

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER LEVI HANCOCK (LH), P# 7083

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE J. LEAVITT (JL), P# 5814, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1607 hours. Also present are Detective A. Ubbens (AU), P# 13119, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative K. Hooten (KH), P# 4675.

JL: Operator this is Detective, uh, Jason Leavitt, P# - P# 5814, with the LVMPD's Force Investigation Team. I'll be doing one, uh, witness officer interview under Event # 171001-3519. Uh, person being interviewed will be Levi Hancock, uh, P# 7083. His call sign is Zebra-20. His date of hire is [REDACTED]. Uh, he's currently assigned to SWAT with Thursday, Friday, Saturday off, 1500 to 0100. Uh, his vehicle number on the date of the incident was # 9903. The interview - the interview is in reference to an active shooter, uh, that occurred on October 1, 2017, at 3950 South Las Vegas

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Boulevard which is the Mandalay Bay hotel. Today's date is 10-3-2017 with the time being 1607 hours. Uh, this statement is being conducted at Headquarters in Building C. Uh, we're actually located in the CIRT Office at this time. Also present during this interview will be, uh, Detective Andrew Ubbens, U-B-B-E-N-S, P# 13119, as well as Kirk Hooten, P# 4675 with the PPA. Uh, first off, uh, Levi, you understand this conversation is being recorded?

LH: Yes.

JL: Uh, before we get started, uh, you're - during the interview you're in your, uh, SWAT uniform, uh, can you describe to me what you were wearing the night of the incident?

LH: Uh, yes. I was wearing a similar type uniform, um, some combat pants and a combat shirt, uh, along with the, uh, the - the boots I nor- wear for normal duty. Uh, I also had a gun belt on, uh, actually this same gun belt on with two thigh rigs, uh, with a Glock 17 on the right hip and extra magazines on my left hip. Uh, then I had my heavy vest on with my natural complement of am- ammunition, magazines, uh, breaching, uh, explosive breaching, uh, components, a helmet and also a M4.

JL: Okay. Uh, duty belt would consist of all the items you would normally carry? A handgun, handcuffs...

LH: Yeah. Uh, yes, extra restraining devices, uh, I - I got a low lethal on my kit, um, and a that's - that's pretty much it.

JL: Okay. Um, we're gonna talk about, uh, an active shooter that you responded to at Mandalay Bay hotel. Uh, can you just kind of, uh, explain to me how you became

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aware of the incident that was unfolding, um, and were you currently working, how you got there, that kind of thing?

LH: Yeah. I was currently, uh, on shift, we had worked a little bit earlier. Um, I had gotten a text notification from my sergeant, Todd Mueller, uh, he said that there was active shooter at Mandalay Bay, um, the communicator would be coming out -- Communicator is our system for notifications, uh, but everybody- everybody to be en route. Um, I went en route, I was up on the, uh, Spring Valley side of town. Uh, I went en route Code, um, started - immediately flipped over to Convention Center just to try and get a gist of what was goin' on, I hadn't gotten any information outside of the - the text that I received. The communicator still hadn't come out, um, and when it did eventually come out, uh, something happened with it, there was no intel on it, it was just said that it was a test of the communicator system. Um, I had originally flipped over to SWAT1, uh, to say that I was en route and then also just to get any updates, any information that was coming out there. But most of it was, uh, just, uh, all - all the SWAT guys saying that they were up en route, discussions about who was picking up armor, those kind of things. Uh, so like I said I - I flipped over to Convention Center to get some real-time info and that's when I heard obviously the - the chaos that was goin' on over there. Uh, as I proceeded down I actually was going, um, eastbound on Russell from the 215, uh, I'm like I'm gonna Code run. Uh, they started to put out traffic that, uh, nobody should come to the east side of Mandalay Bay 'cause apparently that's where shots were being fired. So as I got closer I was going Russell I just decided to go over to Hacienda and make that my

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approach to - to comin' in, uh, to the area. Knowing that that Route 91 area was being affected that was over closer towards that Hacienda intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and where Mandalay Bay is at. So as I - as I started to traverse down there, um, I could hear units saying that they were taking gunfire up on the 32nd Floor. Uh, and - and out of all the traffic that was going on that I deciphered that was the only place that - that we had actually pinpointed where gunfire was being - was coming from. It sounded like everything else was going on in the Strip. We weren't quite sure where anybody - nobody had identified a suspect at ground level basically. So having that information, um, I arrived basically just outside of the Michael Jackson Theater, I don't know if you know where that's at in rela- relation to the Mandalay Bay, it's right off of Hacienda Drive. Uh, people were evac-ing out of the tunnel that goes across to Luxor right there as well, uh, and coming out some of those doors. Uh, I proceeded to get dressed out, um, putting on my respective uniform like I told you that I was wearing. Uh, kitted out also, I've got an active shooter bag that I roll with, um, and a manual breaching device as well. Um, slung on all that, uh, proceeded to get up on the SWAT simplex channel, uh, and realized there was nobody else on the channel because nobody else was there yet. Um, I flipped over to SWAT1 and there was still traffic goin' on but, um, they were saying that the stage area for SWAT was gonna be over by South Central Area Command. Uh, at that point I made the decision listen I'm already here, I'm already deploying, uh, I'm not gonna redeploy to, uh, to across that area, it'd just be too time consuming and cumbersome to get there. Uh, plus with the radio traffic that I heard, uh, units

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upstairs were, uh, taking fire up on the 32nd Floor. Um, so not being - literally I was there by myself, there's no other police there, I just - just civilians that were evac-ing out, um, I asked people, "Hey where's the quickest entrance to get inside?" Uh, and they pointed me basically right to the Michael Jackson Theater, I came in the back door and was right there. Decided to, uh, go ahead and deploy myself, uh, figuring that I was gonna pick up, you know, somebody along the way, probably some SWAT guys or whoever else was arriving. Uh, so I proceeded through the theater, um, slowly clearing that, a lot of the people had already been evac-ed so most - most everybody was there or I know they had a theater already - a sh- a show goin' on in the theater at the time and they were containing that, keeping people - Security was keeping people inside not letting anybody leave. So as I walked through the theater, I came across the corridor that runs into I think it's the Delano right there, um, and I was clearing it just kind of scanning left and right I picked up a - a patrol unit that was down about, uh, 50 yards to my left. Um, I immediately notified them, "Hey SWAT," um, and proceeded to move up to where they were at. They were facing basically down into the casino which would be facing southbound I guess more or less, south. Um, so as - as soon as I got up to them an- and I couldn't even tell you who they - who they were, at that point in time I just knew that there was three patrol guys, I said, "Hey you guys are with me." Uh, so we proceeded to go through the casino. I knew where the elevator bank was to get upstairs so I - we went through the casino and, um, got, uh, over to the elevators. When I got to the elevators that's when I came across, uh, I think it was, uh, Sergeant Bitsko and Dave Newton, um, and I

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started talking to them about a plan about getting upstairs. Uh, we started discussing about the 32 Floor, uh, what we - at least what I knew at that point in time and then we realized that the - the elevators were locked out, apparently, uh, they had locked 'em out on their - on their egress out of there the maintenance guys had locked 'em out completely. Um, so I had two options, I could take the stairs or I could wait a second and - and see if, uh, and see if it was gonna be beneficial for me to - to - to wait and get keys to the elevator. So, uh, I - I told, uh, those guys, "Hey listen we're gonna wait just a minute to see if we can get keys," uh and literally within I would say maybe a couple minutes at the most, uh, one of the security guys showed up with, uh, some keys, got us into the elevator, um, and finally got us moving up to the 32nd Floor. I had a - a contingent of guys, you know, obviously there were - at the elevator bank itself there was a bunch of patrol guys, uh, I almost was having to tell people no not to come with me so I - I pointed to several - I think I had, uh, in the elevator possibly six of us going up, um, and, uh, so we got up to the 32nd Floor. As the elevators opened we just quickly, uh, cleared that immediate area and then, uh, exited out of the elevator, we peeked that we could a whole contingent of officers in the rotunda area. Are you guys familiar with the area I'm talkin' about?

JL: Mm-hm.

LH: Um, and they were pointing guns, uh, down to the, uh, to the north wing, uh, and they were set up. So went over to start gettin' intel from them and immediately, uh, they started telling me, "Hey he's been firing with a belt-fed machine gun," um, and they insisted it was belt-fed machine gun. That's just kind of what kept resonating in my

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mind. Um, and looking down the hallway just peekin' that they had, uh, you know, tho- those corridors are extremely long, um, I would say, you know, probably 75 yards, right around there, um, and lookin' down there about halfway they had patrol officers that were standing in the, um, uh, the cutouts to where the rooms are, the little alcoves that probably recess maybe about a foot and a half, maybe 18 inches for each interior door that goes into a room. Uh, and then they had one patrol guy that was basically proned out on the floor, uh, in the middle of the hallway pointing his rifle down- downrange. Uh, I told those guys, "Listen, get that guy up off the floor," you know, he was in a real bad position especially knowing that we had rounds that were coming out of that door. Uh, I could see the doors that they were pointing to, they were directly at the end of the hallway, uh, they were double doors, uh, you know, for - as most suites there are. Uh, so, um, I had made the decision at that point that I was gonna bound up, uh, to where they were at. Um, I believe it was Sergeant Matchko, um, who was in that rotunda area, uh, and he actually started to crawl up there, um, uh, right before I started to bound up. I made it two, uh, two bounds and then I got in- uh, into the alcove and I started thinkin', um, you know, it just dawned on me that, uh, my previous experience I had been in Special Investigations and if you guys are aware we're responsible for the fireworks displays that are goin' on on the casinos and they're always on the rooftops. So I had been in in those, um, stairwells before and I knew that they were at the end of each, uh, respective hallway. So I decided to back out of my position where I was at there and, uh, get a team together, um, that I could go down to the 31st Floor, uh, go down to the stairwell

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and then - and - and proceed to come up through the stairwell. I didn't remember exactly where it was gonna put me out, I just knew it was gonna put me out obviously in a lot closer position than where I was and I wouldn't have to be worried about taking gunfire coming down the hallway. So, uh, put that compliment together including, uh, I know Sergeant Bitsko was there, uh, Dave Newton, um, and - and a few other patrol guys. Uh, like I said I mean I saw so many different faces and - and...

JL: Mm-hm.

