

SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NK: Detective Nathan King #2399 *NK*

CASE #: 22-80828

LO: Detective Luis Ojeda #1795

DATE: 9/26/22

SP: Sherry Pazzanese

TIME: 2:40 P.M.

NK: All right. Today's date is September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at approximately 1440 hours. I'm Detective Nate King, ID 2399. Also present with me is Detective Ojeda, 1795. We are currently here at 1815 Highland Road. Uh, go ahead, ma'am, state your full name for me.

SP: Sherry Lee Pazzanese.

NK: And your birth date?

SP: July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1959.

NK: And your phone number?

SP: 941-780-3866.

NK: Okay. We're here in your home. We are investigating an incident. This is related to case number 22-80828 that occurred on the 24<sup>th</sup>, on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, regarding a shooting incident that occurred on Highland Road. Ma'am, can you go ahead and just raise your right hand for me? Do you swear the statement you're going to give today is the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

SP: Yes.

NK: Okay. Just go ahead and in your own words tell me what you saw, what you heard.

SP: Okay. I -- I got up and I went to my lanai 'cause I wanted to go say hi to the neighbor. I heard him go by with his dogs. As I was standing there having my coffee I heard two, sounded like cap guns going off. I looked up and I saw two individuals standing there. I, at first, thought it was the young boy, 'cause he's tall, the young kid down the street. I thought it was him and kids on their way to school. I wasn't even thinking that it was Saturday; there's no school. I saw one of the guys, men, fall on his knee, and then I lost sight of him behind a tree. I went to the restroom after that, came back and went downstairs and went outside right when the police came, and they were taking the individual out of the ditch.

NK: Okay. Um, did you see anything happen prior to the -- what you heard -- what you described as the cap guns going off? Did you hear anything like whether they were arguing or what the two men were doing?

SP: I heard nothing. No interaction between two of them, and I didn't see any altercations between two of them. I just saw them together, and then right away they were apart and he went out on his knee.

NK: Okay. So you heard the shot first of everything?

SP: Yeah.

NK: You heard the shot, and then it drew your attention down the street to the --

SP: Yes.

NK: -- road, and you seen two men standing there?

SP: Yeah.

NK: Did you -- were they face to face? Was one walking away at that time?

SP: Yes. One was coming this way and the other -- that's why they were --  
that's what I saw. A baseball -- I don't know if they had -- someone had a  
baseball cap on, I'm pretty sure.

NK: Okay. Yes.

SP: And that's all -- that's all I remember.

NK: Okay. And then you seen that -- that person walk away, or did you see how  
he got to his knee?

SP: He kind of stumbled.

NK: Yeah?

SP: I mean, he went, like, a little bit to the left and went down on one knee, and  
that's the last thing I saw. And then I tried to see what else was happening  
and I lost sight of 'em.

NK: You said 'cause there's a bush there or a big --

SP: There's a big bush there.

NK: -- big old palm out there.

SP: Yeah.

NK: Okay. Um, and you didn't hear anything or see anything prior to the shots  
go off?

SP: I heard nothing.

NK: Okay.

SP: Nothing.

NK: Do you know the -- the man that went down to his knee, the younger person? Do you know him?

SP: He lives right behind me.

NK: Do you know his name?

SP: Steven.

NK: Okay.

SP: That's all I know.

NK: So you know Steven. So what do you know about Steven?

SP: I know Steven pretty well because I'm pretty close to his grandparents, Aldo and Palma, that live right behind us. And I know -- I'll be honest with you, Friday night he was up all night. I have a problem. I've complained about him numerous times. He lifts weights in the garage, and he drops them, and bang, my whole unit, our unit, the next-door neighbor -- shakes every time it happens. My dog freaks out, thinking it's thunder. So I got no sleep 'cause he was up all night with those weights. So --

NK: And that was in the garage?

SP: Yeah, he's directly behind my bedroom.

NK: Okay. Okay. And how late -- how late would you say he was up?

SP: Oh, my God. It had to be -- it was like at 12:30, and then I heard him again at 2, then it was closer to 5:00 in the morning. I was up most of the night with my dog. She thinks it's thunder.

NK: So 12:30, 2 a.m., 5 a.m.?

SP: And 5, yeah.

NK: Okay. So it -- okay. And that was Friday. That was the night --

SP: Friday evening. And before that --

NK: Okay. So would that be Saturday morning or was that Friday? You --

SP: Well, oh, yeah. No. That would be Saturday, midnight -- I mean, Saturday morning.

NK: Yeah, midnight turns into Saturday.

SP: I'm sorry.

NK: From Friday night to Saturday (unintelligible).

SP: Yeah. I saw him Friday evening walking the streets.

NK: Okay. So you seen him walking the -- Steven walking the streets?

