

August 13, 2014

10:27 a.m.

Detective

St. Louis County Police Bureau Crimes Against Persons

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Detective = DET.

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DET. : This Detective with St. Louis County Police, uh, Bureau Crimes Against Persons, uh, DSN is . Uh, also present is Detective St. Louis County Police, uh, Divi-uh, Department Crim-Bureau Against Persons. Um, the date is 08/13/2014. It's a Wednesday, the time is 10:27 a.m. This interview is being conducted at, uh, the parking lot of Depaul Hospital. Um, the interview is in regards to St. Louis County Report Number 14-43984 which is classified as a homicide. Uh, the person being interviewed is . Uh, black male date of birth, uh, Social Security Number uh, who resides at uh Saint...uh, Ferguson, 63136. Uh, he has a cell phone number of . Um do you understand that this interview is being recorded?

Yes I do.

DET. This is being recorded with your permission?

Yes.

DET. Are you willing to continue with the interview?

Yes.

DET. Okay. Alright um, I know that, uh, one of our detectives has spoken to you, uh, on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, uh, the day of the incident, um, uh, in, in regard to what you saw. Um, and basically through, um, some information we received, we, we, we felt that there might be some more information that you may have. So we came to, to re-interview you and, um, you mentioned to us, uh, briefly upstairs that, uh, you had a phone, uh, you had recorded a portion of this on your phone. Is that correct?

Correct.

DET. Okay. And, um, the portion that you've recorded, uh, was directly after the shooting. Is that correct?

Correct.

DET. Okay. So, um, that, this phone, this, um, Samsung phone is yours.

Yes.

DET. And you did the recording.

Uh huh.

DET. And, um, that's you talkin' on the video. Is that correct?

Correct.

DET. Okay. So, um, prior to recording, I had you, uh, sign a consent to search form, uh, St. Louis County's, uh, consent to search for your Samsung phone, uh, with video related to the Ferguson incident. Is that correct?

Correct.

DET. Okay. And you did that with your own free will?

Yes.

DET. Okay. And, understand that all we're lookin' for on there is inci-uh, items related to, uh, the shooting itself.

Yes.

DET. Okay. So, um, like I said, since I didn't interview you the first time and we have this new information about the phone, if you could just start from the beginning at about where you were at in the apartment, um, what you heard or observed. Um, and just kinda let, you know retell us the story. Okay?

Okay.

DET. If you want, you go ahead and hold this so...

Okay. Well, hum, Saturday morning, a little bit after 11:30 a friend of mine stops over wakes me up. Um, I was outside with him for like two or three minutes and he decides to leave so I goes in the house, um, goes back into my bedroom, like another two, three minutes later I hear a altercation outside. And I looks out the window and I see a guy, Michael Brown, at the driver window of the Ferguson police car. I'm not

sure what was exchanged, um, somethin' was definitely goin' on in the window. So, um, but all of a sudden I see Michael Brown and his friend runs away from the Ferguson police car.

DET. Let me stop you real quick. Um, while they were at the-the door there, uh, or well Michael was at the door...

Yes.

DET. ...um, w-what do you think, or what did you see there?

I-I saw some-some arms goin' through the window. It might have been Michael Brown's arm, he-he might have been punchin' the police officer or whatever. Somethin' was goin' on through the window.

DET. There's some kinda movement, exchange of....

Yeah, some kinda movement, you know...

DET. ...something goin' on there.

...yeah somethin' was definitely goin' on.

DET. Okay. So where at that time that Michael's at the window, where is, uh, his buddy at?

The-the, his buddy was basically in the front of the car on the other side.

DET. In the front of the police car?

Yeah, kinda of, but away.

DET. On the passenger side?

No, no, no, just in the front. In the front, like, you know, he didn't even...

DET. So, w-sh-usin' my window, Michael Brown's to my left.

Yes. In the window and the other guy was in the front...

DET. So you see him...

...probably like, away. Kinda almost...

DET. How far?

...like, probably three, four, maybe five feet away from the car.

DET. So he's five feet from the front quarter panel...

Yeah.

DET. ...of the police officer's vehicle?

Yeah. But I'm...

DET. So towards your apartment basically?

Yeah.

DET. Okay. Alright.

