

August 13, 2014

(No start time indicated)

Detective / Detective
St. Louis County Police Department

Detective

Detective

DET. : Ok, this is Detective of the St. Louis County Police Department. With me is Detective This interview is being conducted at at . And with us is . Um, , um, we understand you were present at that shooting on Saturday up in Ferguson.

: Yes I was.

DET. : And can you just tell me, um, where you were, um, or how..

: Uh

DET. : ...where you were coming from?

: Passenger side front seat of my wife's van.

DET. : Ok.

: We were driving toward the shooting.

DET. : Ok. (pause) And what'd you see?

: Well, first, we heard shots. I heard like three, maybe four shots.

DET. : Ok.

: And...looked up, saw the flashing lights of the squad car. And, I saw a large African American gentleman, uh..pointing in our direction, look like he had a...looked to me like he had a gun. I..I...swore he was pointing a gun at...well..he ...at the cop.

DET. : Ok.

: But the cop was between him, and the vehicle that we were in. So, it looked like he was pointing in my direction.

DET. : Ok. So, I..I

: ..And then...

DET. : Let me, I wanna, I'm gonna pause you there I just wanna make sure that-that I got everything right, ok?

: Mmhmm.

DET. : Um, so you..you..come around and you see um.. the African American gentleman, and he is standing um..where at..uh...

: We...

DET. : ..with the police car?

We were, we had...we had just turned onto the street. We were a few blocks from the incident.

DET. : Ok.

: We were..we were approaching it, and my wife was slowing down because we heard the shots.

DET. : Ok.

: And..I..I..I was scanning, looking, saw the squad car, saw the officer from behind, saw the gentleman on the other side of him, pointing in our direction.

DET. : Ok. So I'm gonna stop you right there.

Mmhmm.

DET. : So, if..if..we're like standing above the police car, ok..imagine we're above the police car. Where is, where is the African American gentleman at?

Um, he was in the middle of the street.

DET. : Ok.

: Uh...the car..the..the officer ...a...b..because, I didn't see the officer get out of the car.

DET. : Ok.

: My wife says she saw him get out of the car. I didn't see him, I didn't see the officer until..u..u..u..until he was already out the car.

DET. : Ok.

Th..th..the gentleman, the A...the black guy...

DET. : Yeah.

: ...pointed at us. And..about that time, he started to run, and that's when the officer shot him in the leg.

DET. : Ok.

: And it certainly looked like a leg shot to me, the way he staggered... (chuckles)

DET. : Ok .

: Uh, spun around. Uh..and ..right after..right after he was hit, he turned around and he started back toward the police officer.

DET. : Ok.

: And..I'm..we're in a residential neighborhood. There's bystanders everywhere, there's people everywhere. I..what I saw was the officer gunned down somebody who had apparently been in a firefight with him.

DET. : Ok.

: And...I'm..I'm...I was relieved that it was over, and that there weren't going to be any stray bullets..hittin' bystanders.

DET. : Ok.

Because, it certainly looked...uh..it was too far away to actually see a gun...

DET. : Ok.

: ...but it certainly looked like he was pointing one, and we definitely heard shots fired before he ever started running.

DET. : Ok. So..um..if..and we're going to use...you put a shoe down on the floor to kinda show the police car...

...car right...

DET. : So was the policeman behind the police car?

I'm not certain..mm..because uh..at that point...at that point, my attention shifted to...the guy that was running away and being shot at.

DET. And then the guy that was running, where was he standing next to the police car?

: Uh, he was out in the middle of the street. Uh..

DET. Ok, so he was over to the uh...

: He was..he was...

DET. : Over the right?

..he was by the middle...he was by the yellow line. He was out in the middle...

DET. : Ok.

...out in the middle of the street.

DET. : Ok.

And..he started running away from us, got wounded, and turned around and came back toward...

DET. : Ok.

...the police officer.

DET. : So..you..you saw the officer shoot him one time while he was running away?

Yes.

DET. Ok.

: Uh..

DET. What did, what did he do when he..when he turned around?

: He walked back toward the officer. Now I've heard lots of people talking about how he had his hands up. He did not have his hands up.

DET. Ok.

: His hands were down at his sides. And..and..and..he got...to within maybe six or ten feet from the officer, and ...the cop shot him. Uh..

