

Ventura County Sheriff's Office Memorandum

To: Major Crimes **Date:** April 4, 2022

From: Sergeant Ryan Clark 

Subject: Tyler Hackworth OIS / Part I

Re: 22-35758

Date of Interview: March 19, 2022

Time of Interview: 1148 hrs

Case Catalyst Operator: 

Legend: RC = Ryan Clark

CS = Corey Stump

TH = Tyler Hackworth

KS = 

1 RC: Okay. Today's Saturday, March 19th,
2 2022 at 11:48 a.m. My name is Ryan Clark. I'm a
3 sergeant with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office
4 Major Crimes bureau. This is my partner,
5 Detective Corey Stump, and we're currently at the
6 Thousand Oaks Police Station in the administrative
7 conference room.

8 And can I get the spelling on your first
9 and last name?

10 TH: Yes. First name is Tyler, T-y-l-e-r.

11 RC: Uh-huh.

12 TH: Last name, Hackworth,
13 H-a-c-k-w-o-r-t-h.

14 RC: Okay, Tyler. What is your birth date?

15 TH: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

16 RC: Okay. And what's your departmental
17 identification number?

18 TH: 5336.

19 RC: Okay. Okay. So we're currently here
20 with your attorney, who's representing you, [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] And I understand that you've agreed to
22 provide us a voluntary statement as to what
23 occurred earlier this morning.

24 TH: Yes.

25 RC: Okay. And you've had an opportunity
26 to sit down with Attorney [REDACTED] correct?

27 TH: Correct.

1 RC: Okay. Okay. Have you had a chance to
2 review the body worn camera footage from your
3 device?

4 TH: Yes.

5 RC: Okay. And before we start, if you
6 need to take a break or you need to consult with
7 your attorney at any time, just let us know, we'll
8 take a pause. We can step out, then we'll come
9 back and continue the interview. Okay?

10 TH: Got it.

11 RC: Additionally, if you need to use the
12 bathroom or get hungry or something, whatever the
13 case might be, just let us know. Okay? We want
14 you -- we want you comfortable.

15 TH: Got it.

16 RC: Okay. Okay. So if you ask you a
17 question and you don't understand the question or
18 understand what I mean by the question, please ask
19 me to repeat the question and I'll do so. If I'm
20 talking too fast, ask me to slow down. You're
21 really in the driver's seat here. Just let me
22 know, you know, what -- what needs to happen and
23 we'll make it happen for you. Okay?

24 TH: Okay.

25 RC: All right. So what I'd like to start,
26 before we actually talk about what occurred, I'd
27 like to kind of start a little bit before what

1 occurred. Okay?

2 So over the last twenty-four hours or so,
3 did you work yesterday?

4 TH: Yes.

5 RC: Okay. And describe what your work
6 hours are.

7 TH: So I work from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 in
8 the morning.

9 RC: Okay. So yesterday meaning the start
10 of this shift today, right, that you would end
11 today?

12 TH: Correct.

13 RC: Okay. Now, did you work previous, a
14 previous shift the day before?

15 TH: Yes.

16 RC: Okay. So you also worked 7:00 p.m. to
17 7:00 a.m. ending yesterday?

18 TH: Yes.

19 RC: Okay. Did anything occur out of the
20 ordinary yesterday while at work?

21 TH: To clarify as in yesterday, meaning
22 not this last night? Well --

23 RC: Thank you. Yes.

24 TH: Yeah.

25 RC: So anything, the shift before the
26 shift you just finished this morning?

27 TH: I ended up having to hold over later

1 than my normal shift till about 10:00, 10:30-ish I
2 believe --

3 RC: Okay.

4 TH: -- in the morning. There was an
5 attempted rape at -- in the late hours of the
6 morning so I had to finish with that and get --

7 RC: Okay.

8 TH: -- all that done.

9 RC: Okay. So not the shift that you just
10 finished, but the shift prior, you started that
11 shift at 7:00 p.m.

12 TH: Uh-huh.

13 RC: The next morning, 7:00 a.m. you had to
14 hold over --

15 TH: Correct.

16 RC: -- to continue with that rape
17 investigation and you left work at around --

18 TH: 10:00, 10:30-ish.

19 RC: 10:00 or 10:30. Okay. And then did
20 you go home at 10:30 and go to sleep?

21 TH: Yes.

22 RC: Okay. How much sleep did you get?

23 TH: So maybe two, three hours of -- of
24 consistent sleep.

25 RC: Okay. And do you have any health
26 issues or any ailments you would like us to know
27 about that would have factored into any of this?

1 TH: No.

2 RC: Okay. Any physical conditions or past
3 injuries that would have factored into this?

4 TH: I don't think that would factor into
5 it, but I mean, I've hurt my knee before. But
6 that's -- I don't think that would have any effect
7 on this.

8 RC: Okay. And how many years have you
9 been a deputy sheriff?

10 TH: Going on five years.

11 RC: Okay. Do you have any prior law
12 enforcement experience with any other police
13 agency?

14 TH: Not as a peace officer but as a cadet
15 with Ventura Police Department.

16 RC: Okay. How long were you a cadet with
17 them?

18 TH: That was for, I believe, two years.

19 RC: Okay. And what is your current rank
20 and where are you assigned?

21 TH: I'm a deputy sheriff and I'm assigned
22 to Thousand Oaks patrol.

23 RC: And how long have you been at this
24 station?

25 TH: Since May, which was the beginning of
26 patrol school of -- of this last year. And F- --
27 I completed FTO in October. So five months on my

1 OWN.

2 RC: Okay. And what are your -- some of
3 your duties and responsibilities as a deputy
4 sheriff?

5 TH: I respond to public concerns and
6 normal calls for service, respond to emergencies
7 and apprehend offenders.

8 RC: Okay. How many people work on your
9 shift?

10 TH: That's a good question. I'd have to
11 look at the -- the -- the schedule can be maybe
12 seven or so at a time on dawns.

13 RC: Okay.

14 TH: Not -- not including sergeants and
15 other cars.

16 RC: Okay. And what training have you had
17 reference deescalation tactics?

18 TH: So, in the academy, we train very
19 importantly on deescalation, about avoiding
20 incidents escalating to points of violence or --
21 or use of force --

22 RC: Uh-huh.

23 TH: -- as well as in briefings, back
24 when I was in custody, our watch commanders and
25 our senior deputies would come to us and provide
26 us information on the importance of deescalating.
27 We'd watch body worn camera from other agencies

1 and other incidents just to -- to be as a training
2 example.

