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VIDEOTAPED INTERVIEW

MICHAEL BRELO

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APPEARANCES:

Scott Gardner John Saraya Patrick D'Angelo Jeffrey Follmer Steve Kinas

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MR. SARAYA: All right. Before we actually get everything started and under way, I'm John Saraya with BCI. I'm been here at BCI about 15 years. I've got 9 years before this as a PD in the Youngstown area. I've been doing officer-involved shootings about the whole time I've been here at BCI. All right?

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We have a formalized list of questions here. Everybody's pretty much getting asked the same things. You will be given opportunities to expound on things.

Some of the questions we ask, don't take them personally. We're asking because we need you to expound on things and pull details out.

All right? We need you to articulate circumstances.

There are a few questions that, again, don't take personal. We're asking everybody, though. All right?

THE WITNESS: (Affirmative nodding of head.)

MR. SARAYA: If at any time you have any questions for us, ask. If there's something you want to discuss with your people first, not a

problem. Say so. You guys can step out in the hallway, confer, and come back in. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

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MR. SARAYA: Very good.

MR. GARDNER: My name is Scott Gardner.

I'm a detective/sergeant out of East Cleveland
assigned to Major Crimes.

MR. SARAYA: BCI is the lead agency here. Our policy is officer—involved shootings, it's a criminal investigation. This is not internal, this is criminal. As such, you have all rights and privileges the same as everybody else. You're going to be given Miranda warnings, which I'm sure they already told you is coming.

But, here again, I want you to understand that it's not because there's any belief you've done anything wrong. It's just it's your rights, and you're being -- you get them the same as everybody else.

THE WITNESS: Okay.

MR. SARAYA: All right. So let's start with Miranda warnings. And they go: You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in court. You have

4 1 the right to consult with an attorney and have an attorney present during questioning. If you cannot afford an attorney, one can be provided to 4 you before questioning at no cost. 5 Do you understand these rights? 6 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, I do. 7 MR. SARAYA: Good. All right. Let's 8 start with the demographics. 9 EXAMINATION BY MR. SARAYA: 10 11 Q. Your name, sir. 12 Α. My name is Michael John Brelo, 13 B-R-E-L-O. 14 Q. Michael, your home address? 15 Α. 16 17 18 Q. Okay. Some phone number I can reach you 19 at? 20 Α. 21 And your date of birth? Q. 2.2 Α. Very good. Okay. How are you doing 2.3 Q. with everything that's been going on so far? How 24

are you holding up?

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- A. I've been nervous, and it's been hard a couple weeks.
- Q. In the law enforcement field the term mental health usually has a stigma attached.

 Make use of people to talk to about this.
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. It's the old survive the streets, survive the court, you're going to survive everything else too. All right?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. So try to expound on that. Because a lot of guys sit there and, you know, "I'm going to be a bad cop. I don't need that." Make use of the resources.
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. All right. What's your current assignment, what district? What do you do?
- A. I'm Second District. I'm on B Platoon, afternoon shift. I'm on zone car 2 Barney 22, basic patrol, sir.
 - Q. Okay. Okay. Hold on. Okay.

6 1 Call sign 2 Barney 22. Α. Q. 22? Α. On second shift. 4 Q. Okay. What is your -- the time of your 5 shift? 6 Α. It's -- every day it's 3:30 till 1:30. Q. All right. And the week this happened, 8 what were your days off that week? 9 Α. The day this happened was the 29th, I 10 believe. This was my Friday. 11 Q. That was your Friday. So your days off 12 would have been --A. The next four days after. 13 14 Q. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday would have been your off days? 15 16 A. Yes, sir. 17 Q. Okay. All right. Who was your 18 supervisor that Thursday? A. I can't even recall, to tell you the 19 truth, sir. 20 21 Q. Okay. 2.2 A. I know that Sergeant Coleman was there 23 with us; but I can't remember who gave them a

call or who we talked to, sir.

Michael Brelo

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              Okay. Do you work any side jobs, open
          Ο.
     shifts?
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          Α.
              I work at Brennan's --
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          Q.
              Okay?
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          Α.
              -- Party Center part-time.
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          Ο.
              Tuesday or Wednesday did you work any
     side details?
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          A. No, I did not, sir.
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          Q. The Thursday this happens, how are you
     feeling?
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          A. I was fine.
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          Q. Fine?
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          A. Yes.
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          Q. Head cold, sneezy, anything like that?
              No, nothing, sir.
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          Α.
              Okay. Are you taking any type of
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          Q.
     medications, over-the-counter Sudafeds, Actifeds?
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          Α.
              No.
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          Q.
              Any prescription stuff, anything like
     that?
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          A. No, sir, nothing prescribed to me. I
22
     didn't take anything.
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          Q. Do you wear corrective lenses?
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          A. No, I do not, sir.
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Q. All right. What are you wearing? How are you dressed for your shift?

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A. I have an outer vest on, which I have in my trunk, and I had my duty belt on.

MR. GARDNER: It was in your trunk or -THE WITNESS: I mean, it's in my car
right now.

MR. GARDNER: Oh, okay.

THE WITNESS: Well, on shift I had on my vest, my other vest, and I had my duty belt on.

BY MR. SARAYA:

- Q. Okay. And right into that. What all are you carrying?
- A. I carry the things that were issued to me. I had two extra magazines of ammo, I have a flashlight, an ASP baton, two pairs of handcuffs in cases, and also a pepper spray, a mace.
- Q. Okay. What's on your vest? Are you carrying anything on the vest?
- A. No. Only the badge. I didn't have anything on my vest.
 - Q. Okay. No taser that night?
 - A. I don't have a taser.
 - Q. Don't have one? Okay.