DET. : When..when he came back towards the officer...was he walking, was he running in between something else?

Uh...he appeared to be walking..

DET. : Ok.

: He appeared to be walking. Uh..but he..eh...it was not hands up, it was.. they were down at his side. You couldn't see...you know...you couldn't see...you couldn't really see his hands.

DET. Ok.

Th..they were down.

DET. : Did he have his hands up at any time? Did you see?

: The only time I can remember his hands up is...when he flung them out briefly...wh..when he was running away and got hit...

DET. : Ok.

And..and..and..he..he kinda flung them out, and staggered around. Uh..uh...to face the officer, and come back toward the officer. I..

: Okay.

DET. : ...you coming down Canfield..here's where the apartment complex is...

: Yeah.

DET. Can you..uh..where do you think...where you guys think you were..

: I would..I would say that we were between here, and here...when we heard the shots.

DET. : Ok. So I'm gonna circle, you put an "X" there, I'm put circles, I'm gonna put "A" next to those, so that we know what we're talking....

: ...because...

DET. : ...about.

: Because the street has started to turn, and we..and..looking down this way...

DET. : Ok.

: Th..th..the shot...the shots fired came from down here at first...At first we were far enough away that at first it sounded like fireworks, but..it...too loud..you know...for the distance.

DET. : Where did you see the police car at?

: Uh..down in this area somewhere. I'm not...

DET. : ..If you wanna...

: ...I'm not sh.....

DET. : ..look at the other one...

: Ok. I can tell you that...I can tell you that we drove up to here, and turned and went around behind the complex. Because we...we were stoppin' to pick somebody up that lived in one of these buildings. I'm not sure which building, but...

DET. : Ok.

...But know...I know we...I know we turned off onto here, so th..the squad car was further down the street.

DET. : Ok.

: And...because we went around to avoid the police...

DET. : Ok. So, If I'm going to put this map with this map, you...just pointed to about right here. Right? You just pointed like right around there?

: Uh...I wanna say...by this corner...

DET. : Ok. You mind putting a circle there?

: Sure.

DET. : And I'll..I'll label that..

: Uh oh sorry.

DET. : That's ok.

: I wanna say by the corner.

DET. : Alright, I'm gonna put that on "B". That's the corner of Canfield Drive, and Canfield Court. Put that "B". So. Um..wh..when you were driving down Canfield, was the police car facing you, or was it facing the other direction?

: I really have no idea.

DET. : Ok. And then which direction did..did..he..um..the African American guy run?

He ran this way.

DET. : So he ran this way on Canfield?

Yes he did.

DET. : Ok. So he ran away from you guys. Running ea...uh..running east. On Canfield. (pause) Was the police car parked in the middle of the street? Was it parked on the side, do you remember?

: Umm..kinda..kind of forty five degree to the curb, I think...it...it..it..it wasn't parked, but it wasn't blocking the road.

DET. : Ok. Ok. And then, um..and you said that, that you saw the police officer outside of the car.

: Yeah...for...

DET. : And then...

: When I first seen the officer, he was already out of the vehicle...

DET. : And you're not...you're not sure where.

No.

DET. : Ok. And but..the..the other guy, the African American gentleman...was..on the yellow line of the road?

: Yeah, he was going down..he was going down the middle of the street...

DET. : Ok. Um..and how many times do you think the policeman shot?

: Well, I heard three to four shots before...that...we..we first heard three or four shots...

DET. : Right...I'm talking about...

: ...that is what got our attention...uh...he wounded him, and then after he came back, umm...four..six...umm..I figure all together, pro...he..(stumbling)...yeah..'bout ha...you you you...about five or six times with..w..w..w..um...at the end.

DET. : Ok.

: Uh..(clears throat)

DET. : So when he was walking back there was..there was more shots. Um..could you tell if he had anything in his hands?

: I...could...at one point...when I..when I first saw him pointing at the car, I swore he had a gun. Uh..later I didn't see anything in his hands, but I

couldn't really see his hands, we were...we were too far away and his arms were down at his sides.

DET. : Did you hear anybody yelling anything out? Did you hear the policeman yell? Did you hear the African American man yell?