3 RC: Uh-huh. Okay. Have you received any
4 CIT training?

5 TH: No.

6 RC: Okay. So no collaterals, the CIT or
7 anything like that?

8 TH: Correct.

9 RC: Okay. What about use of force
10 training?

11 TH: Yes. Use of force training in the
12 academy as well as the refresher briefings that
13 everybody has to go through for the department.

14 RC: Okay. What about your patrol
15 sergeant? Do they also provide any types of
16 briefings for use of force throughout --

17 TH: Yes.

18 RC: -- your various shifts?

19 TH: Absolutely.

20 RC: Okay.

21 TH: Usually each briefing, we have -- or
22 each briefing prior to our shift we have some sort
23 of topic we go over and use of force, deescalation
24 are the most extensive.

25 RC: Okay. What about firearms training?

26 TH: So firearms training would be back
27 with the academy --

1 RC: Uh-huh.

2 TH: -- for our qualification, you know,
3 to become a deputy sheriff and then every two
4 months we have our qual period that everybody that
5 is carrying their firearm has to go through.

6 RC: Okay. Do you have any military
7 experience?

8 TH: No.

9 RC: Okay. Do you currently hold any
10 collateral assignments on the department?

11 TH: No.

12 RC: Okay. Okay. So you'd mentioned
13 getting a couple hours of sleep or so before your
14 shift. Do you remember what time you woke up to
15 start yesterday's evening shift?

16 TH: So, I ended up probably falling
17 asleep around 11:30, maybe -- maybe noon and I
18 believe I ended up waking up about 2:30, maybe at
19 the latest, 3:00. My wife accidentally woke me
20 up.

21 RC: Okay. And what'd you do after waking
22 up?

23 TH: After I woke up, I took my dogs out
24 and 'cause I was already awake and they were awake
25 as well. They needed to go to the restroom. Made
26 food. And then I tried to fall back asleep but
27 I -- I could not. I was already wide awake at

1 that point and the daylight was coming through the
2 windows. So I kind of just did laundry and hung
3 around at the house --

4 RC: Uh-huh.

5 TH: -- until it was time for my shift.

6 RC: Okay. You mentioned eating. What did
7 you eat?

8 TH: I don't recall what I ate.

9 RC: Okay. And take me through the routine
10 of how you kind of prepare for work when you're
11 still at home. Like what kind of things do you do
12 to get ready for your -- your shift?

13 TH: So I'll typically either, depending
14 on what time it is, I'll start a load of laundry
15 for my next uniform. It's the wash and wear.
16 I'll make sure I put my radio on its charger,
17 charge my flashlight 'cause it's the rechargeable.
18 I'll lay out my equipment and my -- and my uniform
19 and gear all out in order just, I -- I've learned
20 that if I deviate at any point, I'll forget
21 something. So --

22 RC: Yeah.

23 TH: -- it -- it can be -- I honestly
24 allow for at least an hour or at -- about that
25 time to just get everything in order as far as,
26 you know, shower, get all my equipment together
27 and then kind of file through it as far as put

1 this on me, take that, take this gear and then go.

2 RC: Okay. So it sounds kind of like
3 you're describing like when you get home from
4 work, all the way through to kind of when you
5 leave for work, these are just the steps that
6 you're kind of preparing, laying the foundation
7 for the next shift.

8 TH: Correct.

9 RC: Right? Is that correct?

10 TH: Correct.

11 RC: Okay.

12 TH: If I -- if I typically, if I deviate,
13 I find myself forgetting things.

14 RC: Okay. And what time does your -- did
15 your shift start yesterday evening? You said
16 7:00; is that correct?

17 TH: Yes, that was 7:00.

18 RC: Okay. What time is briefing?

19 TH: At 7:00.

20 RC: At 7:00? Okay. What time did you
21 show up at the station?

22 TH: I -- I don't recall the exact time.

23 RC: Okay. Before briefing started?

24 TH: Yes.

25 RC: Okay. And once you arrive at the
26 station, how do you prepare your gear and your
27 uniform? Are there -- are there steps you go

1 through? Do you change here or -- or at home and
2 what steps do you take once you get here?

3 TH: So I change out at home.

4 RC: Okay.

5 TH: And hence why I have that kind of
6 methodical order.

7 RC: Okay.

8 TH: And I get my stuff loaded into my
9 vehicle in the order that I would take it out.
10 When I arrive here at work, it's just myself, my
11 sunglasses, and I put my radio on myself and then
12 I take my jacket and stow it in the trunk and then
13 I head on into the shift. Sometimes I'll take
14 my -- my refillable water bottle with me and fill
15 that up. But then I'd -- I'd load up my vehicle
16 with all my stuff when I come back out after
17 briefing.

18 RC: Okay. Do you wear a protective vest?

19 TH: Yes.

20 RC: Or a bullet proof vest? Yes?

21 TH: Yes.

22 RC: Okay. I understand you also had
23 another vest as well?

24 TH: Yes.

25 RC: What kind of vest do you have?

26 TH: So I have a Level III steel, light --
27 a lightweight steel AR500 plates. I don't

1 remember the name of the carrier.

2 RC: Uh-huh.

3 TH: I purchased it for myself to wear for
4 rifle protection just because it's -- it's bigger
5 and a little bit better than the
6 department-issued. That's -- I don't know how to
7 describe it much more than that. It's green and
8 it has the sheriff star and sheriff writing on it.

9 RC: Yeah. Okay. And that's in addition
10 to your personally worn vest that you -- are under
11 your uniform; is that correct?

12 TH: Correct.

13 RC: What you're describing earlier?

14 TH: Correct.

15 RC: Okay.

16 TH: Correct. And I -- I stow that in the
17 back of the -- the patrol car.

18 RC: The ballistic vest gets stored in the
19 back of the patrol car?

20 TH: Correct.

21 RC: Okay. Do you understand what the
22 vulnerabilities of your regular vest are?

23 TH: Yes.

24 RC: Type of ammunition and objects that it
25 stops?

26 TH: Yes.

27 RC: Okay. What type of force options do

1 you carry on your gun belt?

2 TH: So I carry my department-issued
3 firearm as well as a backup firearm, which is
4 deadly force. And then I have intermediate
5 weapons as well; my OC, a taser, baton. I have --
6 I have a knife, which could be construed as a
7 weapon, but I use it typically as a tool to cut
8 like crime scene tape and whatnot.

