

SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(The following may contain unintelligible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality. The audio was poor and broken up, and the parties continually talked over each other drowning out many words, and voices were very garbled in places.)

NK: Detective Nathan King #2399

NK

CASE #: 22-80828

LO: Detective Luis Ojeda #1795

DATE: 10/19/22

DG: David Gregory

TIME: 1:10 p.m.

NK: All right. Uh, today's date is October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at approximately 1310 hours. This is related to case number 22-80828. I'm Detective Nate King, ID 2399. Also present with me is Detective Ojeda, ID 1795. We are currently here at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, and also have, uh -- go ahead, sir, state your full name for me.

DG: David Ross [phonetic] Gregory.

NK: And your birth date.

DG: [REDACTED]

NK: Okay, David. Um, we did speak about this, uh, incident that, uh, you were involved with on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the morning of, uh, where there was a shooting, um, of a Steven Colon, 12/03 of '99, um, on your street at [REDACTED] David, could you go ahead and just raise your right hand for me? Do you swear the statement you're gonna give today is the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

DG: Yes, I do.

NK: Okay. Um, David, as you know, we like -- we -- want to come here, and we want to get, um, this second interview from you, um, today regarding, um, the incident, happen, and -- and just what you knew that you can remember of, uh, what you heard about, uh, Steven Colon. From my understand, did -- did you know his name?

DG: No, I did not.

NK: Okay. Um, and you spoke about prior that you had multiple, uh, contacts with him while walking your dog --

DG: That is correct.

NK: -- uh, prior to the incident on September 24<sup>th</sup>, right?

DG: That is correct.

NK: Okay. Um, you spoke of three other incidences where he pretty much, uh, just displayed the same type of behavior to you?

DG: Oh, yeah, it was very violent.

NK: Yeah. Okay. So, today, just in your own words, what do you -- what did you know about him prior to this -- the incident on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September? What did you know about him or any incidents he involve in, whether it was the police, whether it was involved in his family, whether it was through other neighbors that spoke about him, his behavior? Did you know anything about him?

DG: Um, I -- I knew the police were out there multiple times. Um, multiple -- um, it was amazing. I had heard that he had broken his grandfather's arm, and I

was told that he kicked his grandmother down the stairs. And those stairs in those places are pretty steep. Uh, we were looking at one to buy. But he broke his arm and then banged her up real bad. Uh, the neighbors told us that they took the blame for it. They didn't say that he did it. Um, he, uh, came out and stabbed up the grandparent's car with a butcher knife, cut all the tires off of it and stuff. Um, and the neighbor came out, and the grandfather and the neighbor were like, oh, shit, you know, it's --

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: -- Steven again.

NK: You heard that through the neighbor -- the neighborhood?

DG: Yes, yes.

NK: Through other neighbors?

DG: Yes.

NK: Okay.

DG: Uh, everything, I heard through the neighbors. And the only thing I ever saw him do other than what concerned us was the -- the -- the -- the gay couple that lives in that complex. I don't know their names. And they have two little dogs, Pino and Riley. That's --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- what their dogs' names. He was standing in the driveway just yelling at this poor dude. "You fucking fat faggot pussy motherfucker. Come here. Come here you fucking fat motherfucker." And I grabbed my dog and ran fucking home.

LO: And you witnessed this?

DG: I witnessed it. He was standing right in his driveway, and he was, you know, from here to that sheriff's SUV to me, that's, you know a long driveway as I saw that, and I listened to him for just a second. I took off home and, you know, put my dogs up, and I came back out on the porch and listened, and he was still just berating this cat.

NK: Okay. When was -- when was that? Do you remember?

DG: That was like a month and a half ago, two months ago.

NK: So, if this incident happened in September --

DG: It was -- it was --

NK: Sometime in the summer?

DG: -- before September -- August. Yeah, yeah, it was August, probably.

NK: Okay.

DG: Yeah, is very recent.

NK: Okay. So, you witnessed him do this?

DG: Witnessed.

NK: Okay.

DG: Yes. Yes, sir.

NK: Is this when you were walking your dog, or --

DG: Uh, yes.

NK: Okay. Um, was this in that little gravel -- gravel area --

DG: It was in the --

NK: -- as you go to the back --

DG: Yeah, yeah.

NK: -- to all the -- where all the condos are?

