I just --

NK: Are you walking at that point or were you --

DG: I'm standing in the driveway with my chihuahua in the grass, and I'm just looking.

NK: Yeah.

DG: And I went like this, and he went [sound effect]. I was like -- I looked back over this way to make sure he wasn't gonna come up and hit me in the back of the neck or something. And he spit again. I was just like, whatever -- whatever. And, uh --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- then, he walked down like a driveway. And then, he started, whatever he said. And then, my chihuahua --

NK: You don't know what he said?

DG: I have no idea --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- but it was directed at me 'cause he turned around --

NK: So, when he walked away, he gets to one driveway away.

DG: He turns around.

NK: And then, turns around and comes back.

DG: And starts saying something to me. That's when the chihuahua started moving. So, I went up like three or four steps to grab the chihuahua, and he came to me. Yeah. He --

NK: How --

DG: -- started moving.

NK: -- how close does he get to you on the first approach?

DG: He's grabbing me. He grabs my shirt, punches me in the chest.

NK: He doesn't get in your face, and then, grab you, or does he grab you first?

DG: It -- it was simultaneous.

NK: Okay.

DG: Uh, he came up. And I was like, "Dude, get away from me." And he grabbed me, pop, and that's when I went back and boom (unintelligible).

NK: So, he grabs you by the shirt.

DG: Yeah.

NK: Okay.

DG: Yeah.

NK: Okay. With one hand, two hands?

DG: One hand.

NK: Okay. And then, he punches you?

DG: He hits me -- just, not really, but he hits me. Yeah. He hits me with his right hand in the chest.

NK: Okay.

DG: He's got ahold of like, here. He hits me.

NK: So, he got ahold of you with one hand.

DG: I push him back. Yeah.

NK: And then, he punches you with the second, in the chest.

DG: [Nods head up and down].

NK: How hard was it?

DG: No idea. I notice that he punched me. Um, does it hurt now? No. My shoulder is killing me. Does that have something to do with it? I don't know, but, uh --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- but, uh --

NK: So, he punches you, and then, what?

DG: And then, I shot him.

NK: Okay. At what point do you pull out your pistol?

DG: After he hits me. When he hits me, I'm coming back. I'm like, "Stop." And he's still real aggressive, so I was just like --

NK: Okay.

DG: And I -- I just wanted to go home.

NK: How many times did you fire?

DG: One time.

NK: Okay. Um, and when he punches you, and you pull your pistol out, are you -- is he moving forward towards you --

DG: Yeah.

NK: -- or is he backing up or?

DG: He's -- he's -- he's coming at me the whole time.

NK: Okay. And did you back up at all?

DG: Yeah. I pushed him, and I --

NK: You pushed him away --

DG: -- was scared to --

NK: -- to (unintelligible).

DG: -- fucking death.

NK: Okay. You were scared. What -- what was --

DG: We're 61 --

NK: -- scaring you?

DG: -- years old and crippled, dude. Uh, a 10-year-old can whip my ass.

NK: Yeah.

DG: This guy is big and strong.

NK: Okay.

DG: And he's had problems with many -- he pulled a knife on his grandfather. I  
didn't want any problems --

NK: (unintelligible).

DG: -- I just wanted to walk my dog.

NK: That's -- that's completely understandable, David. Um, okay. So, once you  
-- once you fire, what -- what does he do? What does Steven do?

DG: He goes, "Oh, man." And grabs his arm. And I take off running with my  
dog.

NK: Okay. You guys just get out of there?

DG: Yeah.

NK: Did you ever see him, where he went or?

DG: No. I didn't even look back. I just told my wife, I said, "Call the police. Call  
an ambulance."

NK: Okay. Did you -- did you and your wife leave the road together back to the  
home, or did you go back to the home, and then, she followed?

DG: Uh, I don't know.

NK: Okay.

DG: I have no idea.

NK: You don't remember being with her as you walked back to the home?

DG: No. She was --

NK: What did you do when --

DG: -- ahead of me.

NK: -- when you got back to home, what'd you -- what do you do?

DG: Stand in the yard, wait for the police.

NK: What'd you do with your pistol?

DG: Sitting on the table right beside me after I took the clip out, emptied the  
chamber, and that's it.

NK: Okay.

DG: And I just waited.