9 RC: Okay. Now, you mentioned the backup
10 gun. Where do you keep that at?

11 TH: I keep that on my left ankle.

12 RC: Okay. And how do you currently have
13 your belt set up? What's the typical load-out
14 that you have and the positioning?

15 TH: So from center to my right, I have my
16 OC spray, a key ring, my firearm. I believe it's
17 my -- it's my silent key holder and then my
18 flashlight.

19 RC: Uh-huh.

20 TH: Those might be flip-flopped. Two
21 handcuffs to my rear. My radio, baton, and then
22 magazine pouch.

23 RC: Okay. Radio being the back side,
24 baton a little closer up and then --

25 TH: Correct.

26 RC: And magazine pouch in front?

27 TH: And -- and then ta- -- oh, I believe

1 I might have -- I might have forgotten taser.
2 Taser is -- is -- is just left of my -- from my
3 perspective, left of my magazine.

4 RC: Okay. And when you say you -- you
5 forgot your taser, you meant you forgot to mention
6 your taser.

7 TH: Correct.

8 RC: It was actually on your belt; is that
9 correct?

10 TH: Correct. I forget to mention it when
11 going through.

12 RC: Okay.

13 TH: Without being able to see it --

14 RC: Yes.

15 TH: -- it's hard to visualize.

16 RC: You did pretty well for a -- from just
17 from memory. So, okay. Why do you set your belt
18 up that way?

19 TH: One would be comfort. It's the most
20 comfortable way to do. And, or to set it up. And
21 also just accessibility and -- and muscle memory.
22 It's -- it's the easiest way for me to access my
23 tools and the most effect- -- efficient and safe
24 manner. And I can easily, you know, access them.

25 RC: Okay.

26 TH: I know if I -- if I was to set it up
27 any other way, it feels weird or I might, you

1 know, not be able to access them quickly or the
2 right way.

3 RC: Okay. And what type of firearm do you
4 carry on duty?

5 TH: So I carry the Sig P320, 9
6 millimeter, semiautomatic handgun.

7 RC: And then for your backup, what kind of
8 gun do you carry on your backup?

9 TH: I carry a Glock 43, 9 millimeter.

10 RC: Okay. What optics do you use to aim
11 at a target on your primary gun?

12 TH: On my primary gun, it's a combination
13 of the red dot sight, which I don't recall what
14 the name of it is, as well as your iron sights.
15 The red dot sight is very helpful but you have to
16 also rely on your irons as well because red dots
17 can fail.

18 RC: Okay.

19 TH: But we train for both.

20 RC: Okay. And how is your gun loaded?

21 TH: Could you be more --

22 RC: How do you keep it loaded?

23 TH: Can you be more specific as far as --

24 RC: Sure.

25 TH: -- how -- how -- how do you mean?

26 RC: So sometimes people will lose a round
27 or something and maybe their -- their mag's not

1 completely full. Other times mags are completely
2 full. Patrol issues typically one in the chamber
3 and a full mag.

4 Do you recall what condition your firearm
5 was in when you were carrying it at the beginning
6 of yesterday's shift?

7 TH: So, I don't recall exactly. I
8 typically will have a full magazine in my firearm.

9 RC: Uh-huh.

10 TH: Plus one in the chamber.

11 RC: Okay.

12 TH: Just for the maximum amount of
13 ammunition in it.

14 RC: Okay.

15 TH: I do recall that the last time that
16 we -- that we qualed towards the end of the year
17 when -- before they, you know, shut it down for --
18 for COVID purposes.

19 RC: Uh-huh.

20 TH: I remember I, coming home from the
21 range and I forgot to grab the extra duty round.

22 RC: Uh-huh.

23 TH: And so I just loaded up that
24 seventeen in the magazine and racked it. I don't
25 recall if I, if in that point to now, if I ever
26 topped it off. I very well might have.

27 RC: Uh-huh. So it's, what you're saying

1 is, it's possible you might just be one round
2 short?

3 TH: Correct. From --

4 RC: Okay.

5 TH: From what full capacity would be, not
6 just from the seventeen --

7 RC: Yeah.

8 TH: -- in the magazine.

9 RC: Okay. And that would be your primary
10 magazine, not -- not your other two?

11 TH: Correct. My other two would be --
12 would be topped off all the way to --

13 RC: Right. Okay.

14 TH: To seventeen.

15 RC: Okay. And when you started your shift
16 yesterday at 7:00 p.m. did you guys have a
17 briefing?

18 TH: Yes.

19 RC: Anything of particular interest shared
20 at the briefing?

21 TH: Not really, no. It was very -- it
22 was very short.

23 RC: Okay. And what did you do right after
24 the briefing?

25 TH: Right after the briefing, I retrieved
26 my keys for my vehicle and I went out, took my
27 vehicle around and set it up with my equipment.

1 RC: Okay.

2 TH: And then went in-service.

3 RC: Walk me through that. How do you --
4 what equipment do you put in your black-and-white
5 and how do you set it up and all that stuff?

6 TH: So after I bring my -- my patrol car
7 empty of my own personal equipment, I bring it to
8 the employee parking lot, park it behind it. From
9 there I will take my patrol-issued rifle, set it
10 up cruiser carry. Put it in -- in its -- I
11 totally am blanking out on what it's called. But
12 the mount I guess in there.

13 RC: Uh-huh.

14 TH: Or the rifle rack. I don't -- and
15 I'll check my less lethal shotgun that's just
16 already with the vehicle to ensure that it's all
17 less lethal rounds and that it's cruiser carry.
18 I'll then take my gear bag, which on the far right
19 side from -- of my trunk, put it inside the patrol
20 car, typically to the right of -- there's a
21 storage bin in there.

22 RC: Uh-huh.

23 TH: It's about dead center. And then I
24 just move my way left through my car, which will
25 then be my helmet bag, which will go towards
26 closer to the rear so it's like one of the first
27 things I can access. My ballistic vest, the --

1 the one that I purchased, the rifle plates. And
2 that'll go next to my helmet. I'll grab -- I have
3 a camouflage backpack, which has my gas mask, the
4 helmet shield, and an MRE in it --

5 RC: Uh-huh.

6 TH: -- as well as just some minor like
7 first aid stuff. That'll then be set next to it
8 by the traffic cones and I have a bag of snacks
9 usually at any point in there that I will then
10 take and put in the front seat. And I take my
11 seatbelt and clip it through the loop of it so it
12 doesn't fly around.