LH: ...you know how it is seeing a lot of the newer guys you just don't know who they are. So, um, I took a contingent of officers with me, um, and we proceeded to go to the 31st Floor and then pro- uh, traverse that hallway all the way to the north. Well luck had it that it actually spit us out, um, right next to the suspect's doorway. Uh, so as we breached that door at the 31st, uh - uh, Floor into the stairwell, um, we had gotten some information there were some officers in there so we slowly breached that, we saw there was, uh, some security officers along with I believe two patrol officers that were maintaining that, uh, stairwell. So obviously we identified ourselves, went through the stairwell and we proceeded up to the 32nd. Um, there's, uh, fire doors, uh, and I felt pretty good about our position we were in just because just having a basic knowledge of construction the way these, uh, high rises are constructed, knowing we had pretty heavy concrete walls for the, uh, not only elevator shafts but the stairwells as well, we had some good cover, uh, being where we were at. Um, initially I had talked to, uh, when I was up on the 32nd Floor I had talked to

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Maintenance who was out there and he was an engineering guy about shutting down all the power to the 32nd Floor, at least it would give us some concealment to go up there. Um, and getting up then - then getting up to the stairwell on the 32nd Floor right next to the suspect's room I opted to direct a couple of the patrol guys to start taking out lights in the stairwell, um, that way, you know, if we did have to open that door up we wouldn't have just, you know, uh, telegraphed our position to - to where we were at. So we did that prior to opening the first set of doors, uh, that led into the little alcove that leads into another door that goes actually into the hallway, that dumps into the hallway if you're familiar with that. Um, so we took the first set of light out, uh, breached that - that door, um, which actually had been, uh, come to find out screwed shut, uh, with some screws or bolts or something to that effect by Security on their egress out. Apparently they screwed it shut and, um, from the other side. So we used my pry tool, opened that door up, uh, and then we went into that little alcove area. I assigned the two guys again to take the - a - a light out above us, um, prior to us even opening up th- that door that went into the hallway. Um, we were trying to this as - obviously as quietly as possible, um, before we, uh, before we opened that door really tele- you know, telegraphed where our position was at. So as we did that, um, I kind of pushed everybody back down the stairs a little bit, I didn't want everybody just sitting right up on top of the stairs, uh, in case we did start taking gunfire, um, knowing that the construction for those walls obviously is - is different than what's in that - that, uh, that stairwell. So I pushed the majority of the team back and then it was just myself and, uh, Sergeant Bitsko and, uh, Dave Newton that were

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re- literally in that - that small, you know, 4 x 6 area right there right before you go out into the hallway. Uh, we cracked that door and I started to peek it, um, and realized that, uh, it was interesting 'cause there was a, um, room service cart that was right across the hall and immediately I noticed that comin' off the room service cart there was, uh, multiple wires that ran off the top of the cart, down the side and into the doorway of the adjacent room, literally just right across the hall from us. Uh, my initial thought was okay IED, um, you know, pretty odd to see electric wires on a - on a - a room service cart. So I told Dave to get as low as he possibly could in our little alcove area close to the ground so he could start peeking up, um - um, underneath where the linens were hanging over the room service cart to see if we had anything that was concerning as far as an IED goes. He couldn't see anything. Um, the most we could tell the - the electronic wires terminated to some smaller devices no bigger than - than your fist, we just didn't know what it was at the time. Um, I got down and peeked it while they were holding our position on the door and I just didn't see anything that was really concerning. And besides, you know, an- and I told those guys, I said, "The size," you know, uh, even with that going on, even if it was an IED we still got this guy that's an active shooter in here, we need to at least, you know, move forward. Um, so being at that position, uh, we identified that, look come - come to find out later it was cameras that he had set up. Um, I told, uh, Sergeant Bitsko and, um, Dave Newton that I was gonna hang an explosive breach on the, uh, on the door. Uh, I - I want to say, um, I believe at that point in time with all the radio traffic and everything else goin' on, um, Lieutenant Huddler had gotten on Convention

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Center - 'cause I had stayed on Convention Center because, one, I had - had gotten no radio traffic on SWAT simplex, I wanted to still get that live update, live intel, real-time information on Convention Center, uh, and I hadn't really heard any other SWAT guys on SWAT1. So, um, uh, Lieutenant Huddler had actually call- uh, gotten on the air and said to call him. So I called him and immediately told him, I said, "Listen, uh, I'm gonna [REDACTED] and I'm gonna - I'm gonna blow it right away. Uh, we don't know if this guy is still in here." And at that point in time we had multiple reports of, uh, active shooters comin' in from, you know, different ho- different properties. So not having heard any gunfire myself, uh, my concern was that, one, that this guy was even still inside, uh, that maybe he had the possibility of egressing out somehow, um, or if we had multiple active shooters we needed to make sure we could deal - get this one done with, uh, so we could redeploy and - and push assets elsewhere. So, uh, I told him I was gonna hang it and - and pop it and, uh, he said, "Go for it." Uh, I hung up with him, uh, and we developed a plan to - to go ahead up an- and hang that, uh, charge. Uh, we had opened the door up pretty much all the way at that point in time and, uh, I peeked that corner and we wa- we were literally were probably about maybe 6 feet from the, uh, 6 to 8 feet maybe at the most, uh, from the double - double doors. And you could see literally the center, um, if you can imagine the double door together, right in the center he had, uh, been shooting out, it was just - not that it was cut out but you could see multiple rounds that he was shooting out, uh, down the hallway. So I told those guys just based on where he was shooting that I wanted - I was gonna hug the wall as much as possible, stay to the left, um,

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particularly because he had a peephole up on the - the right working door. So I wanted to try and at least conceal myself and have, you know, some - some opportunity to hang this [REDACTED]. Uh, so I gave my initiator to, uh, one of the patrol guys and I prepped the [REDACTED] on the other end of it and, uh, just told him to stay tucked back in the stairwell. Uh, prepped the, uh, [REDACTED] and then, um, Dave - I think it was Dave that was workin' the shield, uh, I told him, I said, "Listen I don't want you off to my right," because that would put him literally right in front of where the rounds were comin' out. And we had just a - a piddley patrol shield, it was not rifle rated. Um, and wi- obviously with the intel of a belt-fed machine gun it would've zipped right through that. So I told him literally, you know, just, "Hey I want you to stay behind me, um, and I'll go ahead and hang this, just cover on the door and then we'll work our way back." So, uh, I hung a, uh, 100 grain rollup charge on the, uh, door itself, it takes - takes a little bit of time 'cause we have to make sure we did good adhesion, uh, and good placement on it. So, uh, I hung that and then immediately as soon as that was hung I thought - I whispered to him, "We're good," and we just started to move back into, uh, into the, uh, alcove. Um, the initial thought was that, uh, I wanted to prop the - that door open so we started workin' on - I was using some tape and some other stuff that we had to maybe prop that door open, um, in case that guy did come out, uh, down the hall as addressing the patrol officers we could at least have, uh, some type of engagement from the - the stairwell where we were at the side. Um, that really wasn't coming to fruition, we weren't (unintelligible) being successful in getting that door open so I just - I told those guys, "Hey listen, we're

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gonna shut the door, uh, and we'll just use the shield to - to prop it." Obviously with the - the charge that I had my concern was, uh, overpressure. I didn't want the overpressure to tweak our doorframe and have us then have to have a door that was shut that we weren't able to get through, um, especially given circumstances. So, um, uh, we did that, we - we propped the door, um, didn't really prop it, we just placed the shield inside the door, shut - shut the door pretty much as much as we could. And then we backed into the stairwell, uh, fully anticipating that we were gonna get gunfire as soon as we, uh, popped the charge. Um, at that point, uh, I was able to actually get on the radio and - and tell Dispatch that we had placed, uh, an explosive breach on the door, that we were gonna pop it, what our plan was to try and get a response from this guy to see if he was even in the room. Uh, I think that was the biggest concern, like I had said before we - I hadn't physically heard shots myself outside of what everybody was telling me. Um, so, uh, went ahead and, um, put that traffic out over the radio, plus I wanted the - the officers that were in the hallway, uh, I wanted them tucked back as much as possible because that overpressure in closed areas got one way to travel and it's going - it's gonna traverse the entire length of that hallway. So that was my other concern as well, I wanted them to be able to take some cover. Uh, so as soon as we did that she announced it again over the radio and then Dave, uh, came up on the channel and said, uh, "Stand by for breach. Breach breach breach." Um, at which point I had initiated the plunger into the initiator and - and, uh, let the breach, uh, initiate. Uh, so the - the breach initiated and we got, uh, we - we didn't get anything, um, like we had really

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anticipated, uh, at that point. So I told those guys that, uh, we're gonna hold, um, and, um, you know, in SWAT time maybe it feels like a long time but - but we held for - for maybe 30 seconds, um, and after we didn't get anything, uh, I actually low-crawled and kind of peeked, uh, that corner just kind of cutting the pie a little bit outside of that door that went into the hallway and saw that we had a positive breach on the door. The door basically had breached, uh, and it was hung up on the return, uh, the mechanical return that's on - on the high portion, the high corner of the door. Uh, so it was just sitting at an angle from, uh, one corner down but it still allowed me to see in from the top portion of the door and the bottom portion of the door and it actually gave us a - a - a pos- what we consider a positive breach 'cause we could've made entry through it if we needed to at that point in time. So if seeing that, um, and we hadn't gotten the response we had anticipated, uh, I - I opted to - to really take it slow as possible. Uh, what I didn't want to do is create a situation with the officers who I designated that were gonna go in with us, um, they don't have the experience in conducting a controlled entry or a dynamic entry into a structure. Um, where that maybe would have been beneficial having more SWAT guys with me, uh, especially having this, you know, speed, surprise and violence of action, and being able to dominate that structure I knew that the - the guys behind me didn't have the same training and experience that I had so I opted to take it as slow as possible. Uh, so I was peeking that I could immediately see a rifle that was on the ground, it was probably about 7 feet inside the door just to the right, it was on a bi-pod. Um, and then looking as deep as I could into the room, um, I didn't see any movement. So I -

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I actually pushed out into the hallway, um, and - and I - and maybe I had covered this previously but as we developed that plan of who was going inside, um, there must have been 12 plus officers that were in that stairwell at that point, I wasn't sure if we were just collecting them as we went or what but, uh, I des- I looked back and I designated, uh, up to a certain point I said, "Okay everybody to this point you're gonna be going in with us. Everybody back, uh, from here is gonna stay in the stairwell and you guys will be a rescue element or additional personnel if we need it. Um, so as we - as I sto- slowly pushed out into the hallway, um, uh, I started to just - just slowly cut the pie on that door, I wasn't getting any movements, seeing anything inside, uh, so I actually pushed across to the right side of the hallway. Um, and we were at the point where we could now just take the working side of the door and just push it open because it wasn't latched to anything at that point. Um, Dave was covering - I think it was Dave that was covering on the, uh, left side of the doorway, uh, and we were just covering deep into the room. Uh, we weren't hearing anything, uh, other than just wind and drapes that were kind of goin' on in the background. Um, so I told Dave that we were gonna go ahead and made entry and we just slowly kind of just, uh, started to kind of slow and methodical, uh, search. Uh, we came to a - a hallway that was to my immediate right, uh, I ended up taking that hallway, it was like a - kind of a wet bar, uh, type hallway access that was right behind where the bar itself is that faces out into the room. Um, so I took that hallway and, uh, Dave and some other personnel pushed forward and, um, into the main living room area and, uh, started to clean up that area. Uh, as soon as I made it down the hallway I was

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clearing left to right where it junctured into the - another little sitting area, um, and I could immediately see, uh, what I believed to be the suspect with his head pointed towards our direction and you could tell he had some type of - of wound to his head, he was - he was incapacitated on the - on the ground, uh, on his back. Um, at that point the other patrol - er, the other officers that had been clearing that area started to push forward, um, so my concern was to my right, wasn't sure what we had and I knew we po- potentially had that whatever it was, a device or something else that was in the hallway that was connected to something. So as I peeked that - that corner, uh, to the right, um, I saw that that was our, uh, through doors that would be to - going to an adjoining room. One door was completely opened, uh, it opens right to left, it's outward swing into the room and it was completely open as much as it could be, I think it was hitting against the couch. Um, at which point I noticed the other door was closed and it didn't have a - there's no handle. Obviously tho- those handles have to be open from the other side. Um, I thought it was a little odd that that door was closed, especially with a suspect being in, um, that room. So, um, I actually - I actually kicked it twice, uh, to see if I got any play on the door itself to see if I could breach it, uh, and I was getting nothing. Looking at the door, realized this is a heavy wood door on a metal frame, you know, I - I just - there was no way that I was gonna physically be able to do that. And then my other concern was do - do we have additional suspects, um, especially with the closed door. So I told everybody, I said, "Hey pull back, uh, we're gonna pull back around the corner and I'm gonna place a - another explosive breach on that door." Uh, besides, you know, af- after