9 1 Which pistol are you carrying and how many rounds are you carrying? 2 Α. Glock 17, I believe 53 total. 4 Q. Do you carry a digital recorder? No, sir. 5 Α. 6 0. Or videocamera in your pocket, one of 7 those pens or anything? 8 Α. No, sir, I do not. 9 Q. Personal video? Okay. 10 Okay. Now, you already gave me your call sign. What car were you in? Do you 11 12 remember the car number? A. Yes, it was Zone Car 217. 13 14 Q. 217. Okay. And you had a partner that night? 15 16 Yes. Α. 17 Who was it? Q. 18 Α. It was Cindy Moore. Who was driving? 19 Q. 20 Α. I was driving, sir. 21 Cindy's your passenger? Q. 2.2 Α. Correct. 23 Is there a dash cam in there? Q. 24 Α. No, there's not, sir.

- Q. All right. Lights and sirens, spotlight, everything working okay?
 - A. Yes, they do, sir.
 - Q. What channel were you guys on?
 - A. Channel 2, sir.

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- Q. Did you stay on channel 2 or did you change channels at any time?
- A. No, we did not, sir. We stayed on Channel 2.
- 10 Q. Okay. MDT working okay in there and everything?
 - A. Yes, it was working that night, sir.
 - Q. All right. Any type of extra certifications you have, SWAT, negotiator, OPOTA instructor, or anything like that?
 - A. I was trained in -- I did the class you do when they give people tasers.
 - MR. FOLLMER: Crisis intervention.
- A. Yeah, crisis intervention, sir. And I was in the Marines.
 - Q. Okay. We'll come to that in a minute.
- 22 A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. You were in the Marines?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.

- Q. From when to when?
- A. 2003 till 2010.
- MR. GARDNER: What was your MOS?
- THE WITNESS: 0311, sir. Infantry.
- 5 BY MR. SARAYA:

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- Q. How long have you been with Cleveland?
- 7 A. Five years, sir. Appointment date was 10-15-2007.
 - Q. No police departments before that?
- 10 A. No, sir.
- 11 Q. Okay. '03 to '10. So you were deployed overseas?
- A. Yes. I was in Iraq in 2005, sir.
- Q. Firearms qualification this year, you qualified?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. With what?
- A. With my Glock 17 issued pistol.
- 19 Q. Okay. Anything else? Shotgun?
- A. Yes, with a shotgun as well, sir.
- 21 Q. Any other weapons that they might pull
- out of the trunks of cars? Any of the ARs or
- 23 anything?
- 24 A. No, sir.

- Q. Okay. During your in-service training in the past year, have you had a use of force review and everything?
 - A. I believe so, yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. Your OPOTA certificate is all up-to-date, everything's good?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. At the police department now, have you been involved in any other shooting incidents?
- A. I was with my partner last year when she fired one round into a suspect's car. I did not fire, though, sir.
- MR. D'ANGELO: Your partner who?
- 14 THE WITNESS: My partner was officer Liz
 15 Galarza. That's the 288.
- MR. KINAS: That was a previous
- 17 incident.

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- 18 BY MR. SARAYA:
- Q. Okay. I'm assuming you got mixed up in stuff in Iraq in '05.
- 21 A. I'm sorry, sir?
- Q. You were mixed up in fire fights in Iraq in '05?
- A. No, sir. I never fired my weapon in

Iraq. We just got direct and indirect fire by rockets and mortars. Luckily I did not fire my weapon.

- Q. Okay. Okay. How did the shift go? How did it start out? What was going on?
- A. We it was typical shift. We were running radio assignments. Everything was standard, from my memory. It was essentially radio assignments. Nothing too crazy was going on.
 - Q. Okay. Keep going. What happened?
- A. Okay. We were -- I was driving westbound on West 25 near Lorain Road, and we heard Officer Nan broadcast that he saw a white older Buick or Chevy that was driving I don't remember if he said eastbound or westbound right in front of the Justice Center and he saw this auto fire a round.
 - Q. Okay.

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A. At which point he said -- I remember him saying that the car was headed eastbound on whatever street that was in front of the Justice Center. At which point I activated my lights and sirens, and we head to the West 25 Detroit Bridge

to look for this vehicle.

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- Q. Okay. Headed for the Detroit Superior Bridge?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. What happened then?
- A. At which point we were eastbound on the Detroit Superior Bridge. We -- my partner and I see an auto coming westbound on the bridge that matched the description of the suspect vehicle. It looked like an older blue Chevy or Buick traveling at a high rate of speed over the bridge.
 - Q. Okay. What happens next?
- A. There was a zone car in front of us.

 The zone car turned around to follow this vehicle and activated its lights and sirens. At which point I heard 2 Adam 31, Officer Siefer broadcast that they possibly have the suspect vehicle headed westbound on Detroit towards West 25, sir.

MR. SARAYA: Okay.

MR. GARDNER: Adam -- I'm sorry. 2 Adam 31, was that the zone car that was in front of you then?

THE WITNESS: Yes, that I saw do a

U-turn in front of me at which we were behind.

MR. SARAYA: Okay.

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THE WITNESS: Lights and sirens -- the auto's -- Adam 31 is broadcasting trying to get this vehicle to pull over with its lights and sirens. We head southbound West 45 from Detroit.

MR. SARAYA: Okay.

THE WITNESS: At which point we go I believe to Clark Avenue -- no, I'm sorry, we went to Lorain; and then we headed -- I'm still the second or third car behind Adam 31. We headed westbound on Lorain over to 73rd, southbound on 73rd over to Clark and eastbound over Clark all the way to Steelyard on Quigley.