13 RC: Uh-huh.

14 TH: Then I'll go back, grab my jacket,
15 take my jacket and I'll typically will leave it
16 behind the seat belt in the passenger seat so it
17 also doesn't fly off. And then lastly, what I'll
18 do is, is I grab my loose items, which is my
19 citation book, some notepads, gloves, and I pick
20 those up together in a little pile in the far left
21 of my car and I will put them where they need to
22 go; cite books in my door panel. The actual
23 leather bound cite book I'll put behind my
24 passenger seat, my water bottle, for example, will
25 go between the -- the less lethal and my -- my
26 rifle. That's pretty much standard how I'll do
27 it.

1 RC: Okay. Now, you mentioned your less
2 lethal. Where did you say you kept that? Was
3 that in the back?

4 TH: No. My less lethal I keep in -- in
5 the front --

6 RC: In the front.

7 TH: -- adjacent my -- my rifle.

8 RC: So less lethal and rifle in the rack
9 in --

10 TH: Correct.

11 RC: -- the front. Okay. You mentioned in
12 the back that you had your ballistic vest and all
13 the other equipment; helmet, those items are in
14 the back, right?

15 TH: Yes.

16 RC: So is that -- are those items
17 accessible from the driver's seat?

18 TH: No.

19 RC: Are they accessible from the back
20 passenger seat?

21 TH: No.

22 RC: Okay. So the only way to get to those
23 is to actually go into the back of the car, open
24 it up to retrieve them?

25 TH: Correct.

26 RC: Okay. And then in the front you have
27 the two items we talked about; less lethal rifle,

1 your snacks, citation book.

2 TH: And jacket.

3 RC: Jacket.

4 TH: Miscellaneous like notebooks.

5 RC: Okay. All right. And also your --
6 your ballistic vest was in the back as well,
7 right? We already talked about that.

8 TH: The -- the rif- --

9 RC: Private one?

10 TH: Yes. The -- the rifle one, that was
11 all in the back.

12 RC: Okay. And what time did you go
13 in-service after briefing and setting up?

14 TH: I don't recall the exact time.

15 RC: Did you notify dispatch when you went
16 in-service when you --

17 TH: I notify --

18 RC: -- log on?

19 TH: I notified silently through the MDT.

20 RC: Okay. All right. So if you could
21 just tell me kind of, what was your mindset when
22 you went 10-8, right? You -- you send your
23 message, I'm 10-8. You're starting your shift.
24 Any plans for the shift? How were you feeling?
25 Were you going to meet up somewhere for some lunch
26 with somebody? Were you going to go plan, you
27 know, to go look for your favorite parolee? You

1 know, what -- what was -- when you left the
2 station, what was your thought process?

3 TH: So, my initial thought was go find
4 somewhere to park, pull up the report writing, the
5 MRE and then make sure that my reports have all
6 been approved, otherwise that'd be first thing I
7 would go do is write my reports. And if not, then
8 I was intended to go try and pull over a vehicle
9 because I've learned the best way to -- to start
10 off your shift is to go do something first and
11 just kind of get into that right mentality. So
12 that's what my intentions were when I -- when I
13 left the station.

14 RC: Okay. Now, before the call for
15 service that kind of led to us to where we're at
16 now, describe any stops or calls or anything you
17 had throughout your shift, like what was going on
18 throughout the shift before this happened.

19 TH: I don't recall exact details. Those
20 would all be on the -- the call log.

21 RC: Uh-huh.

22 TH: But I do recall several calls for
23 service involving persons who were intoxicated in
24 public, local transients who were -- were causing
25 disturbances. But nothing of -- of any real
26 significance and nothing that resulted in -- in me
27 arresting anybody, using force, or even taking --

1 having to take a crime report.

2 RC: Okay. And then sometime around 5:00
3 a.m. this morning, you got a call for service that
4 led us to -- to be here today; is that correct?

5 TH: Correct.

6 RC: Okay. At that moment when you got
7 that call, how were you feeling, what was your
8 mindset?

9 TH: So, I was sitting at a park at the
10 time just kind of relaxing.

11 RC: Uh-huh.

12 TH: I actually was thinking to myself,
13 hey, I only have like two hours left, we're almost
14 there when the call for service came in. I
15 actually initially thought, oh, goodness, another
16 one? It came out as a catalytic conther- --
17 converter theft, sorry. And it just kind of more,
18 initially kind of like oh, goodness, it's another
19 one. We keep getting hit hard with these. And
20 then as I started to pull out of the park, they
21 advised that it was in progress and that the
22 reporting party actually could see them actively
23 at another vehicle removing it.

24 So at that point it kind of stepped up, in
25 my mind, of -- of -- of now we need to coordinate
26 getting resources there quickly and efficiently
27 to -- to either block off routes of escape or set

1 up a perimeter and then work on finding them
2 because we actually have a chance to -- to find
3 these guys in the act.

4 RC: Now, tell me about catalytic converter
5 thefts. What is it and -- and what are some
6 things that go along with it?

7 TH: So, I'm not a vehicle expert by any
8 means. I know that it's a part of a vehicle and
9 I'm not entirely certain why they steal it; if
10 it's for resale value or I hear that there's
11 platinum I guess in it.

12 RC: Uh-huh.

13 TH: But it maybe -- maybe it's not
14 platinum, maybe it's something. Palladium, I
15 don't -- I don't -- I don't really know.

16 RC: Uh-huh.

17 TH: But it seems we were getting hit very
18 often with the -- with that in the late night,
19 early morning hours in the city of Thousand Oaks.
20 They come in, they cut it from the bottom of the
21 vehicle and they take off. They will hit multiple
22 in a row.

23 RC: Uh-huh.

24 TH: It seems typically, it's -- it's
25 Priuses for some reason.

26 RC: Uh-huh.

27 TH: But again, I'm not an expert in -- in

1 vehicles or cat converter thefts.

2 RC: Have you ever taken a crime report for
3 catalytic converter thefts that you're aware of?

4 TH: I -- I don't recall.

5 RC: Okay. Have you ever heard of other
6 deputies talking about these thefts?

7 TH: Yes.

8 RC: Okay. Did they ever talk about the
9 value of these items or the type of damage it
10 causes or anything to that effect?

11 TH: I don't recall the values associated,
12 but I do know it essentially ruins operating your
13 vehicle.

14 RC: Okay. And do you know from talking
15 with other deputies or from your experience what
16 the crime is associated with that? Is that a
17 misdemeanor, felony offense when these occur?

18 TH: That I -- I don't recall.

19 RC: Okay. So is there any other
20 information that you -- you're aware of in regards
21 to the types of people that coordinate these
22 thefts or perform the thefts?