So, um, so, like I said the, the friend wasn't even nn-not close as much as Michael Brown was.

DET. Okay.

So, um, like I said, all of a sudden they just immediately runs away from the car.

DET. They both did?

They both did.

DET. Which direction did they go?

Um, the fir-um, Michael Brown just runs back straight...

DET. Behind the vehicle.

Yeah, behind the vehicle, runnin' straight down the road as the friend, um, he just ducks behind the first car that was parked off to the side which is like a two door Monte Carlo or somethin'.

DET. What color was that?

It was white.

DET. Okay.

So, um, like I said, the moment they got started runnin', um, I just see the Ferguson cop just gets out the car and I hear the first four shots I should say.

DET. Okay. And-and when you hear the first four shots, let me know where all three...

(UI)...

DET. ...well, let me know where all three of these guys are at. Where is, where is his buddy? Where is his buddy first of all?

His buddy, his buddy was, uh, by time he was like behind, hidin', um, uh, behind the trunk of the car, of the two door, um, white Monte Carlo.

DET. So, so that's where he's at?

Yeah.

DET. Okay. Where's...

Like goin' around...

DET. ...the police officer at?

The police officer, like, just getting' out the car.

DET. Okay.

Like, just gettin' out the car and Michael Brown is already probably, like, 25 feet...

DET. Down the road.

...down the road.

DET. Okay.

So, um, like I said, he hops out the car, um, the first three four shots that I noticed that was taken, I, that's when I yelled out to my fiancé, "let's go outside cause this, um, somebody, uh, the officer is shootin' at somebody."

DET. Okay. Just hold on real quick. When those first four shots are bein' taken, where's the officer shooting from and which direction is Michael Brown facing?

Michael Brown is facin' away from him.

DET. So he's still running?

Yeah, he, uh, he still...

DET. With his back to the officer.  
...yeah, with his back to the officer.

DET. Okay.  
And the officer is basically, um, um, when, like I said, when he gettin' out his car, he's basically walkin' towards the back as he's shootin' ...

DET. Okay. So...  
...and I see the front, I'm still in the window.

DET. Okay.  
And I see his friend, uh, like I said, he's duckin' for his life for he runs behind the trunk of the car, but that car, that passenger door was open.

DET. Uh huh.  
You know, so I see him, you know kinda hops in after, um...

DET. Did he hop in the car?  
...I, obviously he did. Um, obviously he did because, like I said, um, like the first four shots, uh, the officer was takin' big steps goin' passed his car when he got out the car...

DET. Uh huh.  
...so that's why I noticed that he's not shootin' for the other guy,...

DET. (UI)  
...cause he walked passed the white car , shootin'.

DET. But did, but, but did, did he, what I'm sayin' though, did you see him get inside the car?  
Yeah. He did, he did.

DET. He did get inside the car?  
He did, he did, but not like that, like as far as in like, um, that was his car, like he just got out of it or somethin'.

DET. No, no, but he had, and, but, the but...

(U)

DET. ...his buddy with the dreadlocks...

Yeah, um,...

DET. ...he got into the car, the, the white Monte Carlo?

Yeah. The white Monte Carlo, cause the door was open or whatever cause, uh...

DET. Didn't it pull off?

Um, I th-it, I think it pulled off...

DET. With him in it?

...after- after when, um, uh, when a Ferguson, as a matter of fact, I think it's, it might have been on my phone cause I seen a white car on my phone but I didn't...

DET. Okay.

...-I can't see if it's, um,...

DET. Alright. So, but you saw this guy get into the car?

Yeah, I did see that...

DET. Okay.

...'cause the door was open and I guess after when he got done shootin', I guess whoever that was drivin' told him let's go 'cause he's, afraid for his life....

DET. Okay.

...I'm sure of that. I'm sure of that.

DET. Okay. Alright. So you're positive he got in the car and he left in that car?

Yeah.

DET. Okay. Alright, so let's go back to the officer and Michael's runnin' down.

Yes.

DET. The officer has exited his vehicle.

Yeah. And...

DET He was, and so, um, you said Michael was like 25 feet down the road...

Yeah, already.

...his back is to the officer...

And, um,...

DET. You are, uh...

I'm, I'm, ss-I'm...