NK: Yeah. Um, did you see any -- any neighbors around --

DG: Uh-uh.

NK: -- when this happened?

DG: No.

NK: Okay.

DG: Uh-uh.

NK: Um, did you ever talk to anybody?

DG: The whole neighborhood has talked about this guy, you know. I --

NK: No. I mean, did -- after the --

DG: I didn't talk to anybody today, no.

NK: No. Did you --

DG: No.

NK: -- give any instructions to any neighbor or anything?

DG: No. I talked to my wife. That was it.

NK: Okay. Um, did you tell a neighbor to call 911?

DG: I didn't tell anybody anything --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- except for my wife. No.

NK: Okay. We were just -- I -- I'm -- I'm just clarifying because I got a word that  
you had said to a neighbor to call 911. That's --

DG: No. I screamed that at my wife.

NK: Oh, to call 911.

DG: I -- I never saw a neighbor.

NK: Okay. Um --

DG: Yeah.

NK: -- and you said it was your idea to call 911 to your wife?

DG: I guess I told her, yeah. I was freaking out, man. I don't know, but I -- I did.  
I was like, yeah, call --

NK: And -- and just describe the pistol for me.

DG: A small .380.

NK: A .380, okay. What's it -- what color is it?

DG: Uh, green and black.

NK: What make?

DG: Uh, Diamond Back (unintelligible).

NK: And you own that pistol?

DG: Yes, sir.

NK: Okay. Do you have, um, concealed carry permit?

DG: Well, we mailed it off. I don't -- we -- we put it in the mail, but I never--

NK: Okay.

DG: -- got it back.

NK: Uh-huh. Okay. Just, uh, describe to me his -- his -- the other incidents you had with him in the past. Like --

DG: The first time, he -- so, he comes out of his driveway. It's 10:30 at night.

NK: How long ago was that?

DG: Um, six, eight months, a year ago. Um, he, uh, he got his flashlight on like he's, you know, YouTube or TikTok-ing or some of that shit. I don't do that stuff, so I was just like, uh, and I kinda laughed, and I told my wife. I said, "Just keep moving. He must be filming TikTok or something." And then, he turned his phone off. And he came back, and he got in front of me. He started swinging. "You wanna fucking do something about it, buddy? You wanna fucking do something about it?" And I said, "No. I sure don't, dude." And I said, "Come on, baby. Let's go." And we went home, and home quickly. And then the next time we saw him, he came up. He did spit on me. Um, I was --

NK: Another encounter?

DG: Yes. This is the second --

NK: Second time.

DG: -- encounter.

NK: Okay.

DG: That's when I, uh, and he came out. He --

NK: He spit?

DG: -- he walked past, turned around. He's all pissed off about something, God knows what, and spit on me. I told Amy "Get the dogs. Let's go home. Let's go home." And, uh, I told him, I said, "You know, we don't want no trouble, dude."

NK: Did he --

DG: Just go home.

NK: -- spit on you or --

DG: He spit on me.

NK: -- spit in your direction?

DG: Yeah. He spit on me.

NK: Where did it go -- land on you?

DG: I think on my leg or my pants right here.

NK: Okay.

DG: And then, uh, we called the police on that one. They said there's nothing they could do. I said, "Okay." I just --

NK: Did they --

DG: -- (unintelligible).

NK: -- come out?

DG: Yeah.

NK: Did the deputies come out?

DG: They came to the house.

NK: Okay.

DG: And they been out to his house. I -- I can honestly say 10 to 15 times in the last --

NK: Was that first encounter called? Did you guys call --

DG: Yes.

NK: -- on that first encounter --

DG: Yeah.

NK: -- when he was swinging at you?

DG: Yeah. She called -- we called every time.

NK: Okay. How long ago was the second encounter?

DG: Well, just a couple of months after that, I guess. I don't -- they've all been just a couple months apart.

NK: Okay.

DG: I didn't believe we'd ever have problems, just be a pain in the ass.

NK: What happened with the third -- the third time?

DG: That was today.

NK: Okay. So, you had about three?

DG: Well, we did have three.

NK: Okay. What were you feeling today when he, uh --

DG: Scared, um, scared, worried.

NK: What were you scared of?