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kicked - having kicked it myself I didn't want to put somebody up there, I also had a shot Glock as well but not being able to see where a door handle was, um, it really, you know, I'd have to go to the hinges and that would take multiple multiple- multiple shots. And that would also put me right directly in front of the door in case there was an additional suspect inside. So I pulled everybody back, uh, towards the - the front doors, uh, where we had, uh, entered in and, um, uh, prepped another [REDACTED] I got that off my - my vest, uh, prepped it and then, uh, as we moved forward I had Sean O'Donnell in the room with me who had actually apparently been deep in the hallway, uh, with two other SWAT officers that were our [REDACTED] units, that were on gun covering the hallway. So, um, I told him to stay on gun right on the corner, uh, that I was gonna prep the [REDACTED] and we're gonna go up and hang it. So as I prepped it, um, we, uh, we moved forward, uh, I pushed him, uh, to my right, uh, so I could get up close to where the - where I thought the hinges would be, um, and I started to hang the - the [REDACTED] on the door. I hung it and then I whispered to him that we were good and I started to move back. And I told him as soon as I moved back, uh, it - that this - this thing is goin'. Uh, so as soon we got back I grabbed the initiator from the patrol officer, uh, that I had handed it to, um, and, uh, inserted my plunger and then, uh, initiated the [REDACTED] Uh, we got a positive breach on that door. Um, as soon as that did happen, um, uh, we had a, uh, accidental discharge on that, I'm not sure if you guys were aware of that or not. Um, apparently Sean - I - I - from - from what I gathered, uh, had put his gun on select fire and then had the accidental discharge. Uh, I asked him if he had seen anything, um, obviously that caught me off

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guard. Um, he said, uh, "I thought I saw something," uh, and there was - as I peeked the corner, uh, we just had a lot of smoke from the, uh, explosive breach. So, uh, lookin' at that, um, I said, "Okay well let's go ahead and - and make entry," so we went up to the door, we just kind of did some quick peeks and looked at it, uh, we didn't get engaged or encountered by anybody, didn't see anybody in the immediate area so we just kind of fluttered into it. Um, as we pushed forward into that room I held on the bathroom while he pushed left 'cause all we had to the right was just a hallway. Um, so he pushed left and then that's when we - he - we also saw that was where the other shooting platform was where the window had been broken out. Uh, he cleaned up behind me and then came up, tacked me up and we proceeded to go in and clean the bathroom up. Um, at which point, uh, we, you know, determined it was secure at that point. Uh, we went - I went back out into the main room, I assigned, uh - uh, guys, I think it was, uh, one of the K-9 - I think it was, uh, Dave Newton along with a patrol guy to start doing re-checks. And what - what I mean by re-checks is, you know, checking under beds, making sure we don't have anybody hiding, uh, anywhere. So they were doing re-checks at which point I came across the air, uh, on the radio channel, said that we had, uh, secured the room and we had the one suspect down. Um, and - and that- that's pretty much it. Once we - re-checks were done and it was secure, um, I identified a couple of patrol officers along with Matchko - Sergeant Matchko and said, "Hey listen this is your scene now, uh, we're gonna go ahead and," 'cause we still have reports obviously that were ongoing out,

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uh, amongst the Valley so we - we decided to turn it over to them and go down and redeploy.

JL: Perfect. Um, I do have a couple, uh, follow up questions.

LH: Sure.

JL: Um, you said you - when you initially arrive, um, and you're - you're getting dressed out there, uh, off of Hacienda, you said you grabbed an - your active - what's in your active shooter kit?

LH: Uh, so I have additional, uh, [REDACTED] that go with my, um, my ballistic breaching gun, um, that has, uh - uh, several boxes of rounds in case I need to go into ballistic breaching. It also has, uh, smoke canisters, um, and additional, uh, M4 mags. I think I have an additional six magazines in - in that kit. Along with, uh, two, uh, handgun magazines.

JL: Okay. When you, um, and understand some of these questions I think I know the answer to but I want to make sure...

LH: Sure.

JL: ...that you cover it instead of me making any kind of assumptions. Um, when you initially get up to 32, uh, and you get to that like the rotunda area or whatever we call that entryway, uh, area and you decide to gi- go back down to 31, uh, did you leave any patrol guys there at 32 that were still covering down that hall?

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LH: Yeah the ones that were originally there, um, I believe most of them got left there with the exception of maybe a couple. Um, but there was a contingent of officers that were - that held there in the rotunda.

JL: Okay. And how did you - how did you make your way down to 31?

LH: Um, I want to say it was through the elevators 'cause the elevator shaft was right there.

JL: Mm-hm. Okay.

LH: I'm fairly certain it was the elevators.

JL: Uh, you mention a couple - you mention Bitsko and another K-9 officer, was it just the officers or did they have any dogs with them?

LH: They did not have dogs with them.

JL: As you guys come up the, uh, the stairwell, uh, right there by, uh, by the room and you're comin' up, you talked about how the door was screwed shut, uh, can you explain that a little bit more?

LH: Yeah so all we had on - on - all we had on our side was just a - a handle, um, we had been told by the other officers that, uh, that - I don't remember who said it from behind me, that they had actually secured that door. So we realized that it was gonna be the - as we tried to work the handle we realized there was something, whether it was locked, I didn't see an actual lock itself and most of the stairwells don't have locks, uh, for - per fire code. So, uh, they said that it had been screwed shut.

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We didn't know exactly what that meant so, uh, I carry a pry tool on my heavy vest, uh, grabbed the pry tool and we just inserted it, we started to work the door. As we got the door open we realized that, uh, there was two long screws that had been screwed into the door that had also been screwed, um, into the wall as well with a, uh, a latch that ran between the two of 'em, just a metal piece, uh, that ran between the two of 'em. And that's how it had been screwed shut.

JL: Okay Security said they did it?

LH: Yes.

JL: Security told you they did it?

LH: Yes they said that security had done that.

JL: The officers told you that?

LH: The officers told me that.

JL: Did any security officers tell you that?

LH: You know what, I beli- from, um, there was a security officer that was with us at the time 'cause he was kind of directing us where we - we needed to go. So I believe that's the person that actually said, "Hey, uh, they se- they had shut the - shut the door and secured it."

JL: I'm just trying to make sure I'm understanding...

LH: Yeah.

JL: ...um, but the screws in that - that latch were from the hallway not from the stairwell?

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LH: They were not from the stairwell side, correct.

JL: 'Cause you couldn't see that.

LH: 'Cause we could not see them.

JL: Okay.

LH: Um, they weren't from the hallway because it was the first door that goes into the alcove and there's another door in that alcove that goes into the hallway. There's two sets of - there's two doors there.

JL: Mm-hm. And was this the first set of doors or second?

LH: It was the first - it was the first door that we encountered that's in the stairwell.

JL: Okay so not the one leading into the hallway?

LH: Correct.

JL: Okay. Um, you guys make your way into the room, you find the, uh, the suspect, uh, already down. There's the adjoining room door, uh, that you make your way to...

LH: Yes.

JL: ...that door has no door handle on the inside that you're able to use?

LH: Okay.

JL: Am I right? I'm trying to make sure I have the...

LH: On the - on the adjoining room, uh, that room can be closed off and sold by - it looked like from what I gathered it - it had its own different room number. So it could

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be sold off as a - a separate room or it can be attached to the suite as an additional room to the suite. So, um, here were two door that - that are on the same doorframe. One of our - one door that goes into the suite and the other door that goes into the room, and on each side they have their own handle, that's it. From what I saw there was not a handle at all on the - the door - the door that we were looking at, there was no handle.

JL: And along with no handle was - do you recall if there was any kind of locking mechanism on your side of the door?

LH: Not that I recall.

JL: Thus the reason you used an explosive breach to go in instead of just opening the door?

LH: Yeah that and - and really after looking at it from a tactical position, um, rather than putting somebody up on that door and trying to manual breach it, or like I had said try - even trying to ballistically breach it, uh, I would have had to put multiple rounds on that door which would put me in a really bad position. Um, especially if we were concerned about having an additional suspect inside. And - and that was the - that was the concern at that point in time. Um, so I didn't want to put anybody up on that door, uh, for fear of listen if - if we start working that we're gonna take round through that door and, uh, I figured, you know, the [REDACTED] was definitely the way to go because that allowed us to give a - get a positive breach on that door from a better tactical position.

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JL: Right. Had you been able - at the time if - have looking at the door if it appeared that you could just open that door would you have just opened the door?

LH: Sure, absolutely.

JL: Okay. Um, and the only other questions I have are just clarifying again, just to make sure that when this gets typed out and somebody reads it, a [REDACTED] unit is...

LH: Our snipers.

JL: And [REDACTED] means...

LH: An explosive breach.

JL: Andrew do you have any questions?

LH: No.

JL: Kirk?

KH: No.

JL: Okay. I don't believe I have any other, uh, questions for you. Um, we'll go ahead and end the interview. Same persons are present. Time is now 1643.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1643 HOURS.

JL: AU: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032

REVIEWED BY P. QUINTEROS P #9055 ON 10/08/17

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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: SERGEANT STUART RICHMOND (SR), P# 9371

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE J. LEAVITT (JL), P# 5814, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1924 hours. Also present are Las Vegas Police Managers and Supervisors Association attorneys T. Roberts (TR) and J. Roberts (JR).

JL: This is Detective Jason Leavitt, P# 5814, with the Force Investigation Team, ah, conducting a recorded statement under event 171001-3519. Ah, person giving the statement will be, ah, Richmond Stuart. It's, ah, S-T-U-A-R-T, P# 9371. His call sign at the time of the incident was 720SE. Ah, his date of hire was [REDACTED]. Ah, he's currently assigned to Northwest Area Command with Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday off. Working 2200 to 0800 hours. Ah, however, on the date of the incident he was assigned to Special Events working the Route 91. Ah, working 1700 to midnight.

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The interview is reference to an active shooter that occurred on 10-01-2017 at approximately 2200 hours at 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard, that's the Mandalay, ah, Bay Hotel and Casino. Today's date is 10-03-2017 with the time being 1924 hours. The, ah, statement's being conducted at Headquarters, ah, building 'C'. Ah, in the conference room on the 3rd floor. Ah, also present during the interview will be Attorney Jay Roberts with the PMSA as well as Tara Roberts with the PMSA. Ah, first off, ah, Richmond, are you aware this, ah, conversation's being recorded?

SR: Yes, sir.

JL: Okay. Ah, before we get started, ah, today when you came in for your interview here, ah, you're just in civilian clothing. Ah, during the incident however I would assume you were wearing an LVMPD uniform?

SR: Yes, sir.

JL: Ah, can you describe the uniform that you were wearing for me?

SR: Yes, sir, I was wearing a, ah, LVMPD issued tan uniform. Ah, with, ah, my sergeant stripes with LVMPD patches on. And I was wearing a, ah, reflective vest at the same time with the - the LVMPD patch on as well.

JL: Does that reflective vest all say - also say 'Police' or something on it?

SR: Yes, sir.

JL: Okay. Um, and were you, ah, carrying a duty belt or wearing a duty belt as well?

SR: Yes, sir.

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JL: Ah, can you go through the gear that you had on your duty belt?