Now, the whole time he's broadcasting, I remember Adam 31 Siefer saying that the passenger was pointing a weapon -- gun at him.

During this -- our pursuit, there were zone cars that were next to me. I had to stop for cars that were stopped in front of us. I ended up being like tenth in line. Adam 31 stayed primary but kept on falling back due to cars in front of me stopping, zone cars.

BY MR. SARAYA:

- Q. So you're only back about ten cars then?
- A. On Clark Avenue I was probably five to six, I would say. Once we got on the highway, it was more.
 - Q. Okay. What happened then?
- A. We went on Quigley down through the Steelyard, and then Adam 31 broadcasted that suspect auto was getting on the highway headed towards Cleveland.
 - Q. Okay.

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- A. We end up following -- like I said, on the highway we probably ended up being like tenth in line, because autos on the highway were just stopping. So it's, you know, trying to safely follow the line of vehicles.
- I remember a few times Adam 31 saying that the passenger was pointing a gun out the window. And we were headed towards the east side. We were -- I think they were around two -- I-90 going -- we went by Dead Man's Curve.
 - O. Uh-huh.
- A. And I -- I never worked on the east side, so I don't know any of these streets. I remember Sergeant Coleman, she's the vice

sergeant, I remember her starting to broadcast directions (inaudible) going eastbound on Star, west on these various streets.

Q. Okay.

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- A. I remember during this Patty Coleman,
 Sergeant Coleman, said that it looked like the
 passenger was reaching down looking like they're
 possibly reloading a weapon from the suspect
 auto.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. Excuse me.
 - Q. Take your time.
- A. Thank you, sir.

I remember headed -- we were on a dusty road, and I remember a zone car broadcasting that it was a water treatment plant and that there was no way out from there.

- Q. Okay.
- A. So we're on this dusty road. The visibility is really bad with all the zone cars in front of us. I'm pulling up and I hear "Shots fired, shots fired" on the radio. I did not hear them outside the auto. I just heard it from the radio.

Q. Okay.

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- A. We pull up. I see a zone car to my left going around a winding road. And I heard

 Sergeant Coleman say that it looked like the vehicle was going to stop. At which point I go right, I park the car. I see Zone Car 238 in front of me probably about 10 feet to my side on my left. I did not see any of the occupants in 238 in the area, so I assumed they were in the vehicle. At which point we see headlights coming at us and this Buick or Chevy hit the Zone Car 238 on the passenger side.
 - Q. Okay. What happens next?
- A. At which point the zone car -- I'm sorry, the suspect auto heads towards us. I think we're about to get rammed.

As I told you, the car was in park. I see -- I see a driver and a passenger in the suspect vehicle. I see them both point a dark object at us.

- Q. Okay.
- A. At which point I was -- I heard shots being fired from the area of the suspect vehicle.

 I've never been so afraid in my life. I thought

my partner and I would be shot and that we were going to be killed. At which point I drew my weapon and I shot through the windshield at the suspects.

- Q. Okay. About how many rounds did you fire through the windshield?
- A. I thought it was probably like five or six. I looked down at my weapon, I thought I had a jam, so I reloaded. I dropped the magazine I think on my lap. I reloaded from my belt a magazine. At which point I exited the vehicle, because I still believe I'm being fired at and that I'm going to get rammed by this car in front of us.

And while I'm in the vehicle, probably within a half a second of me shooting, I know that my partner was shooting inside the vehicle as well --

Q. Okay.

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- A. -- out the windshield of Zone Car 217 into the suspect's windshield.
- Q. Okay. You're shooting out of there.

 You think you have a jam. You drop the magazine,
 put a fresh one in.

A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. You get out of the car. What do you do next?
- A. At which point I get out of the car, because I'm terrified of being hit by the suspect's vehicle. I had leapt trying to get out of the way of this car so it doesn't run me over and kill me.

At this point I lose track of my partner. I think she's to my right. I know she got out of the car, I just -- I didn't see her.

In between the cars while I'm heading towards the Zone -- the back of Zone Car 238 that got rammed I fire what feels like five or six rounds into the suspect's vehicle. Because there's still rounds going all over the place, I feel like I'm being shot by these suspects. And I see the suspects kept on -- kept on moving --

Q. Okay.

A. -- and firing, shooting us, sir. At which point I looked down at my magazine. I see that I'm empty. I drop behind Zone Car 238. I'm crouching behind 238. I reload into my third magazine.

Q. Okay.

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- A. I look to my left and I remember seeing officers firing. I don't remember who, though.

 And I remember there was a hill behind them.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. I do (inaudible) in fear that I was going to be shot by one of these officers; and I didn't want to stay behind the zone car, because I the Chevy or Buick I thought was going to hit me and I was terrified that I would be pinned underneath Zone Car 238.
 - Q. Uh-huh.
- A. At which point I made the decision that it was safer on the trunk of Zone Car 238 where I had the hood and the -- the hood and the compartment between me and the vehicle. Excuse me.
- Q. No problem. Take a deep breath. Slow down.
 - A. Yes, sir.
- MR. GARDNER: Do you want a break?
- A. I'm okay. I just want to (inaudible).
- 23 I'll be okay.
- But like I said, at this point I still

don't know if anyone's in the Zone Car 238. And I was terrified that with -- I knew that the vehicle -- the suspect vehicle was coming. I don't know who was behind this vehicle.

Q. It's all right, man. Take a deep breath.

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A. I remember that through my training that engine blocks could stop 9 millimeter rounds, and I was terrified that I would be shooting behind the vehicle and behind the trunk of the suspect vehicle. So next thing I just don't know if anyone was in 238, if they were shot and killed; and I felt that if I could at least find some elevation I could shoot into the suspect's vehicle and try and stop the threat.