DG: That's where they were. I was on -- on -- on --

NK: You were on the road.

DG: [REDACTED]

NK: Okay.

DG: And I kept going on [REDACTED] I mean --

NK: Okay. And was this -- this was after the -- the other incidences you had with him, the three others, or did -- did --

DG: Yeah, yeah. I mean, yeah. I mean --

NK: Okay.

DG: And -- and, you know, this is pretty close 'cause he really seemed to -- to pick up his -- his ticks after that. You know? The late night stuff the neighbors were talking about. I'm always sleeping. I don't know. You know? But throwing his weights out, screaming, keeping the dogs and the neighbors up all night. Just -- I mean, all night.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: Not -- not till 2 in the morning, not till 3. Till 6:00 in the morning, and screaming and lifting weights and (sound effect). I never witnessed any because I'm always at home at 9:00.

NK: So, that was the only incident you -- you recall, uh, that you seen Colon and an -- this other -- this couple --

DG: That is correct.

NK: -- you talked about. Did you witness him do anything else to any other neighbors?

DG: Uh, no. Uh --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- no, I did not. Um --

NK: Okay. And what -- what all -- what else have you heard about anything involving with the -- with the police or other neighbors?

DG: Uh, no. I mean, the neighbors, you know, they all just talked about what they talked about. Again, I don't know any of their names. I just know their damn dogs. Um, we -- we live a -- a solitary life, you know, because of my son's job. We -- we -- we keep a hush. And, uh -- so, we -- yeah, I know the dogs, but that was it. I mean, he was just always some issue with that house with him. I mean -- again, I don't know. I just heard what people told me.

NK: Okay. What did people tell you about his, um -- any kind of violent history with him with other people, whether it was his family or --

DG: Uh, other than --

NK: -- with neighbors?

DG: -- just his family, yeah, that's all I ever heard about.

NK: What did -- what did you hear?

DG: The -- the breaking his grandpa's arm, the kicking his grandma down that big flight of stairs in that place. You know, he sent them both to the hospital. That's what I was told --

NK: A neighbor told you this. Okay.

DG: Right, right.

NK: Did Grandpa or Grandma tell you any of this?

DG: No.

NK: You never talked to them?

DG: No. I never spoken to them in my life.

NK: Okay.

DG: Um --

LO: Have you spoken to them since this incident?

DG: No. No. No. No. We went home to get some clothes and stuff, which -- and obviously didn't do a very good job of. And we were walking our dog, and they started creeping behind us in the car, and I mean you could hear the god damn van belt. I was scared to death. My wife was just damn near, you know, puking. She was -- they were right (sound effect). And then we saw a couple people outside, so we bee lined to them and just kept going, got in our car, and headed -- and we've not been back since.

NK: How long was that after the incident?

DG: Uh, it was a couple days after the hurricane. We went --

NK: After the hurricane. So, about -- probably about a week later or something?

DG: Yeah, we had to go down and check on a place, get some clothes. I'm sorry. I'm starting to hurt, guys. Um, and (unintelligible) -- and I knew, 'cause when we went down, I was like, look, let's just walk the dogs down here, 'cause we got a sick dog, and it poops like eight times a day. 17. It's got diabetes. So, we were walking down the shore street, the one that goes around the water, and -- and I saw where they were cutting down a tree kind of where the incident happened a car, and I recognized the car, and I was like, "Shit, baby, I think that's them." And sure enough, here they come. And we didn't even --

NK: Both Grandma and Grandpa?

DG: Yeah.

NK: You recognize --

DG: We didn't even look. Well, I did. I just knew the car. I did not look at them.

NK: Okay.

DG: I don't know who was driving it. It was somebody from that family. But, uh, I didn't even looked up. We grabbed our dogs, went back home, got (sound effect), and gone. And then we came back, you know, that -- later, and then they were just (sound effect), right behind us. I mean, she'll tell you. It was scary.

NK: It was a van? What color van?

DG: No, it was a little Chevy SUV.

NK: Oh, SUV.



DG: Yeah, tiny little thing, not as big as yours, you know, but half the size. But, uh, the paranoia that's in on that was unbelievable --

NK: Do you know what Grandma and Grandpa look like? Have you --

DG: Uh, I -- I probably -- uh, I -- I know what everybody that lives there looks like. What exact unit they live in, no, I don't know.

NK: Okay. Okay.