SP: Friday evening.

NK: Friday night. What time was that?

SP: It was right when the sun started going down 'cause I was out with my dog, and he went right between me and my two girlfriends and he never says hello. He never -- he just walks.

NK: Yeah. What was he wearing then?

SP: Um, baseball cap 'cause he had a hoodie. He's constantly wearing a hoodie.

NK: Wearing a hoodie? Okay.

SP: And he always has earphones 'cause I watch him --

NK: Ear -- yeah. Okay. So --

SP: -- put his --

NK: -- so he's -- he's known to walk around the neighborhood?

SP: Yes.

NK: Okay. What all -- have you heard anything else about Steven? Maybe --

SP: Oh, no. I --

NK: -- any encounters with any of the other neighbors or he -- or --

SP: Just hearsay.

NK: Okay.

SP: With the other neighbors.

NK: Okay.

SP: I've witnessed stuff happen back there where the police were called  
numerous times.

NK: Were --

SP: When he's had fights with his father, his mother. It was just last week or  
the week before they were called, the mother. He's pushing the mother  
'cause he wouldn't move his car 'cause we were having work done there.

NK: So deputies came out the week prior, week or two before?

SP: Oh, yeah.

NK: Okay. What -- what was that -- do you know that situation?

SP: He wouldn't move his car. We had to have work done on the driveways,  
and so his mother -- and it's so scary -- the head of the association were  
trying get him to move his car so the workers can get in there.

NK: So the mom was yelling at him? They -- it was over --

SP: His mom took his key. She [sic] pushed his mother. He took the car and she -- she -- he ran -- she took the car and the kid ran after 'em down the street. That's all I saw. It's not -- it's not the first time. It's happened quite a few times in the last couple years.

NK: Yeah. Gotcha.

SP: And there's been helicopters above for him before.

NK: Oh, yeah?

SP: Uh-huh.

NK: How long ago was that?

SP: That was, like, a year ago.

NK: Okay. You don't know what that situation --

SP: It could have been just a huge fight with the father being here 'cause it's always when the father and mother are there. They -- they can't handle him, and there's some -- even Aldo, the grandparents, have told me over and over that they're -- they're -- I think they're afraid of him, honestly. I'm going to be honest with you.

NK: Who's that? The grandparents?

SP: Yes, I do.

NK: Okay.

SP: And I -- and I -- they can't -- the parents can't control him so they stay at the grandparents'. But they go home for the summer the whole time.

NK: Yeah. So he's there by himself?

SP: So -- uh-huh.

NK: Yeah.

LO: Do these things -- the -- the -- the 2 and 3:00 in the morning, what, does this happen all the time or is it --

SP: It's happened -- that's not the first time it's happened.

LO: -- or is it when the grandparents are here, when they're gone?

SP: Oh, they were here when I said, "Listen, you gotta do something about him doing that. It's keeping my dog up and me." And honestly, the grandmother said to me -- 'cause I was shocked. I looked at Steve. 'Cause they were going back up North, and we had them over for a glass of wine to say goodbye. And she says, "Ooh, I'm not going to say anything to him." She goes, "I -- I'm afraid he might burn my house down." That came out of the grandmother's mouth. I mean, I -- I don't like to say this but it's the truth.

NK: No. Yeah.

SP: And that's why I got upset and I wanted to go back there, and I was told by the association and my husband, "Don't you dare go back there. You don't know how that kid's going to react," so I never did.

NK: Okay. You never had any contact with him?

SP: No.

NK: Okay.

SP: No.

NK: Do you know the other -- the other person that was out there that, um --

SP: Yeah. I know him and his wife. I've -- I've known them for --



NK: Yeah.

SP: -- as long as I've lived here 'cause --

NK: Do you know their names or --

SP: Dave and Amy.

NK: Dave and -- okay, you know them?

SP: Yeah.

NK: Have they ever spoken about --

SP: Yes.

NK: -- Steven?

SP: Yes, they have.

NK: Any incidences with them?

SP: Yeah. Something about one night -- this is what I remember -- that he spit at 'im. Spit at his face. And he said something about their dogs and there was -- and he yelled at him. There was an argument. That's all I heard.

NK: Yeah.

SP: I never witnessed anything.

NK: Okay. No, I -- I understand.

SP: Yeah.

NK: Yeah. Well, if they directly told you --

SP: Oh, yeah. 'Cause --

NK: So they were -- they had some problems with him?

SP: Uh-huh.

NK: Okay.

SP: He's -- he had a problem with Toby about three weeks ago, the one that lives in the corner. I'm sure he --

NK: Steven did, had a problem with Toby?