Like I said, I keep hearing the rounds going off, I see the suspects moving, and I couldn't understand why they were still moving shooting at us.

I was just -- even during Iraq I never fired my weapon. I've never --

- Q. You're fine.
- A. I've never been so afraid in my life, and I just couldn't understand why the suspects

were moving and still shooting at us.

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Like I said, I was crouching over the light of 238 shooting into the suspect's car. I must have had tunnel vision. The next thing I remember I'm next to the suspect's vehicle, I was bent by the driver's door, and I remember having my weapon in my holster. I remember going up to the car. I remember putting the car from drive to park, and I took the keys out of the vehicle and I put them in the front of the hood, sir.

MR. SARAYA: Okay.

MR. GARDNER: When you were beside the driver's side door, did you discharge your weapon?

THE WITNESS: No, sir. I remember it being -- I remember it being -- I have no idea how I got to the driver's side door. I just know that it was in my holster. People yelling, "Cease fire."

And like I said, even through Iraq I've never ever been this terrified as I was. I was afraid my partner and I were going to die. I have little kids. I've never been so terrified.

In Iraq when we have rockets and mortars

going off, it would be 20 seconds of hearing it come and then, you know, diving for cover; but then it would be over. This felt like it was at least 30 or 40 seconds.

BY MR. SARAYA:

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- Q. Take a deep breath and relax for a little bit. All right?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. We're going to back up a little bit here and we're going to go over some details now.

MR. D'ANGELO: Are you all right?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

MR. D'ANGELO: Okay.

BY MR. SARAYA:

- Q. You're in pursuit. You're hearing all this radio traffic (inaudible). You're hearing the shots fired. You're hearing they're pointing the gun out the window and everything else.
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did you guys broadcast any radio traffic?
 - A. No, we did not, sir.
- Q. Initially when all this starts, let's start on the bridge, you're relatively close to

the car?

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- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. You see it go past, it comes down past you?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. About how far away are you from it? Can you see into the car? What's going on in the car when it passes you on the bridge?
 - A. I could not -- the car was probably going 50, 60 miles an hour. I believe I was in the right-hand lane and the vehicle was in its left-hand lane. So there was a ways between us.

I saw that there was a driver. I didn't see anything else, though, sir.

- Q. Okay. Did the driver look at you when he went past you?
- A. No. I have no recollection what the driver even looked like, sir.
- Q. It wasn't a situation where he turned and looked at you and you guys make eye contact, anything like that?
 - A. No, sir.
- Q. Okay. Okay. The car goes past you.

 You guys end up in the No. 2 position. Did you

hear any shots ring out there or anything like that?

A. No, I did not, sir.

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- Q. Okay. During the pursuit here, how is the -- how is he driving? How is the suspect vehicle driving?
 - A. High rate of speed.
- Q. What do you consider a high rate of speed?
- A. Probably going 60, 70 miles an hour. The only time I actually really saw the suspect vehicle was when we initially saw it and when I turned southbound on West 45. At which point I just saw taillights. And there were more and more zone cars between me and the vehicle, sir.
- Q. Okay. Okay. So he's going 60, 70 miles an hour; and are we talking 60 to 70 in the city or on the freeway?
 - A. I'm on Detroit.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And then on the side street I have no idea. We just saw -- we just saw taillights.
- Q. Okay. But, of course, he's stopping for all the red lights and stop signs along the way.

- A. Never, no, sir.
- Q. Okay. Do you remember the original broadcast description of the suspects, what Officer Nan broadcasted?
- A. I believe Officer Nan said there were two black males in the car, sir.
- Q. When did you find out that it wasn't two males?
 - A. The next day when someone texted me.
- 10 Q. Someone texted you and told you about 11 it?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Okay. Was it somebody that was there that night that texted you?
 - A. No. I think my fiancee saw it on the news. It was either the day -- the next day or the day after that my fiancee was doing something and she texted me.
- Q. Okay. Did you -- do you know the names of the suspects now? Have you heard them on the news?
- A. I've been trying not to watch the news, sir.
 - Q. Okay.

- A. I couldn't even tell you what the names of the suspects -- suspects were, sir.
- Q. Okay. We're going to show you the pictures and the names there, Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell.

Do either of those names ring any bells with you from prior calls, prior contacts?

- A. Never.
- Q. They don't look familiar?
- 10 A. No, sir.
- 11 Q. Okay.

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- 12 A. Never seen them.
- Q. Okay. We'll start with this one first.

 All right? Get your bearings here. All right?

 Here's Lee Road.
- 16 A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. Here's Wymore. These trees
 obstruct it. Here's this driveway that comes up
 here what everyone's calling the dirt road.
 - A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Okay. You've got your -- right here is the school.
- 23 A. Okay.
- Q. All right. You've got your bearings?

A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. All right. So you guys come down. Now, at this point in time about how far -- how many cars are in front of you? How many zone cars in front of you?
 - A. I would say approximately ten or so.
 - Q. Okay. How many are behind you?
- A. It was too many to count, sir. Flashing lights everywhere.
- Q. Okay. When you came in here, did you come straight in or did you kind of pull over and wait for some of the dust to settle before you go in?
 - A. I went straight in, sir.
- Q. You went straight in. Okay.
- A. I believe we came up Terrace and turned right. Maybe we came up Wymore. I don't know the east side. I have no idea.
 - Q. Okay. We'll look off of this one now.
- 20 A. Okay.
- Q. See how it is? We've rotated it this way for us. All right?
- 23 A. Okay.
- 24 Q. Here's 238. Here's 217. All right?