DG: You know? Because it's not my --

NK: You never had any interactions with these guys at all, the -- the -- the grandma and grandpa.

DG: Never ever.

NK: Okay. No -- no mom and dad, no --

DG: I didn't even know he had a mom and dad.

NK: Okay.

DG: We didn't know there was family in town, honestly. The neighborhood was like, all of a sudden, family showing up, and Mom and Dad are there, like, you know -- and it's like, didn't even know he had folks. We thought maybe the parents had -- their grandparents had taken him in --

NK: Yeah.

DG: -- for whatever reason. But that's -- I mean, I don't know.

NK: Okay.

DG: (unintelligible).

NK: Anything else anybody's ever told you about -- about him or his behavior or that you know of?

DG: Just that. I mean, you know, they've all -- tell you they sleep with guns and baseball bats behind their doors because of his erratic behavior throughout the middle of the night. You know --

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: -- he creeps on people.

NK: But any details about the incidences that they had with him?

DG: No. And again --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- my conversations with most people are very short because I -- I like their dogs. I'm a dog guy. I pet the dogs. I know all the -- I don't want to --

NK: I see. Yeah.

DG: -- (unintelligible).

NK: You're walking your dog, and then -- you just have a short little conversations --

DG: My son's got a --

NK: -- with --

DG: -- high-security job, and people don't want us talking about our son. They don't want to know, you know -- we got a phone call one night about -- talking about being scared.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: Get a phone call saying, "ISIS is looking for you." True story.

NK: Yeah.

DG: "Kill all your social media. Kill all your apps. ISIS is looking for you." How you go to bed (unintelligible) same neighborhood. Eight years. We've had this three times. It's just like, wow.

NK: Yeah.

DG: And the first time, I kinda got it. Okay. I comes in the territory, I guess, because of his job and his security clearance and stuff, but, you know, how in the fuck are they here looking for me?

NK: Yeah.

DG: Than they told me how, and I was like, wow. I found --

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: -- out a lot goes on in this world that I don't want to know.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: But no, I -- I -- everything I heard about the guy was just sheer terror.

NK: Okay. And then --

DG: And --

NK: -- your incidences you did have with him --

DG: Just terror. I -- I mean, I have never -- I'm a grown-ass man, 61 years old, and I have never frozen up from anybody in my life. I've never been in a fight, guys. But --

LO: Yeah.

DG: -- I'm a man.

NK: Yeah. Yeah.

DG: And I didn't know what to do. I stood here, scared out of my fucking mind for me and my wife and those dogs. It -- It is the most helpless feeling on your fucking planet. It really -- I'm sorry I'm cussing. I'm tired. I'm hurt. To be that helpless is terrible.

NK: Is that how you felt the day of the incident?

DG: Yeah.

NK: Okay. Did you feel that way with the other three incidences, or were they not as --

DG: Uh --

NK: Would you rate the levels of each of those --

DG: The first two were right there, but that last day, man, something was in the air. You could feel it. He was mean. He was angry. And shit, I don't even know what he was saying to me, but he wouldn't shut up, and he kept saying shit to me. I was just trying to get my fucking dog. It's like, what's he saying. My head's just exploding. And all I could see was that hate, just them black eyes and that (sound effect), and I was (sound effect). And, uh, he did that to us five times. Two times, I forgot about. I still can't even tell you. I ain't even notice them. But yeah, the -- the fear that came over me, the -- the worthlessness. I felt like the biggest pussy on the planet. And -- and I couldn't do anything about it.

NK: And why -- why couldn't you do anything about it?

DG: Because I was frozen in fear. I would still be frozen in fear if he had never touched me. We would've continued on being terrorized fucked with by this

guy. But the minute he lays hands on me, he scared me to death. I didn't know what to do. I can't get away.

NK: What -- what were you --

DG: Nothing.

NK: What were you -- what was your fear of?

DG: Dying.

NK: Okay. And how was --

DG: I don't know what a crazy man is gonna do to me. I can't defend myself. I have got a tumor in my jaw, big cyst. And you guys --

NK: Yeah.

DG: -- will see that. If he hits here, dude, I'm -- I'm toast. They're cutting all this out and replacing it with some kind of fucked up material. My jaw is rotten. Don't know. I had all these teeth put in. You know? And something happened, so I got this to deal with, and that's like six grand, and I can't -- if he hits me there, then I'm done. I mean, that's -- you can ask my wife. She -- she's in dentistry. Give me a Kleenex --

NK: Yeah, Hold on.