SR: My duty gear is my duty weapon which is an XD 45 Springfield. Carrying a Taser, a baton, pepper spray, handcuffs, handcuff key and body worn camera.

JL: Do you know if that body worn camera was activated?

SR: Yes, sir.

JL: Ah, do you carry extra magazines on your belt?

SR: I have three extra magazines in my belt and also I was carrying a flashlight as well which I had it up here on my lapel.

JL: The flashlight is up on your lapel?

SR: Yeah.

JL: Okay. Um, since we are here for an interview about an active shooter that took place, ah, can you just, ah, kind of start off I'm - I'm gonna ask you to tell us the - the details of the event as it kind of transpired. But could you start with, ah, what you were doing, the assignment that you were working. And how you actually became aware of the incident that was unfolding.

SR: Yes, sir. I was assigned to the Route 91 Country Music Festival. The, ah - my position was to be the interior late squad. Ah, with eight officers and myself, ah, starting time was 1700 hours through to midnight. Ah, and my - my - my - my guys were assigned to the stage left, stage right and to lawn grass area. That's where my guys were assigned. Throughout the night it was just a really good event, people

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really relaxed, having a good time. I was checking on my guys. It got to around 2130 hours 2140 hours and then there was a record - a report of a medical call outside on the Boulevard. Down by gate 2. And I was with Sergeant Van Nest and Sergeant Bulmer. The three of us were together. And I decided to go out and check on this, ah, medical call. As, ah, Jason Aldean was coming on to stage. Ah, so we walked outside. We headed, ah, northbound on the Boulevard. We found that the drunk lady kind of hanging out with her boyfriend. We held a cab for her. A cab pulled up and she got in the cab and we all kind of like walked away back southbound towards gate, the other gate 2 entrance to walk back in. As we was walking towards the gate to walk back in we heard some - it sounded to me like firecrackers to start with. It was a different sound that the later - the later gunfire which started getting louder. Ah, and that there was Officer Clarkson and his female officer with him as well. And she gave out the radio traffic I believe as possible 434's. I'm like, "Okay, well, yeah, we'll keep an eye out and see if we can see or hear anything." We started like looking around, I didn't see any firecrackers or any, ah, smoke from like possible fireworks. And just as we approached the gate 2 to go back in the radio traffic came out of, ah - ah, "Someone's been hit in the crowd by the stage." And, "Someone's bleeding some," - I think he's shot in the head or shot in the - so we're like, holy crap this is, ah - this is like for real this is an active shooter. And then by that time I started running down Las Vegas Boulevard to get back into the stage entrance because I thought maybe the shooter's inside. And as I was running I started hearing the crack and the thump of the rounds going over my head into the stage area. And it was

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coming to my right as I was running southbound. Towards, ah, the Mandalay Bay Road and the Boulevard. By that time there was a - I don't know how many officers are with me at that time just started getting kind of a little bit crazy by then. We hunkered down behind a retaining wall. We started hearing the crack and thump - the radio traffic started getting more and more intense. Um, I was trying to get radio traffic out of what I was seeing and hearing. I couldn't - I couldn't even get on the radio for - 'cause it was just beep, beep, beep. My body camera's already activated at this time as well. Soon as I heard the - the 434's I activated it. So, let me take water here real quick.

JL: Yeah, no problem.

SR: So I know that Sergeant Van Nest with me - with me still. Sergeant Bulmer. I know Officer Clarkson was with me and the female officer. Ah, by that time some of the radio traffic was still coming out of - of - it's more people are getting hurt, there was more people falling in the crowd. And all we could hear was just shots to the right. Where we was on the retaining wall, ah, looking to the right of Mandalay Bay. We wasn't too sure, we only knew it was coming from that side then. We wasn't too sure if it was ground level or if it was high up. So I got a team together, we - I - the patrol cars started pulling out next to us and we was gonna try and find and see the threat. We up in the retaining wall to the patrol car. Trying to look to see what we could see. Um, it was - um, Officer Clarkson was next to me. Definitely the female officer was with me. And I didn't see Sergeant Van Nest so I wasn't too sure where he was at at this time. I also had my duty weapon out at that time as well trying to see if I could

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see where the threat was. 'Cause by that time the volleys of fire were just starting to get more and more intense and sounded closer. And we still didn't know where it was coming from. Ah, at that time citizens were coming out of the, um, stage area. And it was three civilians that jumped the wall and joined us by the patrol car. And they came out of nowhere. And while I was trying to find the active shooter my job kind of turned to saving them from getting shot. Um, I - I don't know if you've seen the body footage from my - my thing yet. I had to grab one guy - one guy was an off-duty sheriff's county, ah, office from LA. I grabbed him and I pushed him to the ground then he started fighting me a little bit. I told him, "You have no gear on you you can- you shouldn't be doing this. You're distracting from what I need to be looking for the threat." Ah - ah, at that time Officer Clarkson was next to me as well. The rounds started hitting the vehicle. The volley of fire came towards us and started coming through the vehicle and through the window and he got hit with some shrapnel in the neck. I didn't realize 'til I looked at my body cam footage later the, um - he - he got hit and then I directly remember looking at him at the time it happened but I don't remember it until I looked at the body cam footage. So, from that point on we decided to retreat. And then we came up with a plan to get the civilians out and - and the officers as well. The - the fire started become more and more tense towards us, they were skipping off the ground. I got Officer Clarkson and the female officer, um - I tried to give cover as best I can. There were some palm trees behind us. I told them I was gonna cover them as best I could. They retreated back to the trees and jumped the wall. And then I believe he went and got, ah, medical attention and

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helped, ah, casualties as well. Um, we've still looking for the threat at this time. I know there's other officers to my left that were hunkered down behind a light pole. I saw him taking some rounds. Ah, the rounds were still - it was - they were just pinging all over the place. And then there was more officers that somehow got to the patrol car. I think from the south - the north side of us. And he came to us and then we got them back to, ah, the - to the wall as well. And I was the last one back to the wall. And we co- we covered the best we could. One had a shotgun, I can't remember if one had the rifle or not. I think so. Um, but I didn't have a rifle because - I'm rifle certified my vehicle was parked in the - in the church parking lot which is to the east of the venue. I did have a tac vest. I have a - I have a war bag, I call it. I have extra rounds and magazines. I have maybe ten, 20 magazines of - of ammo that I carry as well that I - I couldn't have got to even if tried. Which I wish I could. Um, by that time we retreated back to the wall, jumped over. Ah, I had someone that was hurt with the leg we dragged him over the wall. Ah, we told him to leave. Ah, gave a couple officers some instruction to get them some medical attention go north. Once we got rid of the civilians and there was no more civilians in play, ah, there was maybe 12 officers. There was a sergeant and myself and maybe I think 12 officers. And at that time we decided that the shooting had kind of eased off then. And then we decided to form two strike teams. We divided up the rifles and the shotguns between the two strike teams. Ah, we came up with a plan to bound across the Boulevard. And I can't even remember the sergeant's name but I think he was from Convention Center, 770 I think his - maybe his call sign was. Um, I - I gave officers

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instructions to, "If we're gonna run across the Boulevard we're gonna run really quick. We're not gonna hang around and we're gonna bound in movements. And if you're gonna run you're gonna put, holster your gun. Or if you do have a gun out it's definitely gonna be off the trigger finger." I gave 'em some safety instructions not to muzzle or mask anybody, stuff like that. Basic stuff, I told 'em that this is, I can't even remember exactly what I said. I told 'me, "This is the real thing. We're gonna go into the Mandalay Bay as a strike team. We're gonna start clearing." Ah, we got rid of our vests, reflective vests behind the wall so we didn't become a target because I felt we was a target with those vests on because they're...

((Crosstalk))

SR: Stuff. So the sergeant and I, um - he went first got to the patrol cars again. Ah, gave the command he was set and then I gave the command, "Move." My team went around the wall, we sprinted across the Boulevard into the middle where the palm trees are. And we all spread out got cover and then we bounded right across the Boulevard again after hat after we said, "Set." My team made it to the - to the corner of Mandalay Bay Street there on the southeast corner. And his team was right behind me. There's a gaggle of us like 12, 14 of us. Maybe some people joined in I - I can't remember. But his - my team was here behind the big Mandalay Bay sign and his team was here. I made the plan to jump the fence back here. Through the, ah, parking lot. It was like a 7 foot fence. Had one officer, the tall officer - every officer got lifted up over the fence. We got cover behind some vehicle. Waiting for the other team to get set in place and then we sprinted to the other - to the, ah, west side of

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the parking lot. Bounding as we went. As we did that saw the other team arrive at the other side of Mandalay Bay? We took a second, took a breather because it was - we was just sprinting everywhere. And after that came up with a plan to crossways - to cross the Mandalay Bay Bridge Road and from that time on we - we gathered up with our strike teams again. We slowed it down a little bit. Gave 'em instructions to, um, have 360 degree containment now 'cause we wasn't too sure where the threat was, whether it was coming above or below. I think we knew it was above but we still wasn't too sure if there was one shooter or two shooters or we - we didn't know. And we gave instructions to people that were, ah, in the parking lot to exit westbound on Mandalay Bay Road and get out - get out of the way of the line of fire. Um, when we got to the front entrance of Mandalay Bay, ah, all - I was given radio traffic this time. The whole time about having a strike team and where we were going but it was very few and far between to get the radio traffic because there was so much going on. Ah, and every time you keyed the mic there was people talking about casualties or where they were at and it was really important radio traffic they wanted to get out but it was just gridlocked. Um, I managed to get some radio traffic out that we was forming strike teams and we was going inside the Mandalay Bay to help clear. My team, I had 'em set up the 360 degree containment to see if there's any threats. Ah, we - we went up to the valet area. Um, the other sergeant's team went to the left, I went to the right. And we started clearing the, ah - the Mandalay Bay Hotel downstairs casino. Um, I think I had my body cam footage the whole time going on. We - it - we didn't realize how really big it was in there 'cause every door we opened

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would lead down another hallway that was like a 1/4 mile long. So I u- I would have one guy post up on the door and my team of five would go in and clear and like ten minutes later we came out. With whoever we found. And we started gathering up people. We went through the House of Blues. Went through the sportsbook. And by the time we go to the sportsbook we had five or six people we found. And we, ah - we gave 'em verbal commands. We patted 'em down make sure they weren't a threat had no weapons. Found out they were just citizens and they needed to be led to safety and so we took 'em down to the east valet or the west valet, I'm sorry. And we - we got them to safety down there. After that we met up with SWAT, they were in there already. Ah, we got, um, instruction not to go up to the 32nd floor. We stayed on the ground floor. And then, um, it was kind of like we felt a little bit safer then we cleared everything as best we could. And then we went back to the command post, ah, after we, ah - we took a minute just to kind of get a breather kind of thing. I did a gear check with my guys along the way. I made sure we did a body check on everyone to make sure no one was hurt or shot because due to the adrenaline flowing I had to make that there wasn't any nicks or any flesh wounds or anything like that. And then after the gear check was done and the body checks we made - everyone was Code 4 and we went back to the CP. Which is at the east valet. When we got to the east valet I realized I had none of my guys from the overtime that was still in there. And - and I, ah, gave a phone call to every one of them make sure they were Code 4 as well. I made sure they were Code 4, I informed my lieutenant that - that I called him and told him that everyone was Code 4

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on my side that I knew about and that the people that I had to let them know as well.

Um, and from then on it was kind of just a case of sit around. Wait for instruction.