A. Okay.

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- Q. Everything look the way you recall it?
 - A. I thought that suspect's vehicle was farther back.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. Or at least to the side. I didn't think it was still touching Zone Car 238, sir.
 - Q. Okay. What I want you to do is use that pen and I want you to kind of draw where you were, what you did, how you moved.
 - A. How I pulled in?
- Q. Well, yeah.
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. Well, you pulled in. Obviously you're going to come up here.
 - A. One vehicle went left, and I come up here. At which -- on the dusty road we hear "Shots fired" over the radio.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. So one car goes right, I come here. I believe I hear Sergeant Coleman saying that the vehicle had nowhere to go, and then they looked like the suspects in the vehicle were (inaudible) were trying to get out of the vehicle. At which

point I brake right there. I see Zone Car 238 to my left.

Q. Okay.

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- A. Once I put it in brake, I see headlights and I see this Buick or Chevy hit Zone Car 238 and then come towards us.
- Q. Okay. Then what do you do? You start off in your car.
- A. My car's parked, so I deploy my weapon and I fire through the windshield --
 - Q. Okay.
- A. -- like I said. And then I thought I reloaded -- I mean, I thought I had a jam. I thought I fired five or six rounds.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. So I reload. I get out of the zone car with the full magazine, and in between the zone cars I'm shooting into the windshield at the suspects.
- Q. Okay. As you're moving from your zone car to behind, you're firing on the move?
 - A. Yes, sir, that's correct.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- A. And at this point I'm still terrified

that either I'm going to get shot or this car's going to run me over.

I look to my left and I see that there was a hill left of Zone Car 238 and there were officers all around to my left.

Q. Okay.

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- A. At which point I reloaded, and at that point I was terrified again and behind Zone Car -- I was terrified of the car ramming us and me being sucked underneath Zone Car 238, so I crouched with my feet on the trunk of Zone Car 238.
- Q. Okay. So you crawl up onto the car, then?
 - A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And I shoot over the light bar at the suspects in the vehicle.
 - Q. All right. What happens then?
- A. At which point, like I said, I was thinking, why are they still moving? Why haven't they stopped? Why are they still shooting at us? Why is that car still moving?
 - Like I said, next thing I know I'm next

to the driver's side of the suspect vehicle, sir.

- Q. Do you remember getting over there?
- A. Absolutely no idea how, sir. I don't know if I went around the left or the right. I have no idea, sir.

MR. GARDNER: At some point did you -- did you jump on the suspect's vehicle?

THE WITNESS: I have no recollection if I did, sir. Absolutely none.

10 BY MR. SARAYA:

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- Q. A lot of yelling and screaming going on.

 Are you yelling anything else?
 - A. I don't remember saying anything, sir.

 I may have said through my training, "Stop. Show
 me your hands. Stop." But I don't remember
 anything.

Right after this my right ear hurts from the shots that were being fired from inside the zone car.

- Q. Uh-huh.
- A. So, you know, I -- no, I don't recall yelling anything, sir.
- Q. Do you remember anyone else yelling anything out there?

- A. Absolutely nothing. It's lights and sirens. Shots were being fired. No, sir.
- Q. Okay. You said earlier that somebody mentioned "Cease fire." Do you remember who was yelling that?
- A. Huh-uh. No -- no idea. Once my gun was in the holster on the side, I remember someone was yelling "Cease fire." Even when I was making sure everyone was okay, I remember after the car -- after I put the car in park from drive and I took the keys out, I found my partner, Cindy Moore. She came up to me and she handed me a magazine for a Glock 17. And, you know, I asked her why she picked it up. She said it was habit. So she handed to me an empty magazine, sir.

MR. GARDNER: It was your magazine?

THE WITNESS: It could be. I have no idea, sir. She just found one on the ground and assumed it was mine.

BY MR. SARAYA:

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- Q. Okay. All right. So you -- you come out over here and you can see officers here.
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. About how many do you see on this little

hillside? Any idea?

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- A. From a glance, three or four possibly, sir.
 - Q. Okay. Anybody you know standing up there?
 - A. I -- I just saw officers. I didn't see faces, sir.
 - Q. Okay. All right. You're looking through a lens here. This is your interpretation. What's the lighting like?
 - A. It was dark. We have the headlights from the zone -- from the suspect vehicle, but I believe there were streetlights.
 - Q. Is it so dark you can't see what's going on, or is there plenty that you can see what's happening?
 - A. It was somewhere in the middle. It was dark, but I could definitely see movement in the vehicle. So I don't know if that -- you could see. It wasn't daylight; but, I mean, you could see some -- you could see inside the vehicle.
 - Q. Okay. Okay. When this car's coming at you, did you say you can see the suspect's hands in the car raised up?

A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Is that -- when do you see that happening?
- A. Right after it hits Zone Car 238 and it's coming at us and I thought we would be rammed is when I saw the hands and when I saw what was a dark object in both their hands pointed at us.
- Q. Why do you think they're shooting at you?
- A. Because the whole exchange was 22, 25, whatever time it was, and we were told by Adam 31 -- or to start off Officer Nan heard a gunshot from the vehicle. I'm sorry, Adam 31, Officer Siefer, saw them pointing a weapon out the back of the trunk -- of the back of the window at them. And I heard rounds coming from the vehicle, sir.
- Q. Okay. So by the time -- hold on a second. By the time contact is made with the other car, you said the suspect vehicle strikes the other car, rounds are already -- you could hear gunfire.
 - A. Yes.