LO: Sure.

NK: I'll get that. Hang on.

DG: Snotting up over here. You know, it was like the air changed that morning. It was like everything just changed.

LO: Hmm.

DG: And he was so -- he was angrier than he ever had been. He never -- just that (sound effect), this -- it was too intense.

LO: Hmm.

DG: Still too intense. I can't even go -- we tried to go to Cracker Barrel last night, pick up food. I couldn't even stay in there and wait for the food.

LO: Are you getting help for that? I mean, you can't --

DG: No, I -- I work for one of the best nonprofit organizations in the United States, the Brian Real Foundation [phonetic]. I'm a board member. You know, we treat veterans with PTSD and traumatic brain injury. We cover all cost, and we treat their wives and family behind them so the whole family can heal.

LO: Sure.

DG: So, I've got some good therapists.

LO: Good.

DG: We're gonna start this week.

LO: That's real good.

DG: Yeah. None of those I have not told them. I just -- I was always on the money side. You know, raising money for events and stuff, and they're the doctors, the ones with the smarts. So, yeah, I talked to her and, you know, we're gonna start this week.

LO: Good. Yeah, you need to see a therapist if -- you know, so they can help you with -- with the -- with the situation. You know?

DG: Uh, you know, I -- like I said, tried going to Cracker Barrel last night, man, it was in there five minutes, I was like, I gotta go. I gotta go home, gotta go home.

NK: Yeah.

DG: I was too scared to be outside right now.

LO: Are you back at the house yet?

DG: No, we're never going back there. We're -- we're -- my mom's got dementia. Poor lady. Mental illness sucks, dude.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: Mental illness sucks. You know, she throw stuff. She gets angry. And then she don't remember. You know? So, we're staying there to take care of her.

LO: Okay.

DG: She -- we shipped her to Dallas for a couple weeks 'cause I just can't deal with dementia and this at the same time. She's 84. And when she gets off her meds, man, she goes bananas, throwing shit, throw -- you know, my mom's tight. She'll throw a god damn \$100,000 decanter at you. She --

NK: Yeah.

DG: She would --

NK: Yeah.

DG: -- never do that in her life. Just the dementia.

NK: Oh, yeah, no.

LO: Uh-huh.

NK: We've all experienced that with --

DG: And -- and -- and I -- and I talked to Amy about it. I said, you know, if he's crazy and off his meds, he -- god damn.

LO: Yeah.

DG: That's terrible. And I lost my oldest sister to mental illness. We couldn't keep her on her meds. It's -- it's -- it's -- it's -- it's tough, man.

NK: What do you think -- what do you think what was -- what was wrong with him? Did --

DG: I have no idea. I'm not a doctor.

NK: I know, but --

DG: I'm just a dumbass.

NK: -- but -- I know, but what would you -- well, how would you describe it?

DG: Uh, some kind of mental illness.

NK: Okay.

DG: Just all I could explain. I'm 61 years old and was in the oil field for years, and I have never witnessed that kind of behavior in my person.

NK: Yeah.

DG: I -- I've only heard about it. I've never seen it face-to-face, and it's nothing anybody needs to see.

NK: Okay. I -- I -- before I walked out, I know I -- I -- I asked about the other incidences you had with him prior to the day of the shooting, um, and I asked you about the levels of each one of those.

DG: Yeah.



NK: Would -- how -- how would you describe the -- would you just say that they got worse? Were they the same?

DG: Wanted to -- the same. I was terrified out of my mind. There was --

NK: The first two?

DG: -- something about that last day, man. He was different.

NK: That was, uh --

DG: He was angry. It was escalated. It was --

NK: Okay.

DG: And he's never out in the mornings. I didn't even realize that until my wife said, "What the fuck is he doing out?" I was like, "What do you mean?" It's morning. I was like, oh, my God, why is he out, he's -- nobody sees him in daylight. I've never seen him in daylight. This was the first time --

NK: Yeah. Yeah.

DG: -- that I can remember.

LO: Was he -- do -- could you tell -- could you smell any alcohol on his breath? Could you smell any --

DG: Smell nothing.

LO: -- anything on him?