And, ah - and kind of wait for go to CP's and get another task as well.

((Crosstalk))

SR: So that's the kind of the role I played.

JL: Well that's perfect, thank you. Um, do you know how many officers were assigned to the - not just that you were in charge of but do you know how many officers were assigned to the event while you were there?

SR: Um, total officers. It was eight - eight from my interior late squad.

JL: Mm-hm.

SR: I think it was eight, I'm - actually, to be honest with you I don't know the full amount, no.

JL: Okay, that's fine. Um, you were kind of giving some directions in the beginning and you were talking about, um, if we were standing in the middle of the venue right?

SR: Mm-hm.

JL: And you're looking, we'll say north as a direction.

SR: Mm-hm.

JL: Um, where would the - ah, the main stage and the area that your officers that you were assigned too where would they be if you were standing kind of in the middle of the venue looking northbound?

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SR: Okay, if you're standing in the middle of the venue looking northbound. If you turn around to face southbound the stage was south of us facing north.

JL: Okay.

SR: And that had a big partition - say this was the stage right here. Um, and this was the big stage. It was facing, um - facing north but at the south end of the arena. Had like a partition thing down the middle with the crowd here. And a crowd here. And then it had like a - a concrete area here. That was people kind of standing around. I was back here. And then had a lawn chair area where all the people in their chairs were just sitting as well so I kind of stood around there. I had two guys to the side of the stage, two guys this side of the stage. Two guys on this side by the lawn chair area and two guys by that side of the - the lawn chair area.

JL: 'Kay, so just in - in me describing it kind of visually. The stage is on the south side looking north.

SR: Yes.

JL: The partition that runs north to south in the middle is like a bar area, is that correct?

SR: No, it was - I don't - I wasn't too sure exactly what it was. It was like, um, advertisements, it might have been a bar area, I wasn't - I didn't get that close to see exactly what it was.

JL: Okay. But that partition runs north to south coming from the stage?

SR: Yes.

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JL: Ah, and then the area you're talking about kind of on the north side is where all the lawn chairs and everything...

SR: Mm-hm.

JL: ...are set up?

SR: Yeah.

JL: And so you had officers by the lawn chairs on both the east and west sides?

SR: Yes.

JL: And then on the east and west sides of the stage on the - next to the main stage?

SR: Yeah.

JL: Okay. Um, when you - when you, ah, leave the venue to go check on the, ah - the injured person or the drunk lady or whoever it was. Um, do you go out the south side of the venue?

SR: Ah, I went out the, um, west gate that was right where I was standing. It was literally right there. Ah, number - that it was the number 2 gate. So if I was standing here, this is the stage. Ah, I literally walked out and then...

((Crosstalk))

JL: So it kind of be in the middle of the venue?

SR: Kind of, yeah, kind of.

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JL: Okay. Um, you were talking and as you talked and realized kind of what's going on right?

SR: Mm-hm.

JL: Um, and you said, you know, you - you hear the things you don't - do you ever - um, I guess throughout the incident do you ever actually see where you believe the - the shooting's coming from?

SR: No, I didn't.

JL: Okay.

SR: I knew it was coming from high up after I got set behind the patrol car. Um, we realized it and someone, I think a citizen had said it's - it's high up. Or there was radio traffic too. And then due to the amount of fire we were taking by the patrol car. I really wanted to stick my head out and look but at the same time I didn't 'cause I knew that fire was coming.

JL: Let's talk for a second about that patrol car and the fire you're taking around the patrol car. Um, when did - how did you first I guess realize that that's where the rounds are coming? What is that you're seeing?

SR: Ah, I'm seeing and hearing rounds ping off the ground next to us and chunks of tar just flying everywhere. And then the round came through the windsh- the back windshield. I was at the rear wheel on the right side. Behind, ah - like I say that's the best place for cover. And then that shattered and hit - the sound changed because it

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was just peppering the car. I don't - I'm not too sure how many bullet holes are in the car but you could hear it. And then it just got closer to the car while everyone down and we just kind of waited for it to stop a little bit so.

JL: Um, how - and how many - you said it was, I'm sorry, how - who was with you at that car when that car is getting peppered like that though?

SR: Three citizens. I know for sure there was three citizens. Ah, one of 'em is trying to get up, I had to drag him down. Actually I think it was two. One of 'em got hit by glass in the face and he started bleeding. And he was really drunk. Um, so were the other two. And I know that, ah, it was a female and Clarkson were there as well. And I can't remember anyone else that was there. They might have been people ahead of them around the corner of the car. By the - by the - by the hood. I know when we started getting people back - back over the wall there was more people there.

JL: Okay. The - the female that was with you, um, the officer?

SR: Mm-hm.

JL: Would you know her name if I said it?

SR: Yeah.

JL: Was it, ah, Tara Brosnahan?

SR: Yes.

JL: Okay.

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STATEMENT OF: SERGEANT STUART RICHMOND (SR), P# 9371

SR: Thank you.

JL: Um, as this is going on and - and there's all kinds of gunfire, I mean, um, could you even, I guess. Estimate like how much time had passed before you kind of realize there's a lull in the gunfire?

SR: Mm, well there was a lot of arguing going on with the citizens and myself. Telling them to - to get down and not expose themselves and you're not gonna do anything. Time went by pretty - I would say maybe ten minutes I was behind that patrol car, ah, just trying to keep everyone safe. That's what I - time I would say. Maybe a little bit longer. And then when we jumped back the wall then we waited maybe another five, ten minutes before we realized it no more gunfire and then we took strike teams out.

JL: 'Kay. And as you're taking cover behind this vehicle. Um, I realize you know, there's so much going on are you even able to be aware of what else is happening around you? Or are you just solely focused on - on that car and the people that you're with.

SR: I think I was - I wasn't solely focused on - on what was going on exactly, if I, if I did have tunnel vision. I don't think I had it that much 'cause I could see the other officers to the left. Behind the Ford Taurus. He was hunkered down there as - I remember him just crouching behind there. And I remember looking up and seeing other officers by the - there was a PT wagon behind me as well. There was a Ford Explorer in front of me as well. And every time I looked around there was like people behind the wall of - the citizens trying to come and - and help. Ah, and I was shouting a lot for them to take cover.

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JL: Did you see any other, ah - did you see - as this was going on are you seeing any other people, ah, get hit or go down?

SR: No, no, just Officer Clarkson take that shrapnel in the neck.

JL: Um, as - as he takes that shrapnel in the neck, um, did you know at the time it was shrapnel or did you just see a - a wound to him?

SR: I didn't know it was shrap- I don't remember it. I don't even remember it until I saw my body cam footage tell you truth.

JL: Oh, okay.

SR: So it's kind of just - then it come to like, oh, okay, it was - he did get shrapnel in the neck there. So I knew it was there I didn't realize until afterwards he went like that, um, you know, there's a little bit of blood in his hand.

JL: So at the time you had no idea that he had been hit?

SR: I think - I can't remember tell you the truth. Exactly the thought of what happened.

JL: And if you don't remember you don't remember that's fine.

SR: Yeah.

JL: Um, as you guys start to - to do your bounds across the Boulevard to get up to Mandalay Bay, um, do you remember if at that point do you remember taking any more fire at that point?

SR: No, I don't think we did. I don't think we took anymore fire.

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JL: And you still at that time had no idea of where the fire had been coming from.

SR: Knew it was up above but - 'cause Mandalay Bay Hotel's so huge didn't know where exactly, no.

JL: 'Kay. Ah, as you clear the, ah, the downstairs casino area of the hotel. Um, did you cro- come across any other victims?

SR: No victims, no gunshot victims, no. Just citizens hiding.

JL: Okay. Um, the ones, they were hiding so they, um. It appeared they knew what had happened or what was going on?

SR: Yes, yeah.

JL: Okay. Um, and were you aware of, ah, any other officers in the hotel that may have come in contact with the, ah, suspect or suspects?

SR: I was aware there was officers in there but I wasn't too sure if they'd come into contact with any other suspects or not. The - the radio traffic was a bit convoluted and wasn't coming out. Ah, obviously because such a critical event is just hard to get that information out.

JL: 'Kay.

SR: Like I wasn't too sure exactly if there was any threats downstairs or not.

JL: 'Kay. I don't know that I have any, ah, other questions. Jay?

JR: Um, Stuart, first of all, ah, I can't even commend you for your courage. Ah - um, I was on the Chartered Circle shooting. Ah, that was pretty intense but it was nothing

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like what you went through. Um, so I just wanted to commend you for your courage and your - your - your resolve during - I mean to be able to keep these people contained people are drunk they probably don't have any idea what's going on. Um, so I - I real- like I said I just - I just wanted to commend you for that.

SR: Thank you.

JR: Um, you said that when you first heard - ah, you first heard what you thought were firecrackers but then later on you kind of heard a different.

SR: Yeah.

JR: Um, was it just your awareness or do you think different rounds sound differently. Do you think he was changing weapons systems or do you not know?

SR: I think he was changing weapons systems. Ah, I have previous military experience coming from my British Army days. And the first volley of rounds came out and what it was really light sound. And not that heavy. Ah, and that's kind of - I didn't think it was fire- crackers, I thought it's fireworks, I'm sorry. Um, and then we kind of all was like, "What was that?" And then someone said, "Possible 434's." And then the radio traffic came out someone got hit and then as I was running, ah, southbound then you could really hear the difference in the velocity and the crack and the whip of the rounds going - going past us. As we was running down towards the Mandalay Bay Las Vegas Boulevard.

((Crosstalk))

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SR: It's definitely a thicker heavier sound.

JR: Understood. And with your - with your military experience and - and knowing the different weapons systems the only other question I have is the rounds of fire were they all automatic?

SR: The ones I heard after the initial volley were all rapid, rapid fully automatic.

JR: Okay and what would you - to your best guess would you say the volley of rounds would be 30 at a time, 50 at a time, 200 at a time or more?

SR: At least 50 at a time. Maybe more. Yeah, I mean there was one volley that was going for - for a substantial amount and it seemed like a substantial amount at the time. And you just thought it wasn't gonna stop because everything - ah, in a critical incident like that is just, ah - the time seems to - to tick away so long and, you know, you're like, "Is this ever gonna stop." Especially when it was hitting the car and we was right there. It just - yeah, it seemed like it was going off forever but I'm sure it was only few second. So, yeah.

JR: That's all I have.

TR: I don't have any questions, thank you.

JL: Ah, I do have one question just because of a line that Jay went down. Um, the first initial ones you said that, you know, they sounded different. Um, were those - were those fully - those were not like fully automatic big bursts or were they more like single shots?

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SR: Ah, you know what, I not 100% sure on that I - I think it might have been fully automatic but we was a little bit further - further north as well. Um, when we - when I heard those. They just - I think they were fully automatic but they just sounded different.

JL: Okay. That's all I have. 'Kay, appreciate your, ah - appreciate your time and your interview. And I too want to thank you for your actions out there and, ah, commend you for that. We'll go ahead and end the interview. Ah, same persons are present, time is 1951.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1951 HOURS.

JL: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032
Reviewed by B8884K
10-08-17

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER MATTHEW KRAVETZ (MK), P# 15346

DOB:	SOCIAL SECURITY #:
RACE:	SEX:
HEIGHT:	WEIGHT:
HAIR:	EYES:
HOME ADDRESS:	PHONE 1:
WORK ADDRESS:	PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE S. KEITH (SK), P# 9190, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1803 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative T. Todd (TT), P# 8411.