- Q. The shooting's -- the shooting's already started.
- A. Yes. When we were pulling on the dirt road I hear, "Shots fired."
 - Q. Okay.

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- A. And then when I put the car in park, I heard shots fired as the car hit Zone Car 238, sir.
 - Q. Okay. You're putting your car in park.
- A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. And you're -- okay. You're hearing shots fired. Is that the radio or is that actual gunfire you're hearing?
 - A. Actual gunfire, sir.
 - Q. Okay. All right. Your partner's on your right. She's in the car with you still?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. All right. Did you see any of the officers in the other cruiser on your left, the 20 238?
- 21 A. I didn't see anybody exit the vehicle, 22 sir.
- MR. GARDNER: Other than the officers on the hill, do you remember seeing any other

officers in that area?

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THE WITNESS: I remember movement to my right; but no one who I could identify, sir.

MR. SARAYA: Okay. So you're pulling up. You didn't see the officer getting out of 238 there on the passenger side right before the suspect vehicle hit it?

A. No, sir, I did not.

Do you mind if I use the restroom real quick, sir?

MR. SARAYA: The way you've been chugging water? No. Out the door there, go down to the end of the hall, make a left, and it's right there.

THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you, sir.

(Pause in proceedings.)

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

19 BY MR. SARAYA:

Q. All right. What are you aiming at?

A. At the driver and the passenger, sir.

Q. In that order?

A. Yes. I remember the driver and the passenger, sir.

- Q. Okay. Let's go at it this way, then.

 You're in the front seat of your cruiser

 when you first engage.
 - A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. While you're in the car, what's your point of aim that you fired?
 - A. Through the windshield --
 - Q. Right.
- A. -- into the suspect's vehicle. First the driver and then the passenger.
- Q. Okay. So you're transitioning between both while from the -- while you're in the car?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. You move from your car to the back of 238.
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. All right. Same thing again, what are you aiming at then?
- A. I don't know. I just remember in the beginning it -- probably transitioning. In the beginning I remember, you know, first the driver and then the passenger. After that I just -- into the car. I don't remember what order, sir.
 - Q. Okay. What about when you're on the

trunk of 238?

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- A. Still I -- I have no -- I don't remember which way I transitioned. I remember both threats were moving shooting at us, so I just remember the threats wouldn't stop moving.
 - Q. Where do you think your rounds hit?
- A. I really don't know, sir. We always are trained center mass, so I hope center mass. I don't know.
- Q. All right. All right. This is a your interpretation question.

Were there any other options available or practical besides using your gun?

- A. No, sir, absolutely not.
- Q. Okay. Do you see -- are you picking up what any of the other officers are doing, how they're moving, where they're shooting, are they shooting?
 - A. Other than my partner shooting --
 - Q. Yeah.
- A. -- and the people that was on my left shooting, I did see movement to my right where my partner went, but I didn't see her after we left the car.

- Q. And the officers on your left, you're talking about the guys that are up here on this hillside?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. Do you remember seeing any cars up there?
 - A. No. Just the officers, sir.
 - Q. Are they uniform or plainclothes?
 - A. I believe uniform, sir.
- Q. Do you remember calling for EMS? Do you know who called for EMS?
- 12 A. No.

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- Q. Did anybody call for EMS?
- A. I believe someone did on the scene; but

 I have no recollection of who did, sir.
 - Q. Okay. Outside of reaching in the car and putting it in park, you say you turned off the ignition, you pulled the keys and you put them on the hood?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Okay. What else did you do?
- A. My partner -- at that point my partner found me with the magazine.
 - Q. Uh-huh.

- A. We made sure everybody was okay.
- 2 Q. Did you pick up anything else?
 - A. No, sir.

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- Q. Did you pick up any of your other magazines?
 - A. No, sir.
- Q. Did you get injured at all during this event?
- A. Other than my ear being in pain, no, sir.
- 11 Q. Did you check your vest to see if it took any hits?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. No hits on the vest?
- 15 A. No hits, sir.
- Q. Okay. Everything's quieted down, settling down after the fact here. What's everybody saying?
 - A. Everyone was checking everybody out to make sure no one got hit, and I just remember lieutenant -- a female lieutenant separating everybody and getting us away from the crime scene, sir.
 - Q. Okay. Now, what do you mean by

separating you?

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- A. They were trying to keep everyone who was involved in it, the incident, in a -- by the playground over there.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. Trying to keep everyone away from them. So the lieutenant was just keeping us separate from anybody who arrived later on the scene.
- Q. Okay. So outside of checking and checking on everyone else, no one else is saying anything about --
- A. No.
 - Q. -- holy shit, those dumbasses --
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Anything like that?
- 16 A. No.
 - Q. Who have you talked to about all of this so far? I'm not saying it's good or bad. It doesn't matter. I just want to know who you talked to.
 - A. The three gentlemen right here. My wife's asked me -- or fiancee's asked me about it. I haven't told her much.
 - Q. Okay. What about the other officers

that were there, your partner, anyone else you talked to that was there?

- A. I asked her to make sure she was okay.

 I don't remember talking to anyone else, sir.
- Q. No one called you to check up on you from your platoon or anything?
- A. I got a few text messages from people to ask if we were okay, and afterwards I called the fiancee --
 - Q. While you were there?
 - A. As soon as we were separated.
- 12 Q. Okay.

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- A. And I told her that I was okay, that I was involved; and I told her to call my mother to let her know I was okay.
- Q. Okay. You had your cell phone out. Did you take any pictures with your cell phone when you were there?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Did you see anyone else using their phone to take any pictures?
 - A. No, I did not, sir.
- Q. Okay. You said it quite a few times
 during your time here, but I'm going to ask you

again.