DG: No. All I do know -- I do mean this is something she'll come back. I mean the neighbor told me, big guy --

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: -- he said he bought a car off Steven's mother, and said, you know, they were talking, and he knew -- when -- when the police came over that last

time to get Steven to move his car because they were trying to repair their driveway and Steven wouldn't move his car -- his mom was there. The police were there. Everybody was there. And he wouldn't come out of the house to move his car. And she came out of the house, and Toby -- and this isn't -- just, you know, what I heard from Toby. Toby said she came out of the house (unintelligible) goes, "God damn, there's white powder, spoons, and needles everywhere."

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: That's what Toby said, and I was like, well, then he's a junkie. I don't know. Maybe he's lacked up. He's up all night. Maybe he's doing methamphetamines. I don't -- I'm -- I'm -- I don't even drink. I'm not that guy.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: I don't know. But, uh, it could've been. His mom said it to Toby.

NK: Have you ever heard of him, uh, through -- whether it's through the neighborhood, of him, um, involving any kind of weapon at all?

DG: Yeah, knives. Butcher knives.

NK: Okay. What they say about that?

DG: That he cut the car up, cut the tires on the car.

NK: Okay.

DG: You know? And I didn't know what he had in that big-ass hoodie. Maybe he had a fucking Glock in there. Maybe he had a knife. Maybe --

NK: Okay. So, the --

DG: -- he had nothing.

NK: The -- the incident involving the -- the -- the tires that were cut up, is there anything outside of that that -- that you know of --

DG: Not that I've been told about.

NK: -- any -- heard about any kind of weapon or anything that he would carry --

DG: Uh-uh.

NK: -- or --

DG: Just the knives. No.

NK: Okay.

DG: That's all -- that's it.

NK: Um, any incidences involving the police, why -- why they were at the grandparent's house --

DG: (unintelligible).

NK: -- or --

DG: Many. More than I can count on --

NK: You know that they were there. You just don't know the details --

DG: I don't know why.

NK: -- of it? Okay.

DG: I know it was about him, but that's all I know.

NK: Okay. Okay.

DG: It wasn't for the grandparents 'cause, you know, they older than me.

NK: Was there any -- 'cause you did talk about each time of these incidences you had with him, that he was saying stuff.

DG: Yeah.

NK: Was there anything that you remember --

DG: The first time.

NK: -- that -- that was actually -- that you could actually understand --

DG: Yeah, the first time.

NK: -- what he was saying? What -- what was that he's saying to you?

DG: After the put the phone up, the YouTube stuff he was putting, you know, right in my face, I mean, right in my face, I told him I have to go on his YouTube and her TikTok and her something, we'll be all right, and then he just puts his phone up and turns around. Do you work out?

NK: Yes.

DG: Got -- got down on a dragon crouch. You ever done that before? I used to be 44-inch chest. I mean, I've lost my body, guys. You stand like this for 45 minutes, it'll make a beast out of anybody.

NK: Yeah.

DG: This dude got down in that stance and started throwing fucking forward punches. Not roundabouts. He was coming at me hard like a fighter, and I fucking froze.

NK: This was the first time you --

DG: The first time.

NK: He walked up to you and did that move?

DG: Yeah.

NK: Okay.

DG: He said, "You want to do something about it, motherfucker?"

NK: Like a fighting stance? Like a --

DG: Oh, a fighting -- yeah.

NK: Like a boxer? Yeah, like --

DG: Yeah.

NK: Okay.

DG: Serious MMA shit, dude. And, uh --

NK: And what is he saying to you when he --

DG: He said, "You want to do something about it, motherfucker?" Then he's swinging at me the whole time.

NK: Do something about what?

DG: Me being on the road with my dog --

NK: Oh, you didn't say anything to him?

DG: No. No.

NK: He just came up to you. Okay.

DG: Came out of the bushes.

NK: Oh.

DG: Those bushes right there at the corner, at the end of the driveway. There's a thicket. You know, them little palm things.

NK: Yeah, yeah.

DG: He come right out of them fuckers. And I --

NK: How close was he with you?

DG: -- turn around and -- huh?

NK: How -- how close was he to you?

DG: Oh --

NK: Like, in your face? Like, he did that --

DG: He couldn't hit me. He stayed arm's length away.

NK: Gotcha.

DG: But if he had another step, me or him, and he'd have torn my head off. And he was fucking -- he threw, like, ten of them in a row, and he was just violent, was (sound effect).