DET. You're still on the porch, right? Or on the balcony?

Yeah, when it, after when he did the first shot, that's when I'm, um, came outside. That's when I'm outside now but when I came outside, he was already hit. But as far as in....

DET. Okay, is, so I'm sorry, I, I may be goin' too fast here, but, um, so when you hear the initial shot, you're upstairs?

Yeah, in the bedroom.

DET. Okay.

The first floor or three.

DET. Okay. So then, okay, so you heard a shot and then you went outside...

And then I went outside...

DET. ...and that's where you saw them kinda doin' the...

...that's when the, no, no, um, when I saw the first four shots, that's when I yelled out let's go outside. When I, when I...

DET. I'm sorry. (UI) hold on just one second, I need to back up just a little bit because, had you heard a shot before you saw them tusslin' in the car?

No, no, I heard a altercation.

DET Okay, you're, that's what you heard that brought you outside initially?

No, uh, what brought me outside was the gunshots.

DET. Okay. I'm sorry, I'm, I'm tryin' to be very clear on this...  
Alright, I got you...

DET. ...is why, which is why, I'm, I'm havin', so, the very first thing that drew your attention was what?  
The altercation.

DET. Okay.  
From hearin' stuff.

DET. Okay. So you heard them arguin'?  
Yeah.

DET. Or some-some kinda...  
Yeah...

DET ...exchange of words.  
...yeah, yeah, yeah.

DET. ...-is what you hear? What is the first thing that you see?  
Um, a guy at the window doin' somethin'-somethin'.

DET. Okay. Had you heard any gunshots at that point?  
No, I didn't. I, nn-no I didn't, but...

DET Okay.  
...a lot of people sayin' that they heard a gunshot startin' from the inside, but like I said...

DET. But you didn't hear that?  
I, I didn't, I didn't hear that. I mean, I might have heard it if I was outside already.

DET. Okay.  
But, it probably (UI)...

DET. I understand, what I'm tryin' to see...  
I got you...

DET. ...what brought you outside...  
...I got you, I got you. So um,....

DET. So, so let's skip forward to the part where, 'cause we know where he w-  
we know where the friend was at. We know where he went.  
Yeah.

DET. We know, um, so what I wanna take you back to is the part where the  
officer gets out of the vehicle...  
Uh huh.

DET. ...and starts to go towards the back. Michael was runnin' down the  
road...  
Yep.

DET. ...and, what is going on there?  
Uh, like I said, by time I got outside, so either...

DET. So (UI)...  
...he musta hit from those ff-the first three or shots.

DET. But that's what I wanna talk to you about.  
Right.

DET. The, the first four shots that you're talkin' about...  
Uh huh.

DET. ...I wanna be very clear on where...  
Uh huh.

DET. ...the officer was at.  
Yeah. Um, like I said, he-he was, m-probably, um, just passin' the end of  
his truck.

DET. Oh, so he's by the rear bumper?

Yeah.

DET. And the driver side quarter panel area?

Yeah.

DET. Okay.

Yep.

DET. Okay, so he, uh, h, uh, has he already fired or he starts firing then?

Naw, he-he been shot. He been fired...

DET. So, from the time....

...he been fired.

DET. So...

But, like, so when he got out the car...

DET. He start firin' as soon as he got...

Yeah, 'cause....

DET. ...out.

...the, that's how I noticed that, um, uh, that he kept shootin', um, walkin' pass the white car where his friend was.

DET. Okay. Okay, I just wanna make sure that...

So the four or four shots...

DET. So the si-the second he exited he started firing at Michael who was running away.

Yeah, so it was like, pow, pow, pow, pow.

DET. Okay.

(U) like take time and he was also takin' big steps, steppin' out the car and, like I said...

DET. Okay.

...and I seen him shootin' as he was walkin'...

DET. Was he yellin' anything?

Uh, yeah, he-he (UI)....

DET. I don't want you speculating.

Yeah, yeah, I, he w...

DET. Was, I mean was he yelling anything at all? And, uh, even if you can't think...

You know I can't even remember....

DET. (UI)

...I can't even remember that...

DET. You don't know.

....I can say, yeah.

DET. Okay.

I can't even remember.

DET. Okay.

Um, um...