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Did you fear for your safety and the safety of other officers there?

- A. The most I've ever been in my life, sir, even with Iraq. I've never been more afraid of my life for me and my fellow officers, sir.
 - Q. Okay. And why is that?
- A. Because I thought we were going to get rammed and I thought we were going to get shot and be killed, sir.
- Q. Okay. Do you believe your actions are consistent with the training you have received?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What about the other officers there, how did they react based on the training?
- A. From what I saw, it was consistent with what -- how we were taught, sir.
- Q. Has anyone asked you to lie or otherwise try to influence your statement to us?
 - A. No, sir.
 - MR. SARAYA: Okay.
- MR. GARDNER: There's been a time that someone inspected your weapons and magazines?
- 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. The lieutenant

in the homicide did, sir.

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2 MR. GARDNER: Lieutenant Timm, does that sound right?

THE WITNESS: Lieutenant Timm I think his name is. He's a big Irish guy.

MR. GARDNER: And what -- how many rounds did he tell you that you had fired?

THE WITNESS: Well, I still don't know if I -- I had -- when I was first in the vehicle, I don't know if I had a jam, so I don't know if there's any rounds in the magazine. Lieutenant Timm told me I had two or three rounds left. So I believe 50 (inaudible) rounds fired, sir. It felt like I fired probably (inaudible), sir.

MR. GARDNER: And just sort of going back to this just to qualify here.

You don't -- you don't recall if you went on the hood of the suspect vehicle?

THE WITNESS: No, sir. It's possible because I was so terrified that I was going to get ran over; but I don't recall that, sir.

I remember crouching down looking into the front of the suspect car thinking, why are they still shooting at us? Why haven't we

stopped them? And then I remember being next to the car.

I don't know if I went over to the side.
I -- I don't -- I've been trying to rack my
brain, sir. I have no recollection.

MR. GARDNER: So it wouldn't surprise you if I were to say that the footprints that were on the trunk of 238 matched the shoe prints that were on top of the suspect vehicle?

THE WITNESS: If -- no. I was so in fear of my life, it wouldn't -- I mean, I have no recollection of how I got there, sir. It's just as feasible as me going the other ways too.

MR. GARDNER: Okay. This is sort of a hard question here. All right? This has come up through the course of our investigation. All right? I've got to ask.

Were you yelling at some point semper fi or anything of that nature?

THE WITNESS: Absolutely not.

MR. GARDNER: (Inaudible)?

22 THE WITNESS: Absolutely not. Never,

23 sir.

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24 BY MR. SARAYA:

- Q. When you were in Iraq, you said you would hear the mortars coming and you had 20 or 30 seconds to react.
 - A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. All this is going on, how long does it feel like this is taking?
 - A. It felt like 30 to 40 seconds, sir.
- Q. Do me a favor, clarify for me. You're behind 238. You -- you reloaded. You get up on the trunk of the car why?
- A. At that moment of split decision I was terrified that the suspect car would hit 238 again and I would get sucked underneath it. I was also afraid that the engine block was stopping my rounds being fired at the suspects and that's why they kept on shooting at us. And I was afraid that if there were people behind Zone Car 238, if I had a higher angle I wouldn't hit them, sir.
- Q. Do you remember anybody going up to the car to try to check on the suspects, as far as checking pulse anything like that?
- A. No, sir. After I got the keys out, I walked away. I -- I didn't see anything, sir.

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MR. GARDNER: Did you ever hear at any
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     point anybody making any sort of racial comments
     or --
               THE WITNESS: No, sir, absolutely not.
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              MR. GARDNER: Do you believe that this
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     was racially motivated?
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               THE WITNESS: No. No, sir.
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              MR. SARAYA: Anything from you?
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              MR. KINAS: (Inaudible) about lights and
     sirens, how many cars had lights and sirens on?
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               THE WITNESS: (Inaudible.) So --
              MR. KINAS: How loud -- how much noise
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     were you getting?
               THE WITNESS: With the fires,
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     definitely.
              MR. KINAS: When you started discharging
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     your weapon inside the vehicle --
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               THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
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              MR. KINAS: -- the drawl of the sirens,
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     was that anything louder than that?
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               THE WITNESS: Yes, especially with my
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     partner shooting next to me at my -- right at my
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     left here -- right here.
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              MR. KINAS: How long before you began
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hearing better?

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THE WITNESS: The next morning, actually. It was bad all night.

MR. KINAS: Is it okay now?

THE WITNESS: Yes, it's better.

MR. GARDNER: Just to clarify, when you were asked about your reaction time in Iraq, are you saying that there was a warning that mortar is coming in and rockets are coming in and you had 20 to 30 seconds to react to that?

THE WITNESS: It's probably more like ten to fifteen seconds, because sometimes they're firing from 1,000 feet away or the rockets you hear "boom" and then ten seconds in you hear them whine and then the explosion. So....

MR. SARAYA: I was asking that because you're judging time there; and, again, this is your interpretation. I'm sure you're not sitting there counting off on your watch.

THE WITNESS: It was probably at least 15 seconds.

MR. SARAYA: That's what I want to know, while you're there, how long is all of this seeming to be taking?

THE WITNESS: Thirty or forty seconds, sir.

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MR. D'ANGELO: That being the length of time it took for all of these rounds going off, that whole incident, was like 30 or 40 seconds you're saying?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Probably, you know, five or six seconds before we got there, because we heard shots fired, and then we pulled up. So 30 to 45 seconds I would say would be a fair estimate.

MR. SARAYA: Okay.