NK: Oh, he was swinging, but he was --

DG: Yeah. Oh, yeah, swinging.

NK: -- away from you? Yeah.

DG: Coming from the chest. He wasn't -- I mean, he -- he's trained. He knows what the fuck he's doing.

NK: Okay. Were you -- were you carrying a, uh, weapon at the time of those incidences?

DG: Yes. Every time that I --

NK: Okay.

DG: I -- I've carried a gun for years.

NK: Yeah.

DG: Second amendment. Carried it for coyotes. I never in my life thought I'd be in a situation, never. Who thinks of that shit? I'm --

NK: So, you carried a -- you carried a gun prior to having any contact with him.

DG: Yeah.

NK: And you said before it was because of the animals. But then --

DG: Yeah.

NK: -- then this -- this started happening, and you're like, okay, I'm gonna  
continue based on these --

DG: And -- and -- and I didn't carry it because of him, but I didn't put it down,  
either.

NK: Yeah.

DG: You know?

NK: Exactly. Yeah.

DG: Um, I wasn't looking for anybody, and he came after me. And I never  
confronted anybody --

NK: Have you ever --

DG: -- in my life.

NK: Have you ever engaged him first when you --

DG: Fuck no.

NK: -- when you seen him?

DG: No.

NK: No? Okay.

DG: No. Hell no.

NK: Okay.

DG: (unintelligible) --

NK: What was your behavior on those other incidences that -- that when he --

DG: I turned and left.

NK: -- acted like --

DG: I turned and left.

NK: -- whether it was the spitting when he was talking, pacing --

DG: I left.

NK: You never said a word to him, never said like, "Get out of here," or --

DG: No. No. I didn't say a word. I was silent, scared, petrified out of my fucking mind.

NK: Yeah.

DG: The only thing I said to -- and, uh, the second time, I did go, "Hey, man," trying to defuse the situation before he spit on me. That didn't help at all 'cause he was coming right at me, I mean at a full fucking pace with that hoodie on. And, I mean, walking fast. Had a big ass coming at me, and he got right up to me. He said (sound effect) and then turned and went in his driveway. Then he turned around and started calling Chewy, the chihuahua. I didn't catch that. My wife did.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: And then we picked up and fucking ran home. I never (unintelligible) didn't have to.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: I've never been so scared in my life.

LO: Have you ever talked to anybody about his behavior?

DG: What do you mean?

LO: When -- when you were out with the neighbors --

DG: All the neighbors talked about it.

LO: Okay.



DG: And I even told the neighbors.

NK: Did you tell -- okay.

DG: I told the neighbors. I said, "Look, you guys live here. You have an association. You have quorum here right now. Change your fucking bylaws and get him out of here. Do it legally." I mean, I was trying to help them.

NK: Yeah.

DG: Now I got this on my soul, man. It's hard. Man, I help people, man. I help veterans. Hell, before that, I worked with the Jerry Lewis telethon in Texas. And god damn, how does this shit happen? How do you get attacked walking a god damn dog? It's not right. You know, we were just waiting for my son to retire so we could quit -- quit worrying every day that we're awake.

NK: Yeah, yeah.

DG: Because that's -- that's tough.

NK: Oh, yeah.

DG: That's tough. Yeah, something different than you guys going out, man. It's just --

NK: It's the world we live in. You gotta -- you gotta protect yourself.

DG: Unfortunately, you do.

NK: Is -- is there anything else that you -- that you -- since you had time over this last, you know, three weeks or so to --

DG: Uh --

NK: -- really think about things and -- and --

DG: I -- I --

NK: Anything else that comes up that you -- that you wanted --

DG: (unintelligible) --

NK: -- to say that you thought would be important to know or, uh --

DG: Uh, you know, I don't know, other than just, you know, his actions, I -- I -- I didn't go down the driveway when the cops were there. They didn't talk to me. I didn't talk to them. You know? Uh, and again, wasn't my business they weren't gonna talk to me. You know?

NK: Yeah.

DG: I just -- I just don't know. I was just walking a fucking dog. Just walking a dog. You know, and it's bad enough we -- we -- this has nothing to do with this, but it does. I mean, when that guy came down here from North Carolina to do us in and stayed at Bentley's, we couldn't walk our dog in the street any more, he was too fucking scary, and still is to this day. We don't go by Bentley's. And my wife really is upset about it. So, we start half-blocking it, right?