23 TH: So, in my understanding of it as far
24 as responding to it, viewing evidence of it, and
25 hearing from other deputies, it seems that a lot
26 of them are not local. They're from out of the
27 county.

1 RC: Uh-huh.

2 TH: And they operate with a -- a few
3 individuals; typically not just one person and it
4 seems that we've been seeing them with -- with
5 more than one vehicle typically. My understanding
6 is that one is usually a spotter vehicle or a
7 follow vehicle and they watch out for law
8 enforcement.

9 RC: Uh-huh.

10 TH: Or they act as -- as kind of bait
11 when law enforcement shows up.

12 RC: Okay. And have you heard of any other
13 tactics that these groups use or other threats
14 that they might pose?

15 TH: I have heard that they do tend to get
16 a little bit violent and aggressive when
17 confronted; however, I have not had to respond to
18 a call for service personally where I encountered
19 that.

20 RC: Okay. But you did, you heard
21 something about them being violent? Could you
22 expand on that a little bit, if you will.

23 TH: So I don't -- I don't know who I've
24 heard it from, whether it was in briefings.

25 RC: Uh-huh.

26 TH: But they will get aggressive with
27 people who are witness to it as far as recording



1 them or calling law enforcement. When I say
2 aggressive, I have known them to attack somebody,
3 but --

4 RC: Uh-huh.

5 TH: -- more to yell and -- and get
6 verbally aggressive with somebody.

7 RC: Okay. And in regards to these types
8 of crews or of thefts, is this just an occasional
9 problem, is it a widespread problem? Do you know
10 if it's been going on for any period of time or --

11 TH: So in the time that I have come out,
12 which is the last five months on my own, it has
13 been very widespread, especially in the city of
14 Thousand Oaks and it seems ever more so within the
15 county.

16 RC: Uh-huh.

17 TH: And at least from my perspective, it
18 seems like it's been increasingly occurring in the
19 city of Thousand Oaks.

20 RC: Okay. And have you ever spoken with
21 other deputies or heard stories from other
22 deputies about their interactions with these
23 suspects, if -- if they do find them or what
24 transpires during those interactions?

25 TH: Yes. As far as that goes, I've known
26 them to typically flee and usually engage in some
27 sort of vehicle pursuit or flee on foot; however,

1 usually they -- they are able to quickly get to a
2 freeway or a highway and it's, they either get
3 away or it's not -- it's not safe to continue
4 pursuing them given traffic conditions and they --

5 RC: Okay.

6 TH: -- typically get away.

7 RC: Okay. All right. So now what I
8 wanted to do was just kind of ask you to tell me
9 everything that transpired from the time you got
10 this call for service until the moment that you
11 were no longer actively managing the call or
12 engaged in the call, essentially when you step
13 back and -- and were kind of put to the side
14 pending the investigation. Kind of from start to
15 finish, tell me everything there is to know about
16 what happened.

17 TH: Got it. So myself and 9A21, I
18 believe was Deputy Lopez, received the call for
19 service of the catalytic converter theft, which
20 immediately after was turned into a in progress.

21 I was at a park near Pederson and Erbes, I
22 believe on the southwest corner of that
23 intersection when I received the call. I looked
24 at my mapper, saw that it was, I believe off of
25 Radcliffe and Pederson in that area, which is
26 relatively close to where I was at. So I knew I
27 could be there in a very short amount of time and

1 could potentially be on scene while these suspects
2 were still on scene.

3 They advised while I was en route, or
4 dispatch advised while I was en route that there
5 were two vehicles involved, described them. And
6 as I was nearing the scene, when I was driving
7 west on Pederson towards Radcliffe, dispatch
8 advised me that the reporting party saw they were
9 going towards Pederson, one after the other.

10 As I reached the intersection of Radcliffe
11 and Pederson, which is a four-way intersection
12 with stop signs controlling it all, I saw the two
13 vehicles approach north to the intersection and
14 then immediately run the stop sign to make a right
15 turn east onto Pederson.

16 I con- -- did a U-turn to follow behind
17 them, advised dispatch that I was behind the two
18 vehicles, activated my emergency lights, and both
19 vehicles immediately took off at a high rate of
20 speed.

21 The vehicle in the front however, took off
22 at more so of a high rate of speed and was almost
23 very quickly out of my view. The second vehicle
24 was still probably going maybe fifty miles per
25 hour but not as fast as the -- as the lead
26 vehicle.

27 I advised the license plate on the vehicle

1 in front of me, the direction of travel and that
2 they were failing to yield. They did a right
3 turn. I don't recall the -- the name of the
4 street. It was Calle something. I advised
5 dispatch of that though.

6 As soon as they made the -- the right turn,
7 I realized that they were -- it wasn't just a
8 failure to yield, I was in a pursuit and they were
9 actively attempting to flee from me. I activated
10 my siren, advised dispatch I was in pursuit, my
11 direction of travel.

12 As they drove south on this -- on this
13 street I don't recall the name, the vehicle within
14 a few seconds ended up briefly yielding, stopped
15 all of a sudden.

16 As soon as I got out of my vehicle,
17 unholstered my firearm and I saw the vehicle
18 immediately take off again, accelerated away,
19 still southbound. I believe I -- I yelled stop at
20 least one time as they did that.

21 I got back in my vehicle, continued
22 pursuing them. They then turned east onto
23 Rollings Avenue, I believe is the street.
24 Continued to advise dispatch where we were going.

25 The vehicle suddenly made a right turn. I
26 initially had thought it was another street. I'm
27 not familiar with this -- with this beat. This

1 was overtime for me so I don't know all the -- the
2 layouts of the -- of these streets in this area of
3 the city.

4 So I followed them to the right turn and
5 as I made the right turn, they stopped immediately
6 and I found that it was a cul-de-sac so I
7 immediately stopped behind them. I wasn't able
8 to -- to angle my vehicle in any manner typically
9 for a -- a felony or a high risk traffic stop. I
10 was essentially kind of stuck at the entrance to
11 the -- to the cul-de-sac. I advised dispatch of
12 the felony stop, exited my vehicle, withdrew my
13 holster or my -- sorry, withdrew my firearm, aimed
14 it at the vehicle.