MR. D'ANGELO: Do you feel you had less time to act and react in this incident as opposed to going for cover in Iraq?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. Because a bullet comes at you a lot faster than a rocket or mortar.

MR. D'ANGELO: Okay.

THE WITNESS: At least out there you hear it and it's coming. This was right in our face. We were right there.

MR. D'ANGELO: You pointed out to me before that you received some awards that you

wanted to explain the investigators the distance of.

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THE WITNESS: Yes. I received at least two or three awards where there were suspects with either knives or butcher knives, and instead of shooting them I tackled them and my partner tased the guy with the butcher knife.

So, I mean, there are awards out there that I've been confronted with suspects with knives and I've tackled them.

MR. D'ANGELO: You didn't use deadly force.

THE WITNESS: No, did I not, sir.

MR. D'ANGELO: And you're pointing that out to me as -- for what reason?

THE WITNESS: Because I've never been more in fear of my life than in the moment when my partner and I fired when I thought we were going to die, sir.

MR. SARAYA: Those awards would be in your personnel file?

THE WITNESS: I've got to gather them.

I went to personnel, and they don't have any record. But I have them at home somewhere, sir.

MR. SARAYA: Okay.

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MR. D'ANGELO: So why don't you give some specifics in case the investigators have --

THE WITNESS: The one was when we got a call for a mental male on $\ensuremath{\mathsf{--}}$

MR. D'ANGELO: Month and year if you can recall, location.

THE WITNESS: This was probably three years ago. It was either on Colgate or Elton, 73rd and Elton. I was with Officer Galarza. Roger Moore, he gave us the award. He's been passed away for a year or so.

There was a male with a butcher knife.

We opened the door, and he comes at us with a butcher knife over his head. My partner tases him, I tackle him, grab the butcher knife out of his hand.

Another incident, I was probably on the job for a year, I was with Officer Davidson, my first partner; and there was a man, and I think it was a 17- or 16-year-old black male who had a knife in his hand. My partner was talking to him, at which point I went behind him and I tackled him; and we handcuffed him without using

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deadly force.
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MR. SARAYA: Do you recall the location?

THE WITNESS: This was at like 56th and

Field. It was south of Clark (inaudible) like 56

260.

I think I have a few more. I have to pull them up, though.

I never had to fire my weapon in Iraq or here. This was the first time I ever had to fire my weapon.

MR. D'ANGELO: Did you want to fire your gun in this case?

THE WITNESS: No, I did not. And knowing in marine corps training they always teach you to elevate and if a target is threatening you you go through the target. So if I somehow ended up on the hood of this zone car, which I can't remember, but in my training you were supposed to push through the target.

MR. SARAYA: If you could initial and put your badge number on there, please.

THE WITNESS: Yes. (Complies with request.)

MR. FOLLMER: Guys, I'm sorry, I might

have missed this.

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When you initially pulled up, you're inside your vehicle shooting at the suspect's vehicle. You said you felt there was bullets coming at you?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. FOLLMER: Do you believe bullets were hitting the windshield?

THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

MR. FOLLMER: Do you know for a fact that bullets hit the windshield at any point in time?

THE WITNESS: I don't know. I know that I felt bullets coming at us, sir.

MR. FOLLMER: Did you hear something hit the glass or other -- I know it's probably you shooting out the window. But other than you and your partner shooting out the window, do you believe -- why do you believe bullets were hitting the window?

THE WITNESS: Because I heard shots coming 5 to 10 feet in front of me where the suspect's vehicle was.

MR. FOLLMER: Did you ever look at your

zone car after -- and I don't know you probably
had the shots -- your shots --

THE WITNESS: I saw it briefly.

4 MR. FOLLMER: Okay. You received

5 training for this at the academy?

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THE WITNESS: Yes. I had summer -- this summer I had in-service, and we were just training how to shoot through the windshield of a zone car.

MR. SARAYA: Can you explain that process, what you were trained on?

THE WITNESS: Yeah. We were trained with our seat belts on how to take the seat belt off and how to draw your weapon in a confined space and how to punch -- punch out and use the front of the top of the steering wheel as a base and then shoot through the window, sir.

MR. GARDNER: Do you remember what it was called?

THE WITNESS: No.

MR. KINAS: Ambush training?

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry?

MR. KINAS: Was it called ambush

24 training?

57 1 MR. FOLLMER: Ambush training. 2 MR. SARAYA: So you heard gunfire about 3 10 -- 5 to 10 feet in front of you. 4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 5 MR. SARAYA: So the suspect vehicle is 6 right up there and you see it hit 238. Is that when or before that or after that? 8 THE WITNESS: It seemed like 9 instantaneous as it was hitting 238 I heard the 10 gunfire, actually heard the gunfire. Not just 11 when radio -- when I heard pulling up and they 12 said, "Shots fired," that's the first time I 13 actually heard it with my ears. 14 MR. SARAYA: Okay. 15 MR. SARAYA: Anything else? (No audible response.) 16 MR. SARAYA: Good. Turn this stuff off. 17 18 Thank you, sir. 19 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. 20 (End of videotaped interview.) 21 2.2 2.3

58 1 C E R T I F I C A T E2 3 STATE OF OHIO SS: 4 COUNTY OF FRANKLIN: 5 I, Jennifer L. Parish, Registered 6 Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct, and complete 8 transcription of the above-mentioned videotaped 9 interview of MICHAEL BRELO to the best of my 10 ability. 11 DATED this 14th day of February, 2013. 12 13 14 15 JENNIFER L. PARISH, RPR 16 NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF OHIO 17 18 My Commission Expires: November 23, 2014. 19 2.0 21 22 23 24