: Uh..I was in the car..window up..air conditioner going...uh..we heard the gun shots, and uh..as we were turning down on the side street, and...a..it was all over..and the guy was on the ground and we were driving around...

DET. : Ok.

: I..I could hear people yelling. Uh..typical women in the background... (quietly) "Oh God"..yeah..I'm..I'm from north side...

DET. : Yeah.

: ...and I..I..been listening to these ghetto-ass...th..there's always somebody screaming at the cops.

DET. : Right.

I..I've ..I've gotten in trouble. There's been times where I would have just rolled on away...and the cops woulda let me alone, if I hadn't had some woman yellin' at them and annoying the cop (laughs)...

DET. : Alright. Um. Ok, so we're not sure on verbal commands. Um..

Yeah.

DET. : You got anything right now?

DET. : Uh, yeah, was there anything..that obstructed your vision of the officer? Like, it could...was there something in between you and the officer that would have obstructed your vision of..of him?

: Um..once..once I saw him shooting at the..at the fleeing suspect...because whe..when I first..when I first seen him, it..it..it..it was as the guy was turning to run..and he wounded him..you know..when he started to run...I didn't see him get out of the car..he was at this point, he was in the middle of the street. Fairly clear view.

DET. : Oh, the officer was in the middle of the street?

: Mmhmm..uh..

DET. : Or..

: He..he..he was out in the street...

DET. : Ok.

..you know..

DET. : ..away from his car?

: Uh, several feet away from his car.

DET. : Ok. And then..was there anything that obstructed your vision of uh..the guy he was shooting at? The uh..was he...

No.

DET. : ...like was there anything in between you and him that would have blocked your vision of him?

: MmMm.

DET. : I just want to make sure I got um..it..it clear, cuz you said he maybe fired four to six times when he was walking back towards the policeman?

The...

DET. How many shots were fired if he was...when he was running away from the policeman?

I..don't recall more than one, maybe two.

DET. : Ok.

: ...at the most. I..I..there...there wasn't a lot of shooting at..eh..eh..guy started run, cop hit him in the leg, he turned around.

DET. : Ok. Ok. Alright.

DET. : Um. So, were you at..how many police officers were there at the time?

: I saw one car, one cop.

DET. : Ok.

Uh, they were comin' from everywhere at this point. But..there w..I saw..the c...I saw one car, one cop. And..and..and..

DET. Was it..

And..and then we were going around, getting you know.. cuz..(chuckles)...we didn't wanna be there.

DET. : Yeah..wh..what kind of police car was it?

Uh..the little black and white, not black and white but the little....the little white county Ferguson..uh..the..the..with th..typical cop car with lights on...

DET. : Car, SUV, truck?

: I wanna say car.

DET. : Ok. Was the officer wearing a uniform?

: Yes, he was in uniform.

DET. Ok. What..do you know what the..the other guy was wearing? The African American guy?

: Uh..white t-shirt blue jeans. (pause). About my size...around six, six two..about two hundred pounds.

DET. : Could you see his face?

Uh..no. I saw a large black guy in t-shirt and jeans.

DET. : Um, and then you said, that it..it looked to you like he was pointing...

: Right..

DET. : ..a gun...

: When I first seen him, he was pointing at the cop. And it made..it..it..it..it looked like he had a gun. But I was two or three blocks up the street.

DET. : Ok.

DET. : Did he have one hand..two hands he was pointin' at him?
 I am not certain.

DET Ok.

DET. : And when he was pointing , how was he...how was his...the rest of his body positioned?
 It looked like he was..it looked like he was going to take a shot at the cop. It looked...(chuckles)...it looked like somebody..you know..getting ready to take a shot.

DET. : Ok.

DET. : Ok, so you're...it..just so I can describe it for the recorder, you're kinda standing with your feet/shoulder width apart..

: Yeah.

DET. : ...about..and..um..you're holding one arm down to your side, and your right arm...

: Right...

DET. :extended...

: But..i don't remember if it was both arms up or not..

DET. : Oh, ok.

DET. : Ok, that's fine.

DET. Ok.

: But, he was..it..it..it definitely looked like he was..you know...

DET. : Ok.

: And..I'm..u..I'm looking...and its like, my..my point of view was like over the cop's shoulder.