NK: Yeah. How long were you at that address? I know you told us before. At -- at [REDACTED]

DG: Three years, four years.

NK: Three years?

DG: Something like that.

NK: Three or four years? Okay.

DG: Three or four years. Well, it's been three 'cause I've been down for three years with this. I have not been able to work.

NK: Yeah, you're --

LO: How long have you been at your house now, total? You said eight years?

DG: No, four.

LO: Okay, at that house there that you're in.

DG: Yeah, that's that lease. Yeah.

LO: Okay.

DG: We had a -- we stayed on Sara Bay in Osprey. It's a dead-end street there.

Um --

NK: Okay.

DG: We stayed there for eight years. Walked the dogs every day --

NK: Same thing?

DG: -- everywhere. Everybody's friendly. You know?

NK: Never had any issues over there with anybody?

DG: Never had an issue in my life until --

NK: Till this?

DG: -- This is about it.

NK: Okay.

DG: I've never been in jail. I never been in trouble. I -- I -- I don't go out looking --  
I stay home and do what I'm supposed to do.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: I try to, anyway.

NK: Where'd you live at -- did you always live in Florida, or did you --

DG: No.

NK: -- you come from Texas, or --

DG: No, we -- I -- I'm -- went from Texas to North Carolina with the phone  
company years ago.

NK: Okay.

DG: Um, when Southwestern Bell created Singular, little orange guy that was  
around for a while.

NK: Okay.

DG: That was me. And, uh -- so, they sent me to North Carolina, and, uh, that's  
where I met my wife. Um --

NK: And you moved to Florida, like, four years ago or so?

DG: No, no, probably 10 years ago.

NK: Okay.

DG: About 10.

LO: Were you ever in the military?

DG: Me? No. Everybody thinks that, uh, just 'cause of my haircut and the way I  
usually stand. But I can't do that anymore. Uh, well, I follow the rules, man.  
You know, I'm a ball buster. My kid's a Navy SEAL. Dude, you get up and  
make your fucking bed in the morning. You don't make your bed, go live  
with your mom.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: Oh, sorry, Dad. You know?

NK: Yeah.

DG: Not a hard life, but just a -- a structured life. And now he's working on his Master's. Couldn't be any prouder of the kid.

NK: That's good. We need people like that.

DG: Yeah. You know?

NK: Um --

DG: So, I called him. I -- I called him immediately. "Dude, (unintelligible)." And then it was good talking to him.

NK: Yeah.

DG: It was. I need more of that because I -- I -- I -- you know, I didn't understand my sister's mental illness. I don't understand dementia, and neither did they. They just keep throwing different pills and sending them home, and no matter what you tell them -- I mean, she fell and bust her head open, go to the hospital, got her stitches, take her to the doc, "Doc, she's drinking, falling down, watch her. "

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: And now we don't -- she needs help. She needs help. Mental help or, uh -- and that's where we're at. You know? And -- and if that was the case for him, I fucking feel for him because our -- our system is lacking in this.

NK: Yeah, yeah.

DG: This is perfect example.

NK: What's that?

DG: I file for short-term disability so I can get fixed. I've gotta replace two through six, my whole fucking neck.

NK: Your neck? Okay.

DG: Um, I filed for short-term disability. They turned it down, 'cause they send it to a third party. Social Security department does nothing. Whole time I'm talking to them, they're rosy. Oh, yeah, yeah, we'll do the surgery. This is what you do. This is what you do. This is what you do. Man, so I told Amy - I said, "God damn, this is -- this is crazy. It's a piece of cake." Filled their thing out, sent it in, year later, get a letter. It's a third-party that determined-

NK: Yeah.

DG: -- I had a successful career with the phone company in sales, so my neck won't come into play for work. I can still talk.

NK: Yeah.

DG: And they wouldn't let me get my money to get fixed. That's a true story. So, you have to do it again. And if you ask them, they'll tell you the average is three times that you file the -- then the third time, we approve it. And --

NK: Okay.

DG: -- you -- they'll tell you that on the phone. I'm not making this shit up, 'cause I'd have been fixed --

NK: Yeah.