SK: All right. Operator this is Detective Keith, P# 9190 with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Matthew Kravetz, uh, M-A-T-T-H-E-W – K-R-A-V-E-T-Z, P# is 15346, call sign for the day in question is 8-Mary-61. Date of hire is [REDACTED] Uh, area command of assignment is, uh, Convention Center Area Command and the squad is CC16. RDOs are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, uh, 8:00 to 0600. And this interview is reference to an officer-involved shooting-active shooter that occurred on 10-1-2017 at 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard which is the Mandalay Bay Casino. Event# is 171001-3519. Today's date is 10-3 of 2017. The

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW KRAVETZ (MK), P# 15346

time is 1803 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters Building A, third-floor conference room. Also present is PPA Representative, uh, Tyler Todd, P# 8411. Are you aware this interview is being recorded?

MK: Yes, I am.

SK: Okay. On the day of the shooting, uh, what - what were you wearing?

MK: Uh, I was wearing plain clothes, black shirt, blue jeans, um, before we were - that's what we were wearing and then I geared up, uh, put my tac vest on with my police, uh, patch on the back, star on the front, uh, rifle, had my, uh, secondary weapon, handcuffs and OC spray.

SK: Okay. And you did ha- you had a police designator. Was it on your back or on the front?

MK: I had my star on my front...

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: ..and then my police patch on my back.

SK: Okay. All right. So obviously we're here talkin' about the active shooter situation that occurred at Mandalay Bay and - and across the street at the - the country music festival. So just tell me how you learned about that call and what your response to it was.

MK: Um, me and my partner, uh, we were heading back to the Convention Center to set up a, uh, UC, um, call came out. We were just pullin' into the station. Uh, it said we

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW KRAVETZ (MK), P# 15346

had a - a shooting at the country the - iHeart radio or the ro- Route 91 concert, um, me and my partner pulled over, um, we threw on our tactical gear, um, got our rifles ready, um, started goin' en route to that code. Um, and then up- as up- updates came and it became active shooter, multiple casualties, um, we heard that - we heard gunfire on the radio when officers were triggerin' the mic.

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: Um, we came, um, down Paradise. We came up - ended up goin' up Swenson to Trop, came around. Uh, we saw all the other units heading southbound on the boulevard, uh, we heard that they were taking fire so we decided to come, um, through the Excalibur. We entered through the west valet of Mandalay Bay, uh, ran through the casino. We finally met up with security and I think four other officers said we need an elevator. At that time we knew that he was on either the 29th, 31st or 32nd floor. Uh, we ended up - we decided to go to 31, ran down the hallway, came up the back stairs -- I'm not sure which wing it was -- and then entered through - entered up to the 32nd floor, um, ran down the hallway. We saw two, uh, officers down the hall so we made contact with them who said shooter's down this way. We stacked up and then started, uh, making our way down the hallway of where the potential shooter was. And then, um, we didn't hear anymore. We - we said - we were notified that security had been shot down the hallway, um, we weren't aware of where he was at or what the condition of him.

SK: Mm-hm.

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MK: We just saw two other officers sayin' we have a shooter down here. At that time like I said we didn't hear any type of gunfire or we weren't taking any rounds, uh, so we decided to go slow down that hallway clearing every bay of rooms.

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: Um, at that point we, um, just kept pressing forward until we came to a certain point where we thought we were safe enough but yet of what we thought where the suspect was -- his room was -- which is at the complete north end of the bay...

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: ...in that suite. And then at a certain point, um, I think Zebra 26 had made contact with us. And then two snipers arrived and we held on the door, um, and then that's when another Zebra unit with another couple officers were up on the stairwell, um, and then they did their breach on the main room and then also I think another room. And then we, uh, finished clearing one more bay of rooms, um, as the other officers went in, um, whatever they did in there. I never made entry to the main room just peeked inside to make sure they didn't need anything else. And then we cleared the rest of the two, uh - uh, bays or the two other adjacent towers on that floor.

SK: Okay.

MK: So the other two wings.

SK: Mm-hm, yeah.

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MK: So and then after that, uh, they didn't need us anymore and we just headed back downstairs to meet up with the, uh, two of our guys on our squad.

SK: Okay. Um, just kinda back up. You said your partner. I - I don't know if you mentioned his name. Did you?

MK: Officer Young.

SK: Young?

MK: Yeah.

SK: Okay. Um, and then the floor. How did you guys come to the conclusion that he was on - possibly on the 32nd floor?

MK: Uh, there was just the radio at that time.

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: Um, and then security said the - security said that he's the - he's pop- there's been reports of shooting on either the 29th, the 31st or 32nd.

SK: Okay.

MK: So we decided that we were gonna start at the 32nd. We were just gonna go there. If he wasn't there then we were gonna to the next floor. But we ended up deciding to go to 31 and come up through the stairs in case he was waiting for us at the elevator...

SK: Mm-hm.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW KRAVETZ (MK), P# 15346

MK: ...or whatever may be the case. So we came through the casino floor. Everybody seemed out of the usual. Nobody knew that what was goin' on. We saw eventually two or three people running towards us from the elevators. I said, what's - where's it coming from? They said, over there. They said, run. And that's where we finally met up with security. And then I saw another strike team of, like, four or five.

SK: Okay.

MK: And then I - I was, like, we need an elevator to go up.

SK: Okay. So once on the 32nd floor what was it that kinda led you to the area - was the room where you guys focused on?

MK: Um, we met with the two officers that I remember holding at the end of the hallway saying the room is down there at the end.

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: Um, security said -- I don't know the guy's name -- but he said the shooter is coming from, uh, down the hall because that's where their security guard was shot was through the door, um, and that's where the shooter was.

SK: Okay. And so you guys made your way down toward the - do you know maybe about approximately how far away or how many rooms you were away?

MK: From the start of the hallway to the end of where his room was I would say was probably at least 100 yards.

SK: Okay.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW KRAVETZ (MK), P# 15346

MK: And we cleared each, uh, each bay had four sets of rooms.

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: So we cleared each room as we pressed forward. And then we got to probably 20 feet, 30 feet maybe - two bays if that, um, to un- to hold on the door.

SK: Mm-hm.

MK: And then we were waitin' for SWAT to arrive.

SK: Okay. At any time when you showed up on-scene or inside the hotel did you ever hear any gunfire?

MK: Not inside, no. The only gunfire I heard was on the mic when the officers were triggerin' out from outside.

SK: Okay. Did you hear any kind of breaching or anything like that?

MK: Yeah. I heard the - the two breaches, um, that SWAT conducted on - on the doors.

SK: Okay. But you - you never actually made entry into the room yourself?

MK: No.

SK: Okay. You just - you said you peeked into it?

MK: Yeah, I looked inside to see - asked, uh, the sergeant -- I forgot his name there -- um, if he needed anymore help inside. He said, "No, go clear the rest of the wings. Make sure everybody's evacuated from this floor." And then that was it. Then we headed

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW KRAVETZ (MK), P# 15346

back. Said if we needed anything else and they're like, no you guys can clear from here.

SK: Okay. And you guys communicated with that other team that made the initial entry, correct?

MK: Yes. So we were trying to - we couldn't get on the mic, I mean, obviously...

SK: Right.

MK: ...there was a lotta chaos goin' on but SWAT couldn't get a signal either. So we were tryin' to relay or get information from the SWAT with us to the other operator down the hallway. And at one point, uh, he came on the mic saying hey we're gonna breach this door. You guys need to step inside the hall - step inside the rooms, cover your ears and get ready for, uh, you know, for us to breach in there.

SK: Okay. And was there any, like, civilians that you saw?

MK: We evacuated a - maybe five adults and one infant. Uh, the infant was located in, like, I think one, like, 130 or somethin' and there was nobody inside. There was just a baby. So we were like, we didn't know what was goin' on with that. Uh, the neighbor from directly across of it - of that room said there's a baby in there. Uh, the sergeant grabbed the baby along with the female in the room directly across and then they got the - them out of there. And then that was the last, um, civilians. I remember us clearing from that - from that wing where the shooter was.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER MATTHEW KRAVETZ (MK), P# 15346

SK: Okay - okay. Um, that's kinda it for me. Do you have anything that you wanna add or you think is pertinent to what occurred that we haven't talked about?

MK: Um, I don't think so.

TT: Transcriber, this is Tyler. Just a couple c- I - you already made it clear but just to reiterate. You never actually stepped inside the hotel room where the suspect was?

MK: Correct.

TT: And when you were on that hallway did, uh, did you ever fi- at any time did you ever fire your weapon?

MK: No.

TT: Uh, at any time did you see anybody else - any other officers fire their weapon?

MK: No.

TT: That's all I have.

SK: Okay. Cool. All right. Operator, this concludes the interview. The time is 1814 hours and the same persons are present.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1815 HOURS.

**SK: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032**

**Reviewed by S6878M
10/8/17**

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3519

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER JACOBY BURNS (JB), P# 9805

DOB:	SOCIAL SECURITY #:
RACE:	SEX:
HEIGHT:	WEIGHT:
HAIR:	EYES:
HOME ADDRESS:	PHONE 1:
WORK ADDRESS:	PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE S. KEITH (SK), P# 9190, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1600 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Hamm (MH), P# 6675.

SK: All right operator this is Detective Keith P# 9190 with the Force Investigation Team. Conducted a recording with last name of Burns Baker-Union-Robert-Nora-Sam. First name of Jacoby - John-Adam-Charlie-Ocean-Baker-Yellow. P# 9805 call sign. Uh, on the date of event was 3 Ida 33. Date of hire is [REDACTED] Area command is South Central Area Command Squad, uh, SC33. RDO's is Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday-is Thursday. Uh, hours are 1430 to 0030 and the vehicle number that day was 10813. This interview's in reference to an officer involved shooting that occurred on 10-1-2017. The area of 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard. Event# 1710013519.

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER JACOBY BURNS (JB), P# 9805

Today's date is 10-3-2017. The time is 1600. This interview is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, uh, also present is PPA representative Hamm - H-A-M-M 6875. Are you aware this interview oh...

MH: 6675.

SK: 6675 is the p number. My bad. Are you aware this interview's being recorded?

JB: Yes.

SK: Okay. And before we get started, uh, what uniform were you wearing that day?

JB: Uniform of the day. Our, uh, standard tans.

SK: Okay. So you're aware that we're obviously here, uh, in reference to the active shooter that took place at the Route 91 festival?

JB: Yes.

SK: Just tell me how you learned about the call and what actions you took.

JB: Um, I was actually just getting ready to check out, uh, to lunch and I heard a unit - I don't know where they - area command they were working at. They came over our radio channel and asked our dispatcher to please assign them to the active shooter on s- uh, comma- convention center...

SK: Mmm.

JB: ...because the radio was too hectic to get on. So I switched my car radio over and heard the chaos going on. So, uh, myself and the officer that I eat lunch with - we

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both, uh, responded directly from, uh, the area of Warm Springs in Las Vegas Boulevard which is a little less than half a mile from Mandalay Bay.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Um, as we were enroute, uh, I advised - I turned on my, uh, portable radio and I advised South Central Dispatch to put, uh, my partner and I on the call. Um, and then switched back over to convention center, um, and continued northbound on the Boulevard. Uh, when we initially arrived the officers in the festival were putting out information that the shooter was inside the venue. At this point we didn't have any idea that the rounds were coming from Mandalay Bay.

SK: Mmm.

JB: So, um, we continued north. We stopped our vehicles, uh, about 100 feet north of the marquee on the eastside of the Boulevard. Uh, the Mandalay Bay marquee.