15 Almost immediately I saw the vehicle
16 accelerate forward and -- and make a sharp left
17 turn back towards me. And I began yelling at the
18 vehicle to stop. As the vehicle very quickly
19 turned towards me, I saw the headlights illuminate
20 and they just accelerated at a high rate of speed
21 directly towards me and I yelled at them to stop
22 and -- and in that moment, I -- I -- I was
23 terrified that they were going to -- they were
24 going to hit me and kill me. And -- and as --
25 as they accelerated towards me, I -- I discharged
26 my -- my firearm. I'm thinking they were -- they
27 were going to run me over. And I -- I --

1 initially I thought that I fired three or four
2 times. After reviewing the body cam though, I
3 believe I fired five times.

4 And I'm sorry. I just need a moment.
5 It -- it just -- it -- it honestly just happened
6 so fast from thinking that it was going to be a
7 felony stop to jumping out and all of a sudden
8 they accelerated and flipped around towards me.
9 And it -- it was just so quick they came at me.

10 And I -- I've seen -- I've seen, you know,
11 videos from other agencies of -- of -- of cops
12 getting hit by cars and it just -- I just know
13 that it -- it could -- it was going to end badly.

14 After I fired, the vehicle continued to my
15 left and turned left out of the cul-de-sac back
16 onto -- on, I believe it said Rollings is -- is
17 what it was.

18 I advised sheriff dispatch on my radio of
19 the shots fired and the vehicle had nearly run me
20 over. I got into my vehicle and turned my vehicle
21 around. At that point my -- and again I'm not
22 used to this vehicle, this vehicle has a different
23 radio mic. It's strangely much longer and -- and
24 looser than -- than the patrol car I -- I'm
25 assigned and it became tangled in my other -- my
26 MDT and my other equipment and I couldn't get the
27 mic. I wanted to advise sheriff's dispatch 'cause

1 I didn't hear them respond to me to let them know
2 what my situation was, where we were going.

3 And as I tried to manipulate the mic it
4 got stuck as I made my left turn out, I ended up
5 losing control trying to -- to safely trying to
6 put out my radio traffic to -- to protect myself
7 and to update my partners. But also trying to
8 negotiate the turn, I ended up striking a parked
9 vehicle just outside the cul-de-sac.

10 At -- at -- at that point I got out of my
11 vehicle, advised sheriff's dispatch 'cause I -- I
12 realized my -- I wasn't going to be able to access
13 my hand mic so I used my -- my personal radio on
14 my body. Advised of the direction of travel and
15 shots fired. And at that point they -- they
16 re- -- replied to me, acknowledging my
17 information. I -- I -- I don't recall what
18 else was said by -- by dispatch over the radio.
19 But after kind of assessing the scene around me, I
20 was -- I was -- I was really amped up, really --
21 honestly, I was -- I was still really terrified.
22 Really, really worked up. It, going from -- from
23 having somebody almost run me over and kill me to,
24 you know, crashing.

25 So I became concerned about my backdrop of
26 where I -- where I fired, which was, when I looked
27 back was -- was -- it's a cul-de-sac, there's

1 houses there. I advised sheriff's dispatch on the
2 radio that I needed an additional unit to come to
3 my location to check on the -- the houses in the
4 backdrop of the shooting.

5 And I -- I don't think they responded to
6 me the first time. I don't know if I got covered
7 or -- or if it just didn't go out. And a few
8 people came out, out of their houses. I asked if
9 they were okay. They said they were okay. They
10 asked if I was okay. I don't remember the
11 timeframe but it felt like an eternity of being
12 there by myself freaking out of -- of I almost
13 died. And then this -- this person's out there
14 and my -- my partners and I'm calling for them to
15 come help me. And I know I can't -- I -- I was
16 thinking I can't leave the immediate scene but I
17 also want to go check on -- on these houses 'cause
18 these people were probably sleeping in their homes
19 and -- and you know, to have possibly rounds go
20 towards them.

21 I -- I advised I think -- I think a couple
22 of -- I believe a couple more times on the radio
23 before finally I heard somebody say that they were
24 en route to my location. And again, it felt like
25 an eternity before the first unit arrived on
26 scene. And I told them -- I -- I can't remember
27 which deputy it was that was -- that responded

1 initially. And I told them hey, I fired, you
2 know, in -- in that direction towards -- towards
3 the vehicle into towards the cul-de-sac. I told
4 them I think three or four times and I asked them
5 can you please go check? Can you check on the --
6 the houses? I -- and I advised the pe- -- the
7 person that -- the people that were outside I
8 already talked to them. They're okay.

9 And I -- I saw he didn't initially do that
10 as a sergeant arrived on scene. So I then told --
11 told them again, somebody needs to go check on
12 them. And then they finally assigned another
13 deputy to go check on them.

14 At that point I was -- I was led away to
15 a -- a separate patrol car. I deactivated my body
16 cam and was then advised to go to the police
17 station with this -- with Deputy Juarez and that
18 was the end of my interaction with this -- with
19 this call for service.

20 RC: Okay. So backing up just a bit.

21 TH: Yeah.

22 RC: So you mentioned --

23 TH: I -- am I allowed to drink my water?

24 RC: Absolutely.

25 TH: Okay.

26 RC: And if you need to take a break, we
27 can take a break too and come back and go back

1 into it. So it's whatever you'd like.

2 TH: I can -- yeah. I -- I can -- I can
3 try to -- to keep going.

4 RC: Okay.

5 KS: You sure?

6 TH: I mean --

7 KS: You sure?

8 TH: We don't have tissues in here, do we?

9 KS: No. But why don't we take a break and
10 we'll get some.

11 RC: All right. Let's take a break.

12 TH: Okay.

13 RC: All right. Thank you.

14 KS: I'll get them. I got that.

15 CS: Ending recording for a break.

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Ventura County Sheriff's Office Memorandum

To: Major Crimes **Date:** April 11, 2022

From: Sergeant Ryan Clark

(RC)

Subject: Tyler Hackworth OIS / Part II

Re: 22-35758

Date of Interview: March 19, 2022

Time of Interview: 12:37 p.m.

Case Catalyst Operator: [REDACTED]

Legend: RC = Ryan Clark
 CS = Corey Stump
 TH = Tyler Hackworth
 KS = [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1 RC: Okay. We're back on. Saturday, March
2 19th, 2022 at 12:37 p.m.

3 Okay. Thank you for telling us about
4 what -- what transpired. So we just have some
5 more clarifying questions about that whole thing.
6 Okay?