DG: -- otherwise. I ran out of money. I can't go to doctors and specialists anymore because you have to. If you look at the -- you know, there's, uh, rules you have to follow.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: And you have to -- you have to see your primary, then he sends you to your surgeon, and the surgeon sends you to therapy, and physical, which I can't do. And, uh -- and then you get to that, and then like okay, here's the deal. My copay then was \$48,000. I didn't have it. And I know it's went up since then. I mean, my God.

NK: Yeah.

DG: So, will I ever get this surgery? Probably not. This will be probably the rest of my life.

NK: Yeah.

DG: Because if they fix me at 63 or 64, you know, it's a year and a half recoup time. I mean, they're gonna -- they -- it's crazy. You talk about a scary thing, being in a harness for four months in your bed, and you can't move is --

NK: Is that what you were -- you were?

DG: No, that's what I'll be. When they --

NK: Oh.

DG: -- do this surgery, you can't move for four months.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: Frozen in your bed with one of them halos on, using a bed pan. And then after four months, they'll evaluate you to see if you can go around your house and be safe. Then after that, they evaluate, see if you can be a passenger. Then, you know, it just progresses over time. But usually, year and a half recovery time. That's on a healthy guy. I'm 61 years old, and I've

got more than this health problem. I've got health problems you guys don't know about.

NK: But the physical stuff that you were concerned with with, um, him -- you said if you -- if he was to hit you --

DG: (unintelligible) this.

NK: -- your neck -- you said --

DG: Yeah.

NK: -- your jaw, you said, 'cause of the --

DG: Oh, this is all rotten.

NK: Yeah.

DG: All the bone -- and this is something new, they're gonna take something that size of that phone and mold it --

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: -- as my new jawline.

NK: Okay. You got that. Then you said the neck.

DG: And the neck is bad.

NK: Okay.

DG: Bad. Two through six is completely gone. That's why this arm, it used to be 16 inches, is that. I can't lift a gallon of milk.

NK: Gotcha.

LO: What happened with you on that?

DG: My neck. All the vertebraes. The bones in your neck. Your spine.

LO: Yeah, yeah, yeah.



DG: It's my fucking spine.

NK: You can't lift --

DG: (unintelligible) disc.

NK: -- anything.

DG: I can't -- no. This arm's done. This arm is dying like this arm did. It's hurting real bad. It's 'cause all the blood supply is getting cut off. The nerves are pinched off up here.

NK: Uh-huh.

DG: So, you lose everything. It goes into atrophy. Both of these are in atrophy. I've got a hole in my back. I can't life anything. I really can't. I mean, a gallon of milk. But, dude, forks fall out of my hand when I eat.

LO: I guess -- well, my question, uh, how did that happen? Did it just --

DG: Who knows? Um --

LO: Oh, no -- there was no industrial accident?

DG: Did -- did -- did I have a bad football game when I was a kid? I think it's hereditary, to be honest with you. My mom got rear-ended in Dallas about five years ago, and she can't use her left arm anymore. Maybe it's a neck thing through the family. I don't know.

NK: This just slowly progressed, uh, as your aged. Okay.

DG: Yeah, I -- I was at work one day, and I noticed. I was looking at the computer screen. I was just out my mind in pain, and I got home. I couldn't lay on the couch. I was like, son of a bitch, what's going on? So, went to the doctor, and he's like, whoop, it's bad. I said, "What do you mean it's

bad?" He says, "You're fucking bad, dude." And I was like, "You gotta be kidding me." So, I go home after he discusses everything with me and tells me about the -- now I've gotta have Tommy John surgery, too. You ever hear that?

NK: Yeah.

LO: Oh yeah.

NK: Pitchers get it.

DG: I gotta have that, too.

NK: Yeah.

DG: For this arm. And, uh, you know -- but that's a year recovery in itself. Both cuffs are blown. Um, yeah. It's -- it's --

NK: Your shoulder cuff, you mean?

DG: Yeah.

NK: Yeah.

DG: That's what's really -- there's -- there's my range of motion. If I go past that, you'll be picking me up.

NK: Yeah.

DG: I don't enjoy it. Uh -- it's terrible.

NK: Okay. Uh, do you have anything?

LO: (No audible response).

NK: Do you have anything else that you'd like to say on record?

DG: (No audible response).

NK: No?

DG: I wouldn't -- I don't even --

NK: Okay. All right. At this time, the time -- uh, at -- that conclude the interview.

The time is 1344 hours.

(CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW)

Transcribed by: ngj/ms