DG: Being hurt, being crippled. I mean, I can't carry a gallon of milk, man. If somebody hits me, I'm done, dude. I'm scared of people.

NK: Yeah.

DG: I'm -- I'm scared. I don't know. I -- I've got this disc and my injuries (unintelligible). I've talked to the surgeons, and I've talked to my son. And it's bad. I got nowhere to go but down with this thing. I can't afford the operation.

LO: Yeah. What operation do you need?

DG: Oh, they've gotta go in and put all six discs back in. And they gotta fuse 5 through 3.

LO: Where's that? In your back or --

DG: In my neck.

LO: In your neck.

DG: Yeah. It controls this and your legs. I didn't know all this 'til I got hurt. So, I'm -- I'm -- I don't even drive a car very often. I'm scared of getting in a car wreck. If my neck snaps, I'm -- I'm done.

NK: Yeah.

DG: I'm done.

NK: So, after that first encounter --

DG: -- (unintelligible).

NK: -- when did -- you started carrying -- were you carrying --

DG: Uh --

NK: -- on that first encounter or you always carry or?

DG: I always, uh, would carry for, uh, because we live across the street from  
Oscar Scherer.

NK: Okay.

DG: And there are, uh, coyotes and bobcats around there, just rampantly. And  
you're always chasing off coyotes.

NK: Oh, yeah.

DG: That's the only reason I had a gun. It wasn't for people for God sakes.

LO: Now, when you carried your gun, did you carry it ready to go with one in  
the chamber? I mean, how did you --

DG: Well, yeah. That's the way you carry a gun. You don't -- you don't carry a  
gun to load it. I mean, you know that.

LO: Sure. And, uh, when you ended up, today -- with this encounter today, and  
you ended up shooting Steven, how many times did you shoot? Do you --

DG: Just the one.

LO: -- do you recall?

DG: Yeah. He wouldn't -- he wouldn't let up. I'm just like, "Dude." I mean,  
we're just walking dogs, just walking dogs.

LO: Have you heard of Steven having any encounters with anyone else?

DG: With everybody in the neighborhood. You've got records thicker than that pad.

NK: Do you have any --

DG: If somebody would've done their goddamn job, I wouldn't be talking today.

NK: -- do you have any -- do you have any, um, names of any people that you know that had -- had --

DG: I don't know any name I don't know my neighbors that closely. I don't know their names. Um, I can tell you who they are, what they look like, but everybody's had encounters with the guy. You guys are always out there. I mean, I'm --

LO: Well, sometimes people will have --

DG: -- telling you --

LO: -- encounters, but they won't call.

NK: Yeah.

DG: No. I seen --

LO: You know what I mean?

DG: -- the -- the Sarasota Police cars are out there. And you know, it's just -- whew, you have to give me a second or two.

NK: Sure.

DG: Yeah. The fucking guy, he was standing out there last week yelling at a couple of gay guys live there. And then, one guy walked by said, Oh, he was just standing out in the street going, "You fat fucking bastard. I'm gonna kill you. You fat bastard." And I was like Whoa, just -- me and Amy

just kept walking. There's no reason but he does that. He did that, anyway.  
I don't know if he does it. He did that. I seen him do a lot of stupid shit. I  
mean, you guys are always out there.

LO: Who does he live with?

DG: I mean, he -- his -- his parents live in town, from what I was told by the  
neighbors, and they shipped him to the grandparents. And the  
grandparents are snowbirds, so for six months, he's unsupervised. And in  
those six months, it's pretty wild.

NK: Yeah. Yeah.

DG: And that's all I know.

LO: Okay. Can you do me a favor? Um, David, can you just stand up here for  
me? We need to take a picture of you real quick. Front, back and of your  
hands, which we got Forensics out there working. Can you step a little bit  
back further? Um, my camera on my phone is -- look up for me. Look up  
for me. Okay. And -- and turn around for me. I just don't want to forget to  
do this. Okay.

NK: Back of his hands.

LO: Yeah.

NK: Uh-huh.

LO: Let me see -- and your palms, sir, please. All right. Thank you. You can  
have a seat again.

NK: We're almost done. David, was there -- is there anything else that you think  
is important for us, um, as investigators --

DG: I wouldn't know, man.