SK: Mmm.

JB: Um, I got outta my vehicle, my partner got outta his. He grabbed his shotgun. I went to the back of my vehicle to get my, uh, rifle and my, uh, rifle plates - my heavy armor. And, um, at that point we - the rounds started coming again and it was obvious then that they were coming from Mandalay Bay and we just happened to basically park right in front of it.

SK: Mm-hm.

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JB: So we took, uh, cover behind my patrol vehicle. Uh, we couldn't get in there to turn the lights off or anything else. Um, the suspect shot probably 100, 120 rounds give or take, um, and as soon as the gun went quiet again, uh, my partner and I were discussing what we were gonna do and we decided we needed to get outta there. We can't stay behind the car. The car's not gonna provide cover from these rounds. So, um, he took off first running southwest across the Boulevard. Um, and once he got to cover on the other side, um, I grabbed another officer that had also got down behind my vehicle and we both took off. We stopped halfway, got cover behind two large palm trees. Uh, waited for a second and then took off again and, uh, up towards Mandalay Bay property.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Um, we entered in through - is the Grandview? Is that what that - the Grandview. Whatever the - their small, uh, like, timeshare kind of...

SK: I'm not sure.

JB: There - there's a smaller hotel right next to Mandalay. It's the Grandview or the - something, like, that. Now, um, we entered through that and we made our way through the concourse in there into Mandalay Bay where we initially grabbed a security guard and told him to get us to surveillance. Um, h- because at this point nobody knew where the - the rounds were coming from. Uh, we had a pretty good idea. While - while we were out behind the truck we could look up on the wall and we could see the fire coming down from the - the casino window.

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SK: Mm-hm.

JB: But we didn't - I didn't have time or the guts to keep my head popped up that long to try and count down how many floors so...

SK: Right.

JB: Um, excuse me. So as we were getting ready to go to surveillance there was another group of three officers that were coming in. It was a, uh, SWAT officer, a, uh canine officer and I think another canine officer. And, um, so my partner and I linked up with them. I told the other guy that was running behind me - I couldn't even pick him out of a lineup at this point to go with the security guard to surveillance and start trying to get intel. Um, at this point the information came out over their air that there was, uh, an officer on the 31st floor and he said he could hear the rounds coming from upstairs...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...so he knew they were on the 32nd, and then shortly after that we got the news that the security guard had been shot in the leg on the 32nd floor as well.

SK: Mmm.

JB: So, um, it took a couple of seconds but we got security to get to, um, their main office to unlock an elevator for us. The, uh - the elevator got us up to the 28th floor I think it was. Um, and then we had to make the rest of the way on foot up the stairs. We did that. When we got to the 32nd floor, um, initially we started saying, "Okay we're

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gonna have to clear some of these rooms before we're gonna walk past 'em." So we started by clearing the in-suite. Um, nobody's in there. And then we got the intel that, uh - from security guards that started walking towards us that there were officers already perched in f- in the hallway, excuse me, about halfway down facing the, uh, suspects door. And, um, they were holding the door. So we went to the center of all three towers where the elevators are at...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...um, we met up with, uh, Sergeant Matchko and a couple other officers that were there and we made the decision that, uh, we were going to go back down one floor, um, by stairs and then over to the actual, uh, stairway that would open us right next to the shooter's door. Um, as we got there we met up with a few other officers that were in the area. Um, and we all kinda stacked up in the stairway. Uh, the swat officer then - after a minute or two of us being there we - we started shutting lights off, pulling lights outta the ceiling 'cause we were backlit really bad. And, um, he eventually said, "Well we need to get in the room because we don't know what's goin' on. We can't have him start shooting again." So he had two explosive breaches on his, uh, chest rig. So, um, we opened the door, we covered the hallway. He went and put the breach on the, uh, suspect's door, um, and he said, "What we're going to do is we're gonna blow the door and see if he engages. If he doesn't engage we're gonna go in." And so we stacked and, uh, the, uh - he goes, "Breach - breach - breach." Bang - blows the door off and then gave it about three seconds. No gunfire so everybody, uh, in the stack went in. Um, I held next to the door holding the long,

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uh excuse me. I held next to the door holding, uh, a door to the adjacent room that's next to his suite.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Which was directly in front of the, uh, door that we were standing at. That's when we noticed that he had cameras set up outta that door facing the stairs. Um, the, uh, SWAT came back and said he needs his second charge because he - they realized that he was in the next room that we were holding the door on. So, um, he, uh, blew that door off and they made entry in there and that's when they found out that he had, uh, already killed himself. So, um, when they finished there, uh, we, uh, went out into the hall and held the door to the room and, uh, waited for relief for that. And then as, uh, SWAT Team started to arrive, they asked us to please start clearing all the room again even though they'd already been evacuated - just to make sure.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And we actually ended up finding probably 20 people that were still in there that they - guess were hiding and didn't come out. But...

SK: Okay. Just to back up a little. So you...

JB: Mm-hm.

SK: ...guys went down one level right?

JB: Yes.

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SK: And then you came back up. So when you came back up which door did you actually come out of - the stairwell door? Was it right next to the suspect or was it in one of the other corridors?

JB: Right next to the suspect.

SK: Okay. Did you guys have any issues getting through that door?

JB: Yes it was - it was, uh - it was screwed shut.

SK: Okay.

JB: And, um, one of the units - I'm not sure if it was the, uh, SWAT unit or another officer had a, uh, like, a 12 inch long pry bar. Like, the kind of thing you'd use for, like, removing nails.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And we were able to use that to get the door open.

SK: Okay.

JB: Um, the - they had a- I'm sorry. They had actually informed us, uh, when we were on the 32nd floor - 'cause we were asking is he going to be able to get down the stairs and they said, "No." Because somebody had already gone up there and drilled the door shut.

SK: Okay.

JB: So somebody from the ho- uh, hotel had already gone up there and drilled it shut.

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SK: Okay. So you guys breached that door - well somebody breaches that door s- that stairwell door so you guys are in there now. Now do you go through the door to the suite or do you go through the door to just the regular room? Was that the first door you guys went through or...

JB: So when you come through the stairs...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...there's a door into the actual stairway.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Then there's a small, um, like, a - a small, like, room area with another door. So when you enter to go to the stairwell you open this door. That door closes. Then you open the next door and then...

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: ...you go down the stairs. So we open the first door, we go into the next area and then one of the units that was there had a, uh, ballistic shield. We used that to prop the door open to kinda get some intel on exactly where we were, distances and all those kind of things.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And then that's when the decision was made of what we were going to do. So, uh, then that's when the SWAT unit got his explosive charges and, uh, very - very quietly

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went around the corner and set it up on the door and then came back and then we breached.

SK: Okay. And then you just held that door?

JB: Then I held the door and then after, um - after they, uh, went in to do the second breach - then we moved out into the hallway and, uh, away from the - the door that was, uh, to the adjacent room. And, uh, held that until they were basically, like, "Okay here we are."

SK: Okay. Did you ever see the suspect at all?

JB: I did not see the suspect. I was partially in the main - the main suite.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: And then, um, but I didn't go - I didn't wanna go any further in 'cause it's already he's - it's clear he's done. There's no reason to go in there.

SK: Okay. All right. Um, is there anything else you wanna add or you think we should know about or something of significance? No?

JB: No.

SK: Anything from your side?

MH: No. Nothing.

JB: I hope there - I mean, are we allowed to say good things or does that really matter for this?

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SK: Just what - whatever you wanna say man.

JB: Um, we - I just think everybody - I n- the o- the only person there that I knew was the guy that was on my squad. Everybody else had no idea and, uh - uh, we killed it.

SK: Mm-hm.

JB: Like, we did a really good job.

SK: Yeah.

JB: Our guys just, like, uh - it's a testament to training. Like, we did a really - really good job. So that's all.

MH: Um - um, just one thing. Um, Officer Burns when you say, "We killed it." Do you mean...

JB: Sorry. I mean, we did a - I'm using slang.

MH: (Unintelligible).

JB: Our - our department did an outstanding job of, uh, taking the training that we have learned over the last probably eight or nine year's specific to this kind of an attack and, uh, putting it into practice. And integrating into teams seamlessly even with people that we don't know. How's that?

MH: That's better. Thank you.

JB: Okay. Sorry.

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SK: All right. Excellent. All right operator, uh, this ends the interview. Time is 1615 hours. Uh, same persons are present.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1615 HOURS.

SK: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032
Reviewed by M6239S
10-08-17

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
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SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER BRYON BUNITSKY (BB), P# 6541

DOB:

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE M. SCLIMENTI (MS), P# 6239, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1634 hours. Also present are Detective K. Ploense (KP), P# 6269, and Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative M. Ramirez (MR), P# 9057.

MS: This is Detective M. Scilimenti P# 6239 with the Force Inve- Investigation Team conducting a recorded statement with Officer Bryon Bunitsky P# 6541. His call sign is 3-Ocean-44. His date of hire is [REDACTED] He works out of the Enterprise Area Command as a patrol officer. His RDOs are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and his hours are 1500 to 0100. His vehicle number was 10806. This interview is reference to an officer involved mass shooting that occurred on October 1, 2017 at 2208 hours in the area of the Mandalay Bay Casino located at 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard,

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Today's date is October 3, 2017 and the time is 1634 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters located at 400 South Martin Luther King Building C, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106. Also present is Detective Ploense P# 6269 and PPA Representative Michael Ramirez P# 9057.

Bryon, are you aware this interview is being recorded?

BB: Yes.

MS: Okay, so before we get started you are currently wearing the standard LVMPD uniform. Is that correct?

BB: Correct.

MS: And is this the same uniform that you were wearing on the night of the incident?

BB: Yes.

MS: Okay, will you please describe it to me?

BB: A long sleeve tan shirt, Metro patches on each sleeve, uh, standard badge, nameplate, um, cop chain around my neck with my radio, standard duty belt, uh, you know, Taser, baton, magazines, handcuff, uh, body worn camera, gun, and, um, tourniquet and - well and the body worn camera, uh, on and off switch on my gun belt.

MS: Okay and you're currently, uh, you carry a Glock 21.44 -.45 caliber with a serial number [REDACTED]

BB: Correct.

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MS: Okay, so let's just focus your attention on October 1, um, 2017, the incident that we're here for. Uh, just in your own words just tell me exactly, you know, how you learned about the call and what details you learned and what happened.