SP: Yes. He was called -- called him a name and -- 'cause Toby called me up 'cause it was right in my back yard. He goes, "Did you hear all that?" I said, "No, I didn't. I didn't hear anything." And they had a little -- he said, "What did you say to me?" And he called him these names. And he went -- he said he wouldn't go near the door 'cause he didn't know if that kid had a gun or what the hell's gonna happen. I hate to say it. All of us that are here are kind of afraid of that kid.

NK: No. You can say it if it --

SP: Yeah. I mean, I am saying it. I mean, nobody wanted to confront him. Alyse [phonetic] and I wanted to -- were complaining to the association about the weights, and they go, "You need to call the cops 'cause we're not going over there." I mean, we all felt like --

NK: Yeah.

SP: -- the parents and Aldo and Palma, no matter how much I love them, left us to deal with him.

NK: Okay.

SP: That's basically how --

NK: How did he treat other people in the neighborhood?

SP: Just wouldn't talk to 'em. Wouldn't -- you can scream at him, yell his name. He wouldn't look at you. He'd give you a filthy look. He just --

NK: Yeah.

SP: There's -- I don't know.

NK: Any, uh -- that you know of that he, like, confronted anybody with anything or would he ever do that or --

SP: No. The only time I know is that he just yelled at Toby in the back.

NK: Okay.

SP: That's 'cause Toby told me.

NK: Okay.

SP: Toby Johnson. He's right in the corner there.

NK: Yeah.

SP: You guys, I think, interviewed him.

NK: Yeah.

SP: Him and his wife.

NK: Did --

SP: Beth.

NK: -- David -- did David or Amy talk about -- did they have any fear of what -- what he -- what he's been doing to them or --

SP: The only thing David ever said to me was, "I can't do anything. I'm -- I have problems with my neck and everything. I'm an old man. I can't -- you know, I can't get in a fight with this kid."

NK: Yeah. Yeah.

SP: That's all.

NK: Okay.

SP: So I mean, that's really all I know.

NK: Okay.

SP: I wish I -- I wish --

NK: You had more?

SP: I'll be honest with you. I was exhausted that morning, and first things that came out of my mouth is, "I want to kill that kid with those weights keeping me up all night."

NK: Yeah.

SP: 'Cause I had to go to work and I was really just --

NK: Yeah. So you think this behavior is -- his behavior has, like, increased rapidly or has it been the same since he lived there?

SP: Well, he's -- he's been the same as far as I'm --

NK: Like, being up late at night like that?

SP: Oh, no, that's -- that's increased.

NK: And all the other night? That's something different?

SP: Yes.

NK: Okay.

SP: Yeah.

NK: Okay. Um --

SP: 'Cause I mean, I hear him. Then I called up Colleen. I said, "Does your house shake?" She goes, "Oh, yeah." And she -- I don't know if she told you. She put cameras up because of that kid.

NK: Yeah. You know -- you know his parents, then, apparently?

SP: I don't know his parents.

NK: Oh, not at all?

SP: Just his grandparents.

NK: His grandparents ever talk about are they -- are they afraid of him, or is there any problems or abuse maybe that happened --

LO: Besides Grandma saying that?

SP: Yeah. That's the only thing I ever heard. But I did hear through another neighbor that the kid broke Aldo's arm one time.

NK: He did?

SP: The grandfather. I did hear that. I don't know how much truth --

NK: Hmm. Not while -- while -- while he lived there or --

SP: I don't know if it's while he lived there or some other -- I don't know.

NK: Uh-huh. Yeah. Okay. I got nothing further.

SP: So --

NK: Um, this concludes the interview. The time is -- unless you have something you want --

SP: No. That's -- that's really all.

NK: Yeah.

SP: I mean --

NK: Okay. Besides the incident. And once he went behind the bushes --

SP: I couldn't see anything.

NK: -- yeah, the deputies showed up and then --

SP: And that's why I walked down and --

NK: -- went down there, yeah.

SP: -- and I saw Gary. I thought something had happened to his dogs. I don't know.

NK: Yeah. Did Gary say anything about, um --

SP: He just said, "Oh, my God."

NK: -- a run-in with Steven?

SP: He just said -- he goes, "Oh, my God." I said, "What happened?" He goes, "Steven was shot. He's in the ditch." He was so upset, crying. I had to leave him alone. I felt so sorry for him.

NK: Yeah.

SP: Then the police were talking to him.

NK: Okay.

SP: He was really shook up.

NK: Yeah.

SP: Then he had to call the mother so that -- it was bad.

NK: Okay. Oh, he called the mom?

SP: He said, "You need to get here. It's an emergency." She wouldn't tell him what over the phone. I don't blame her. So --

NK: Yeah.

SP: -- then she came over, I guess.

NK: Okay. That concludes the interview. The time is 1452 hours.

(CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW)

Transcribed by: slw/slw