7 First thing you'd mentioned was that this
8 wasn't your normal car that you drive, right?

9 TH: Correct.

10 RC: Which car do you normally drive?

11 TH: So, I usually drive the 9 George car.

12 RC: Uh-huh.

13 TH: Which I believe is Unit Number 3220.

14 RC: Okay.

15 TH: Which is what I'm -- I'm used to and
16 I use on a -- on like normal shift.

17 RC: Okay. And in that vehicle, where is
18 your equipment as opposed to the vehicle you were
19 in last night?

20 TH: So my -- my equipment that I load up
21 is -- is the same with the exception of, I found
22 that the center where I put my water bottle
23 between -- between the rifle and the less lethal
24 is for some reason, slightly smaller so things are
25 a little bit more cramped in there.

26 RC: Uh-huh.

27 TH: The MDT computer is -- is a little

1 bit closer and the radio is further back. The big
2 difference that I noticed and I absolutely don't
3 like about this unit that I found, is the radio
4 mic is -- is -- it's different, it's a lot bigger
5 and bulkier but the actual cord is outrageously
6 long. I don't know the exact distance, but it's
7 enough so that it -- it kind of wraps around and
8 it -- it kept snagging on my equipment. The unit
9 -- the unitrol for the lights and the MDT, it was
10 just in the way a lot.

11 RC: Okay.

12 TH: Especially like on calls for service
13 trying to -- to hold the radio and manipulate the
14 steering wheel or gearshift, it's - it -- it's
15 just in the way.

16 RC: Okay. All right. So you mentioned
17 responding to the call. You believed it was an in
18 progress catalytic converter theft incident.

19 TH: Yes.

20 RC: You arrive on scene in the area. Were
21 there any of-- other officers with you, following
22 you, next to you, in the car with you at that
23 time?

24 TH: No. There was another unit
25 responding to the location but they were not with
26 me and I was solo in the vehicle.

27 RC: Okay. Were you -- I think you

1 mentioned this as well. You were alone the entire
2 time from this point till the time that the first
3 officer arrived to assist you?

4 TH: Correct. There were no other
5 officers on scene.

6 RC: Okay. So you mention that you first
7 saw the two vehicles approaching a stop sign.

8 TH: Correct.

9 RC: What would -- which intersection was
10 that?

11 TH: That was the intersection of Pederson
12 and Radcliffe.

13 RC: Okay. Which direction were they
14 heading?

15 TH: They were heading north on Radcliffe
16 to Pederson.

17 RC: Okay. Do you recall the descriptions
18 of those vehicles?

19 TH: I -- this is -- I don't -- I have a
20 vague description right now.

21 RC: Uh-huh.

22 TH: One was a -- a silver Infinity, which
23 I recall was a -- a 4-door sedan style. And the
24 other one was a grey-colored sedan. I don't
25 recall the make or model. But that was the one
26 that I pursued and got the license plate on.

27 RC: Okay.

1 TH: They -- they would - obviously have
2 the make on that.

3 RC: Okay. Now, the -- the silver sedan,
4 the lead car, right?

5 TH: Correct.

6 RC: Could you tell how many occupants were
7 in the vehicle or a description of those
8 occupants?

9 TH: The -- the lead vehicle, no. I
10 didn't get a good look other than I saw the
11 vehicle and believed it was them as -- as
12 accurately described by the reporting party.

13 RC: Okay. And the second vehicle, the one
14 that you ultimately pursued, do you recall how
15 many people were in that vehicle?

16 TH: I believe I saw two or three people
17 inside the vehicle. I confidently saw that it was
18 occupied, both driver and passenger side.

19 RC: Uh-huh.

20 TH: But I believe seeing a -- a third
21 person behind the driver's seat.

22 RC: Okay.

23 TH: I don't recall the description
24 after -- after all that. I don't remember all
25 those details.

26 RC: Okay. Could you recall male versus
27 female?

CONFIDENTIAL

1 TH: I --
2 RC: Or unknown?
3 TH: I -- I don't recall at this --
4 RC: Okay.
5 TH: At this point. And I, to be honest,
6 I don't.
7 RC: Okay.
8 TH: I -- I don't know if I -- I -- I - I
9 tried to process it at -- at the time.
10 RC: Uh-huh.
11 TH: But after everything that happened
12 and I -- I - I just don't.
13 RC: Okay. So the street that they're
14 traveling on before they make that right turn, and
15 you'd mentioned that they went through the stop
16 sign; is that correct?
17 TH: The -- the initial intersection, yes.
18 RC: Yeah. Okay. What -- what kind of a
19 street is that and do you know the speed limit on
20 that street? I know -- I know you're not familiar
21 with the area, but -- but could you recall?
22 TH: I don't recall the exact speed limit.
23 I -- I know that further down, I believe it is
24 a -- a forty zone.
25 RC: Uh-huh.
26 TH: I don't know if that's accurate for
27 the entirety of the -- of the -- of the street.

1 RC: Okay. The vehicle's traveling on the
2 street before they made the right turn against the
3 stop sign?

4 TH: Correct.

5 RC: In -- in your estimation based on the
6 street condition, traffic conditions, time of day
7 or night, and their speed, did you feel that it
8 was -- prior to running the stop sign, did you
9 feel that that speed was safe before going through
10 the stop sign?

11 TH: Before them initially coming to the
12 stop sign, I -- it -- it appeared to be safe. It
13 wasn't until, as soon as I -- I turned around
14 behind them and hadn't even initially activated my
15 lights, that they then accelerated to a speed that
16 was very unsafe.

17 RC: Okay. Now, prior to the stop sign,
18 kind of going through the stop sign --

19 TH: Yes.

20 RC: -- had you been observed and got
21 behind them prior to that point or was it after
22 that point?

23 TH: That -- so that was after. So the
24 intersection, 'cause I was coming on Pederson, I
25 had an obstructed view of a -- of Radcliffe
26 towards where they were coming from. I -- there
27 was -- there was like a wall right there on the

1 corner.

2 RC: Uh-huh.

3 TH: So basically as I came up to the stop
4 sign is where I had started seeing headlights and
5 I knew they were coming my direction so I figured
6 these might be the vehicles.

7 And as I neared the intersection, is when I
8 saw both vehicles approach the intersection and
9 when I got to my stop sign is when I saw them go
10 through the stop sign and make the right turns
11 almost immediately on top of each other, like in
12 kind of a, you know, unsafe following tailgating
13 kind of manner.