BB: Okay, um, I was, um, 3-Ocean-44. I was with Michael Thiel, um, Officer Thiel who's - was 3-Ocean-55. We were on a domestic, um, in Ocean-4 and we heard over the radio that there was an active shooter announced on, uh, CCAC so Mike turned his radio over to CCAC. We were listening. Um, there were shots fired. People were down. We heard officers being shot. Um, so, um, and then Michael Thiel - Officer Thiel received a text cause his brother is Officer Rob Thiel who works CCAC. So he got a text and he said, "Hey, I think your brother might've been shot." So Mike said, "Hey, Bryon, I gotta go." So I said, "All right, I'll go with you." Um, we called, um, Sergeant, um, Skinny who the - my sergeant went home that night and I didn't take his acting call sign 'cause he left at, like, 8:00 'cause he wasn't feeling good. Um, so s- uh, Sergeant Skenadore was in charge. So called him and said, "Hey, we're gonna go down there." And he said, "Okay, uh, do you have a rifle?" And I said, "Yes." And he said, "All right, go - go 'cause they need guys with rifles." So him and I, uh, notified dispatch over the air, "Hey, we're in route," and, uh, that I have a rifle. Um, we were in route code and we went from Cactus - down to Cactus all the way down to 15, 15, um, to Russell, and got off at Russell and the Boulevard. Parked, I got out and donned my gear, uh, locked the cars. And at this time we're still listening to the radio traffic, you know, shots fired, um, multiple victims, multiple officers down. Um, so I knew not to stay, uh, on the Boulevard in front on the north s- or the east

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side of the Boulevard. So we ran down the Boulevard, um, on the sidewalk at the Mandalay Bay, came up by the Beach entrance, ran all the way up to, um, the entrance by the Beach. Um, then came into Mandalay Bay through I guess the southeast corner you could say kinda, um, the big glass doors where they have the American flag kinda by the convention center. Uh, we ran through there, um, kept running all the way through the bottom of the hotel. A lot of people we running out yelling and screaming. Um, then we made our way to the ma- uh, the - not valet but the - the main part of the hotel where guests, uh, hotel check-in, all that stuff. Um, then I saw, uh, SWAT Officer Levi from SWAT coming towards me. Um, and he said, "Hey, uh, you guys, let's go. We're going up to the - up to the 32nd floor." I heard - we all - we all heard intel on the radio while we were running. Suspect's on the 32nd floor. Um, so, uh, we got in the elevator, went up to the 32 second floor. I mean, the elevators didn't work at first. Took a little while to get somebody to make them work 'cause they shut them down for fire code but, um, got them working, went up to 32nd floor, came out, got to the hallway. Uh, we looked down the hallway. You could see the - the double - double doors coming out, um, all the way at the end. You could see there's bullet holes in them. Um, there was blood on the floor from I think it was a security guard got shot. Um, so we decided - Levi said, "Hey, I got an idea. Let's go." We went back in the elevator down to the 31st floor. Went all the way down the hallway, went out to the fire escape, came back up 32nd floor right next to the suspect's room on the left side. So if you're looking at the suspect's room, left side. Uh, we posted up in the stairwell and it was, you know, I don't know how long it was,

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10 minutes, maybe 15 minutes. Uh, Levi was talking. Uh, he - he called I think the, uh, SWAT lieutenant, said, "Hey, we have the, uh, room. I got," and he looked back. He's like, "I got, like, five or six officers with me. They got rifles. Uh, we're gonna breach the door. Uh, I'll call you later. Bye." Um, something to that affect, you know, and, uh, he - we got him his breach bag, started pulling stuff out, put it - set it up. And, uh, said, uh, "All right, we'll go and breach the door. Breach - breach - breach." Boom, blew it. Um, they went in and the - when I say they I know, um, K9 - K9 Officer Newton was there. Um, I can't remember who else was there. Um, a couple guys went in. Uh, I could hear them yelling, clearing, and clearing. Um, and then they said, uh, "Watch, we have another door that's rigged with wires and cameras and possibly a gun." Um, so I posted up with my rifle on that door which was actually across the hall. So if - if his door was - if you're facing that - if you're facing the suspect's door, um, it was to the right. So I posted up, watched that door. Um, then I heard him say, "Breach - breach - breach." They - they blew that door. Um, there was yelling, commotion. Um, I heard, uh, a three round burst of gunfire and then I went in. I let go of that door, came into the main room, uh, the suspect's room. Um, at that time, you know, it was a little smoky from the - the breach so I didn't see a whole lot. You know, I saw a couple of guns, uh, rifles scattered, um, at the main windows. Um, and then I heard, um, I looked up and I saw, uh, Newt, uh, Officer or K9 Officer Newton -- I call him Newt, um, coming out and Levi coming out saying, "Everybody, um, everybody out. Let's get this, uh, scene secured. Um, we need two - two uniform officers posted up at the door. Nobody in, nobody out." Um, so then I

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backed out of the room. Um, and then that's when, uh, over the radio they were saying more shots fired at New York, New York, uh, and someplace else. So I was like, "All right, well we're done here. There's nothing to do here." So that's when Mike and I - Officer Thiel, um, I said, "Mike, let's go. There's more shots fired. We need to go." So I started running down the hallway and then I saw, uh, Billy Marks and a couple other guys from SWAT running towards me. And, uh, I told Billy what happened. He said, "All right, go help out, uh, elsewhere." And I never looked back.

MS: Okay and what gear - when you - when you said you - you donned gear, what gear were - did you don when you...

BB: I...

MS: ...said you...

BB: ...put on my rifle, the sling, um, knee pads, and my, uh, electronic ears.

MS: And that's when, before you went into the Mandalay Bay?

BB: Right.

MS: And then, uh, you - you mentioned something about a - a breach bag. You said you guys were going through the breach - breach bag or was that just the SWAT officer?

BB: It was the SWAT officer. I mean, I never went through it. I don't go...

MS: Okay and you know m- do you remember how many people were in your team that you went up the...

BB: Uh...

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MS: .to the room with?

BB: It was, like, six - six - maybe eight. There was a lot behind us. There was a bunch of South Central guys or - or CCAC guys. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know who they were. There was a lot of security. Uh, so probably a total of maybe, like, 15 - 18 maybe, um, behind us. Um, 'cause we had - while they were talking about - before they breached the door we were talking about, um, an exit plan, uh, in case somebody got hit, if - if an officer went down. When we were stacked up by the stairs, um, 'cause we were giving Levi - Levi room to work. We were stacked up on the stairs. We were like, "All right, if - if Levi goes down or, uh, Newt goes down we'll step up, provide cover, you two grab them, go down. You guys down there, uh, get with security, get them down the hallway." 'Cause I told the guy in the elevator to leave the elevator open and, "Don't move. Don't leave. Stay there because if we get a down officer we're gonna have to bring him to this elevator so no matter what, don't leave." So, um, 12 to 16 of us I guess total maybe. I don't...

MS: So there's a lot of people?

BB: Yeah, I mean, I can't consider what, uh, you know, the team at the door was, I mean, there was, like, six of us, maybe eight - six - eight. I don't...

MS: And the - the - the door that was breached, the first door that was breached, was that the main door that you were talking about?

BB: Right.

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MS: Okay and who - who entered it, uh, initially? Do you know who entered, how many people, or you or how many people entered initially?

BB: I can't remember 'cause it blew and then people started moving. Um, I don't remember.

MS: So you didn't enter until, um...

BB: Second breach.

MS: ...the second breach? And then you entered w- in what doors did you enter, the main doors or...

((Crosstalk))

BB: The main door. The main door.

MS: And then you just - you went into the main doors and then you...

BB: Yup, I took, like, five steps in. Yeah, because I knew there to my right and I heard the burst so I figured somebody saw something, saw a threat, addressed it, and then, um, I mean, realistically I, you know, you just go in, you think just in case they need you, someone's down. You know, if you can help in any way, great. They didn't need help. There was nothing to address. So I stood, looked. They said, "All right, blah - blah - blah. Let's - let's get everybody out. Let's secure it." So I backed right out.

MS: Was there a bunch of officers inside the room at the time? D- do you remember?

BB: It was dark and smoky.

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MS: Okay.

BB: I saw Levi, Newt. Those are the only two really that I - I - I looked at their faces.

MS: Okay.

BB: I mean, there was other people in there but honestly I couldn't tell you who they were.

MS: Okay, um, did you ever discharge your firearm?

BB: No.

MS: Um, and, uh, do you have any? Uh, and was your body cam activated?

BB: Yeah.

MS: Yeah? Got any questions?

KP: Yeah, De- uh, Detective Ploense. I got a question. You said when you first got up there you - you posted on the - the door...

BB: Right.

KP: ...while they went in?

BB: After the first breach I posted on the door.

KP: Okay, then you were - so you were still posted, like, at the stairwell door then...

BB: Um...

KP: ...to the...

BB: Yeah.

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KP: ...fire...

BB: I st- the...

KP: ...the fire stairs?

BB: Yeah, I stepped out of the f- of the fire door and took about three steps to my left so I was in the corner so I had a good shot at the - the other door if somebody came out of it.

KP: The, uh...

BB: The suspect's - the door on the right of the suspect's...

KP: Okay.

BB: ...main door.

KP: Is that were the cart was? Was there a cart?

BB: I don't remember a cart.

KP: Okay, so not important. Um...

MS: Did you hear any, um, by the time you got - made it upstairs were there any shots being fired at that time?

BB: When we got up to the...

MS: Yeah, or...

BB: ...floor?

MS: ...did you hear - ever hear any gunshots?

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BB: I didn't hear any gunshots, no.

KP: The whole night?

BB: No.

KP: Okay.

BB: No, actually the - I think it - he was - he was done by the time we got here. I don't - no, I didn't - I didn't hear any.

KP: Okay.

BB: Just people screaming.

KP: Okay.

MS: And then after you and, uh, Officer Thiel - you guys left, did - did you leave the Mandalay Bay or did w...

BB: Yeah.

MS: You said you hooked up with an officer - or SWAT Officer Marks?

BB: No, he was - we passed each other.

MS: Okay.

BB: And we - we've been friends for a long time so we - we talked for a brief minute. I don't even think we really broke stride. We kinda - I recognized him, he recognized me, we yelled kinda, and then passed. You know...

MS: Okay and then where did you go from there?

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER BRYON BUNITSKY (BB), P# 6541

BB: Uh, we went back in the elevator, went down to the basement out, hooked up with, um, FD, and, um, and then we went and we cleared and looked for, um, casualties at, uh, Route 91 field - the whole field, um...

MS: And that was you and Office Thiel?

BB: Officer Thiel and, uh, yeah, like, six FD guys.

MS: And you just went to the Route 91 and you were looking through...

BB: Yeah, we went through all of Route 91 which took a couple hours. Um, and then we came back to Mandalay Bay. Um, we were told to come back to Mandalay Bay 'cause at that time we were basically under the control of the fire captain and he was like, "Hey, you guys are with us. You're not leaving us. You're with us. You're assigned to us. Don't leave us." And I was like, "Okay." So we stayed with them, came back to, uh, Mandalay Bay per, uh, FD captain and that's when we had, uh, met up with, uh, all the SWAT teams, uh, FBI, everybody basically. And, uh, that's when SWAT took over and they were like, "All right, you guys are gonna be with these SWAT officers and you're gonna take, uh, the FD." 'Cause FD was like, "We're not leaving these two. The way it works is we're married. Thiel and Bunitsky are - are with us." So SWAT was like, "All right, take two SWAT guys and Bunitsky, Thiel, five, uh, medics. You're gonna clear, uh, the sixth floor." So then we took a couple hours to clear the sixth floor and then - and yeah, and then that was it.

MS: Okay and were you inside the - you said you heard a v- uh, a - a series of three shots or something. Were you inside the room when that happened?

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STATEMENT OF: OFFICER BRYON BUNITSKY (BB), P# 6541

BB: No - no, I was...

MS: Did you see any officers...

BB: No.

MS: ...any of the officers that...

BB: No, I couldn't tell you who it was. I was watching the door.

MS: Okay.

MR: Real quick, transcripts, this is Mike Ramirez. At any time did you kick in a door?

BB: No.

MR: Did you see, uh, anyone kick in a door?

BB: No.

MR: Okay, that's all I...

MS: I don't have any other questions. Do you have any questions, Detective Ploense?

KP: No - no.

MS: At this time the interview will end. Again the date is October 3, 2017 and the time is
1650 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1650 HOURS.

MS: KP: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032
Reviewed by M6239S on 10/08/2017