NK: -- to know --

DG: I don't know. I'm just --

NK: -- about this kid or any incidents you had in which --

DG: He's just -- he's -- he's -- I hate it, man. You don't want to see anybody with problems like that. They been -- evidently, they couldn't get him help. I don't know, but it was time and time again, the police were out there. Time and time again, he's yelling at everybody. I didn't know he was gonna attack me.

LO: How long has he been living there, that you know of?

DG: Couple years.

NK: And you don't remember any kind of words that he used other than he was saying something to you guys today.

DG: I don't know what he said, but it -- he -- he turned around, and he --

NK: He made --

DG: Yeah. And I don't know what his -- I never know what he says 'cause I try not to pay attention. You know, even the time that he came out and spit on me, I was trying not to pay attention to the guy, you know. And when he was doing the TikTok stuff, (unintelligible).

NK: Did you -- did you have your dog in your hand, uh, when you fired the round or did -- was it -- was the dog placed --

DG: No.

NK: -- back on the ground?

DG: No. It was on --

NK: You said you --

DG: -- the --

NK: -- had picked him up at one point.

DG: Yeah. What had happened is, you know, the dog is on the ground, a little --  
a little chihuahua. He said something; chihuahua, thought it was an  
invitation to -- to come.

NK: Yeah.

DG: And I tried to get the cord and actually -- goddamn, it's so terrible 'cause I  
tried to get Chewy, and I couldn't. And I missed him, and the poor little  
fucker went sliding down the street. He's sideways, and he's screaming.  
He's a little toy chihuahua. And I stood up. I was like, "Dude, leave us the  
fuck alone." And that's when he -- when it happened, and -- and then, after  
I -- I -- I grabbed the dog.

NK: Grabbed it.

DG: And I took off. I don't know.

NK: Yeah. Yeah.

DG: So, now we just wait for the -- the rest of my life to be fucked up now, but  
that's what happened, gentlemen. I didn't want anything to happen. The  
guy is so mean. I didn't kill him, did I?

NK: Well, we're still -- we're still looking into it.

DG: Yeah.

NK: We haven't talked to his parents yet. Um --

DG: Oh, God.

NK: Yeah. I got nothing else.

DG: Son of a bitch.

NK: Well, you shouldn't be in fear, okay, of -- of going out, and you know,  
there's no reason you need to --

DG: Well, you shouldn't --

NK: -- have a guy like this to fear -- no, I'm saying you don't -- you don't deserve  
-- you and your wife do not need --

DG: -- I'm I'm crippled. If -- if -- if -- if -- if -- if I wasn't crippled, I wouldn't carry  
a piece of paper because before I got hurt, I was --

NK: No. I'm -- I'm saying you don't have to live like this. You don't have to live  
under fear.

DG: No. I got --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- to live in prison now.

NK: Well, we're not -- no.

LO: Why do you say that?

DG: 'Cause I shot a man. I shot a fucking kid, man. That's something, dudes. I  
got a soul. I didn't want to shoot that kid.

LO: Well, I understand that I --

DG: I didn't want to end up --

LO: -- then answer --

DG: -- in a wheelchair.

LO: -- this question. Why did ya?

DG: Because I didn't want to end up in a wheelchair because a wrong move on me, I'm done. I mean, it's bad. It's real bad. You know, I'm scared of the fucking kid. I'm scared of everybody. I'm scared of you guys. I'm scared of my son. I'm scared of my wife 'cause I can't defend myself anymore.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: That's over for me, and I'm just, you know, I've been dealing with this for a couple of years.

NK: Okay.

DG: I mean, I -- I don't want bad. I've got bad. I don't want bad on anybody.

NK: Okay.

DG: I just wanted to walk my dogs. That's all I wanted to do was walk my dogs. I'll never see my grandson. Jesus fucking Christ. My son is gonna hate me. I hate me for --

LO: Yeah, but I think --

DG: -- doing this.

LO: -- you're getting -- I think you're getting way ahead of the process.

DG: Oh, man. I watch TV --

LO: And --

DG: -- guys.

NK: Yeah, but that --

LO: Well --

NK: -- they -- they don't --

LO: -- that's -- that's --

NK: -- see, that's the problem.

LO: -- part of the problem.

DG: Oh.

LO: That's part of the problem.