DET. So, um, see, as he's runnin', and he's takin', the officer's takin' these four s-four shots, and he's by the rear bumper...

Uh huh.

DET. ...where, what is Michael doin'? Or how is he reacting?

Um, like I said, about time I got outside after when I told my fiancé let's go outside, from the first shots, I goes outside and that's when I noticed, like, obviously he's been hit because now he's facin' the cop.

DET. Okay, now where are you at, though?

Now I'm outside.





...after (UI) I w-l'm outside...

DET. Where?

...after the first four, on my, um, balcony. On my balcony.

DET. : You're in the balcony?

Yeah. So, uh...

DET. : And did you go downstairs though?

: Uh, I didn't go downstairs unt-this is, this was after, uh, the tape is up and stuff like that...

DET. : Okay, so you never went downstairs?

No, I never went downstairs until afterwards.

DET. Okay, okay.

(UI)...

DET. So, you're outside now when, after he's fired these first four shots?

Yep.

DET. Okay, tell me what happens then.

: Um, when I steps outside, um, the guy, obviously, um, he's been hit 'cause he curls up and I, but now he-he's facin' the Ferguson, the Ferguson officer. And, um,...

DET. : So, when you describe him curlin' up show me.

: Um, he's uh, he's, like I said, like he's been hit in the stomach.

DET. He's bent over?

Yeah, kinda like...

DET. At the waist?

...yeah like he about to fall and fall directly....

DET. Okay.

...on the ground. And, um, but I see him takes like one or two steps, kinda like I said, towards him, you know...

DET. Now...

...now I don't know if that was a help sign, just a little bit.

DET. Okay, w...

Just a little bit.

DET. Well tell me this.

Uh huh.

DET. Everybody's describing his hands being up.

: You know what, that, now that's like, because when, when, okay, from where my balcony is, it's another buildin' right there. Um, he, where his blood spill at, where he got shot at, he ran passed that.

DET. Uh huh.

Before he, you know, got that...

DET. How'd he end up comin' back?

Yeah, that's why, the, that's, I was just, uh, what I'm, what I'm sayin', like I said, he musta got hit and he, he probably had his hands up when he got hit. (UI)

DET. Oh, so you're sayin' that area...

That's why everybody...

DET. ...that area's out...

...keep sayin' that.

DET. ...of view?

Yeah, uh, quite, uh out of view, but he ran passed the, uh, where he got shot at.

DET. Okay, so the, the part of the area where he got shot with those four.

Yeah, he-he, yeah, where he died at, he ran passed that spot.

DET. And came back to that spot?

So obviously, I think when he got hit, that's when he probably raised his hands up, but he's, then curled up...

DET. Yeah.

...but walkin', just took a couple steps back towards him, you know, he probably had one hand up, but, um, but he had his hands down here and that's, uh, the officer let out about four more shots and he hit the ground. Just like how he's layin'.

DET. So you see him bent over...

Yeah. Just like how he laying...

DET. ...okay and then, but what I'm sayin' though is, and then after he's bent over, there's another four shots?

Yeah, yeah, like another four shots or three shots. Just like that and everybody sayin', like, he was already down and then the officer let off shots. I don't know, but, I know what I saw. So...

DET. Okay.

...before he hit the ground, he let off four more shots.

DET. Okay.

So I can't remember...

DET. And where he...

...if he said "freeze" or-or-or said somethin' before he let out the last ones, but I know when he...

DET. Did you hear Michael say anything before those last four...

No, I didn't, huh uh.

DET. Okay.

No.

DET. So, where he, where he was at in the street, is that where he fell? The-the, like, nobody moved him?

No, ain't nobody moved him or nothin'.

DET. Okay.  
Nothin' so, uh...

DET. Nobody touched his body?  
Nobody touched him, uh, after, af-right after that, the officer just stood over it, like, five feet away from him with his gun on his walkie talkie thing...

DET. Okay.  
...and called the first two or whatever.

DET. Okay.  
And that was it...

DET. Alright. Is there anything that I haven't asked you or that you feel you need to clarify?  
Uh, no that's everything really. Everything that I saw.

DET. Okay.  
Everything I saw.

DET. Alright. Um, it's uh 10:43. We're gonna go ahead and conclude the interview.