DET. Mmhmm

.....at the guy. You know, from a distance, but..and..I'm like, if he's star...I'm thinking to myself...if he starts shootin', they're comin' this way. (chuckles)

DET. : Ok. But you could still....but the officer wasn't blocking your view of him?

No.

DET. Right.

No.

DET. : Ok.

: The...the..the distance of maybe ten feet between them.

DET. : Ok.

: Uh...it w..it w..it was..it was just before he broke and ran. And..(chuckles) I was worried about gettin' shot.

DET. : That's understandable. Um..what I'm gonna do here is on the back of this map, I'm gonna draw, a road...k..so just a basic road with a double line running down the middle ok?

: Mm.

DET. : And then if you can, just kinda draw...and I know its not going to be to scale...

Right.

DET. : ..but if you don't mind, just kinda...kinda draw wh...uh..where were you at, and then how the police car was parked, at first.

: Well...we were comin' down the road.

He ran this way.

DET. Ok.

: And...uh..got..got wounded..got wounded so..over here...

DET. : Ok.

: And...it was walking back toward the officer, and was gunned down approximately the same area where I first...

DET. : ..where he started running.

: ...first seen him.

DET. : What I'm going to do here is I'm gonna write "police officer" here so we know..

Mmhmm.

DET. ...that's who that's who supposed to be. And over here, I'm gonna put "deceased". So that we know...

: Sure.

DET. : ..wh..who that one was. And then I'm gonna..uh..and then here at this mark here, I'm gonna circle that and put an arrow down saying "turn around point".

: Right.

DET. : And then..and then you're saying that where he took off runnin' from is where he ended it back up at?

: Now, here's...here's another thing that I was never very certain of....when he got...when he got hit, and he flung his arms out and spun around..

DET. : Uh huh.

I..I..I..he...might have thrown something, or..or dropped something.

DET. : Ok.

: I...I...I...couldn't tell. I was too far away.

DET. Ok. Anything else?

DET. : Um...Have you uh...before today...before we knocked on your door, had you been contacted by law enforcement in reference to this before?

No.

DET. : So, no one has spoken to you...

: You're...you're the first ones to talk to me about this.

DET. : Ok.

DET. : Has anybody else contacted you at all?

: No.

DET. : Ok.

: He....

DET. Uh...what..uh what made you decide to..to talk to us about this today?

My wife and I discussed it, and...look...I'm a felon..I..I..I.. don't have any love for the police. But..(chuckles)...

DET. : Yeah.

: I..I...I...I don't like you..I don't like you guys.

DET. : Well, that's fine.

: But...what I saw..to me..appeared to be an officer taking down a gun man, in a crowded residential neighborhood...and...befo...before somebody else got hurt.

DET. Ok.

And...to me..the man was just doing his job.

DET. OK.

And..all this..hoopla and bullshit..is..is..is..most...most..most of the people that are doing this shit weren't there. Don't know nobody involved. Ain't got no connection to it. They just want a reason to jump on the bandwagon and act crazy.

DET. Ok. Fair enough. Um..I do want to have you do this if you don't mind. If you can sign back here, and date...

: Sure.

DET. Uh..that way we know that that was you that did that uh...today's date is the..August thirteenth?

DET. Yes.

: August (chuckles)

DET. : Yeah.

: Thirteenth. Uh...

DET. : Fourteen.

: Yeah, fourteen.

DET. : If you don't mind, do the same thing on the front too...

: Sure.

DET. : Thanks.

DET. : Can you think of anything else?

DET. : No. Uh..I did wanna ask you..uh...we..we began recording our conversation here.

Mmhmm.

DET. ..uh...before the conversation was recorded, did we ask you any questions about the case?

: No. No. We sat and waited patiently for you to go get your recorder.

DET. : Ok.

DET. : Alright.

DET. Um..do you remember if any of the car doors on the police car were open?

I have no clue.

DET. : Ok. Ok. And I think that's uh...I think that's..everything I can think of now. Um..if..if we have any follow up questions, um..I'm gonna relay this to the rest of the team that that's working the case..if there's any follow up questions, can I call you at this number?

Yes you can.

DET. : Ok, and then uh...and then we can clarify if we have any follow up questions on that. Uh, at this time I'm gonna go ahead and uh..end the interview here. And its uh..one eleven PM and the interview was approximately twenty one minutes long.

END