DG: You know, and -- and -- and here's --

LO: David, you --

DG: -- another thing, I'm scared to death 'cause I'm hurt. You guys can't --

NK: David, do you think --

DG: -- you guys--

NK: -- you have the right to defend yourself?

DG: I -- I do. I think so, but if you guys --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- put me in jail.

NK: So --

DG: -- They're gonna hurt me in there.

LO: Does everyone --

DG: Look at me.

LO: -- does everyone -- does everyone have the right to defend themselves,

David --

DG: I would like to think we do.

LO: -- David?

DG: We should.

LO: I mean --

DG: We should.

LO: -- should you -- should you be afraid to walk your dogs, David?

DG: No, you shouldn't, but --

NK: Exactly.

DG: -- sometimes, you are.

NK: Yeah.

DG: It -- it's a sad fucking fact of life. I'm sorry, I don't mean to cus. I'm sorry,  
guys. I --

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: -- I'm so messed up right now.

LO: We get -- I mean, this isn't -- this isn't the first time we've been in here with  
somebody that's --

DG: I know.

LO: -- that's --

NK: That had to defend themselves.

LO: -- had to defend themselves, and did --

DG: Uh-huh.

LO: -- did something -- did something that they didn't want to do.

DG: I -- I --

LO: Did you want to hurt somebody --

DG: No.

LO: -- today, David?

DG: No. I wanted to poop my dogs and go home. That's what I wanted to do. I  
give my son a call to talk to him. He's not deployed so. You know, we got  
a lot of good time together to talk about.

LO: Okay. All right. Well, David, give us a few minutes, and we'll be right back  
with ya.

DG: All right.

LO: We're almost done with this. Okay.

DG: All right.

NK: All right. We're almost done.

DG: I'm sorry, guys.

LO: You good?

DG: Yeah.

LO: Do you need any water? Do you need anything else?

DG: No. No. The last thing I need is water. I'll just spend my day in the  
bathroom.

NK: It'll be quick.

LO: David, just relax.

DG: All right.

LO: Try to get yourself composed. Okay.

DG: I'll try.

LO: You been through a lot this morning. All right.

DG: Most I've ever been through.

NK: Okay. [Leaves room].

DG: I'm sorry.

LO: We'll be right back with you. Okay. [Leaves room].

DG: Okay. Fuck. I love you, Amy. And I'm sorry. Oh, my God. Shit. I can't fucking -- I can't believe this shit.

NK: [Returns to room 02:03:39]. All right, David. Hey, one -- one last question I have for you. You were describing your injuries that you have, uh, to your neck and stuff, did -- did you, um, can you tell us a little bit more about those and what -- what's the reason for your neck injury? Do you have a previous incident or?

DG: I have no idea what happened, how I got it, man. 2 through 6 is gone. The discs are ruptured.

NK: It's just over time?

DG: Yeah.

NK: Something like that.

DG: Oh, yeah. I guess.

NK: I mean, are you deemed disabled at all? Are you any kind of medical --

DG: I got --

NK: -- work that says that you are disabled --

DG: No. I'm filing because I mean --

NK: Okay. Are you a veteran at all?

DG: No. My son is.

NK: Your son is, okay. But you had no -- you're not -- you're not deemed as a,  
you know, disabled, you know, person at all?

DG: No. I mean --

NK: For medical--

DG: -- uh, soon as they --

NK: Reassessed.

DG: -- read these X-Rays, I'll be disabled 100 percent (unintelligible).

NK: Yeah.

DG: I mean, my arms have went from 16-inch biceps --

NK: No. Yeah, I was just --

DG: -- I'm -- I'm down to like 7.

NK: Yeah, I'm sure you probably are. I'm just asking officially.

DG: They don't --

NK: Have you --

DG: -- have me on paper yet.

NK: Yet. Yes.

DG: Um --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- yeah, that's a -- that's a nice deal they got going there.

NK: Okay. What we're gonna do is we're gonna walk you down. Um, we got another room with you and your wife can be together. And then, we're gonna talk to you about, um, some Marsy's Law paperwork and stuff.

DG: Okay.

NK: We'll -- we'll talk about that.

DG: Okay.

NK: Um, you ready?

DG: Yeah. I'm gonna leave that cup there.

NK: Oh, well, that's okay.

(Conclusion of Interview)

Transcribed by: gav/gav/ss