14 RC: Uh-huh.

15 TH: And they both just -- just went right
16 through it.

17 RC: Okay. Now, is this a four-way stop
18 you're describing?

19 TH: Correct. This is a four-way.

20 RC: Okay.

21 TH: Four-way stop.

22 RC: So you're coming up to the stop sign.
23 You're stopped?

24 TH: Yes.

25 RC: Is that what you said? And then the
26 other cars went through the stop sign?

27 TH: Correct.

1 RC: At your same intersection?

2 TH: Correct. And -- and, but not to
3 cross my path.

4 RC: Uh-huh.

5 TH: 'Cause I would be coming -- I'm
6 sorry. If I'm able to do hands to --

7 RC: That's okay.

8 TH: -- just kind of recall. But I'm
9 coming down Pederson and then I have my stop sign
10 here. They -- they are coming up Radcliffe and
11 then make the right turn like this.

12 RC: Okay.

13 TH: It's a --

14 RC: So they're making -- yeah. Okay.
15 They're making a right turn to your left.

16 TH: Correct.

17 RC: And they're passing by to your left?

18 TH: Correct. So I had to did a --

19 RC: Okay.

20 TH: A U-turn to --

21 RC: Okay.

22 TH: To follow them.

23 RC: So them failing to stop at the stop
24 sign, is that a violation?

25 TH: Yes.

26 RC: Okay. What -- what's the violation on
27 that?

1 TH: 22450(a) of the vehicle code.

2 RC: Okay. Misdemeanor, infraction?

3 TH: It's an infraction.

4 RC: Okay. So you get behind them and then
5 you mention that the vehicle started to go and one
6 of them was speeding up.

7 TH: Yes.

8 RC: Legal and then speeding up and
9 speeding away?

10 TH: Yes. It -- it immediately, prior to
11 even activating my emergency lights, it just --
12 best way to describe it would be punched it.
13 They -- they -- they -- they hit the gas and -- and
14 just took off at like fifty, fifty-five miles per
15 hour was what I visually estimated it --

16 RC: Uh-huh.

17 TH: -- before they had -- they were just
18 out of my view. The second car also sped up to
19 about that as well. But they took a little bit
20 more time. It was almost like they were -- I
21 don't know if they were intentionally doing it to
22 kind of get that distance between the two
23 vehicles. But once I lost sight of that vehicle
24 is when my vehicle really had -- had accelerated.

25 RC: Okay. So the lead one, you mentioned.
26 it got up to, your visual estimation of about
27 fifty-five?

1 TH: Yes.

2 RC: What's the speed limit on that road or
3 do you know?

4 TH: Again, I -- I don't recall the exact.
5 I -- I believe one area of it is -- is a forty
6 zone. It may --

7 RC: Okay.

8 TH: It may be a forty-five. But that
9 would be speculation on my part. I don't -- I
10 don't know this -- this roadway very well.

11 RC: Okay. In your visual estimation based
12 on the road conditions, traffic conditions, time
13 or day or night, the setup of the street itself,
14 would fifty-five miles per hour be a safe speed
15 for that road?

16 TH: No. There are several intersections
17 controlled by stop signs. And there -- there's
18 always the potential of -- of a vehicle coming
19 out. Like I said, at my interse- -- the initial
20 intersection where I saw them at Radcliffe, it's
21 obstructed 'cause of a wall.

22 RC: Uh-huh.

23 TH: There's several like that. And
24 even -- even if somebody is -- is -- is doing what
25 they're supposed to and stopping, if you're
26 driving at that speed, you're not going to --
27 you're not going to see them until the last

(P)

1 possible second, especially if they're driving
2 like that with such disregard, you know, for me
3 trying to pull them over.

4 RC: Uh-huh.

5 TH: But then also for public safety.

6 RC: Okay. And then the second vehicle you
7 were behind, I think you mentioned that that
8 ultimately also got up to about fifty-five miles
9 per hour?

10 TH: Yes.

11 RC: At least in the beginning part?

12 TH: Yes.

13 RC: Did it go faster than that at some
14 point or was that kind of the speed it stayed at?

15 TH: The second vehicle held at about that
16 and then it was only briefly that they hit that
17 point before they made their -- their right turn.

18 RC: Okay. And when they made their right
19 turn, do you recall what street they turned on?

20 TH: I don't recall the full name. It was
21 Calle something.

22 RC: Okay. And the street that they turned
23 right on, was it the same type of thoroughfare or
24 did it turn into a different type of thoroughfare
25 as in the --

26 TH: It --

27 RC: -- surroundings?

1 TH: It turned into a residential
2 neighborhood.

3 RC: Residential, okay. And what's the
4 speed limit on a residential?

5 TH: Residentials are twenty-five miles
6 per hour --

7 RC: Okay.

8 TH: -- given the fact that there's
9 higher pedestrian foot traffic, more vehicles
10 coming out of driveways. It's -- it's much more
11 dangerous for somebody to be driving at faster
12 than twenty-five miles per hour.

13 RC: Okay. And so at what point did you
14 activate your lights?

15 TH: My --

16 RC: And siren?

17 TH: I activated my lights shortly after
18 con- -- turning my -- making my U-turn and
19 following behind them. I -- maybe a few seconds
20 after I did that. I -- I advised sheriff dispatch
21 that -- that I had eyes on them and I was behind
22 them. And so enough time for that radio traffic
23 and then I activated my lights.

24 RC: Okay.

25 TH: That's when the vehicles sped up.
26 Just before we got to the intersection they turned
27 right on, Calle something --

1 RC: Uh-huh.

2 TH: -- is when I activated my emergency
3 siren.

4 RC: Okay. Now, when you say you activated
5 your lights, describe which lights you turned on.

6 TH: So, we for -- use our full rotators.
7 It's all of our emergency lights, strobes,
8 basically to -- to every single emergency light
9 that we have on it; forward facing, red, flashing
10 blues, ambers to the rear, white strobes. All,
11 the entire combination of that. The alternating
12 headlights or wigwags. Basically to -- to let
13 them know that, you know, there's an emergency
14 vehicle behind them and to entirely alert the
15 public around that -- that there's an emergency
16 vehicle traveling.

17 RC: Okay. And why did you activate your
18 emergency lights?

19 TH: Because I was attempting to conduct
20 an enforcement stop on the vehicle, which I
21 believed to be the suspect vehicle of the original
22 call for service, as well as having violated the
23 vehicle code. And when they were not initially
24 yielding to me, I activated them all the way
25 versus like a traffic stop, which would just be
26 your steady red light and --

27 RC: Uh-huh.

1 TH: And blue. Just because I -- I, in
2 anticipation of I'm going to need all of my lights
3 on to alert the public around me of -- of what's
4 going on so people yield to me, get out of my way
5 and then know -- know that I'm coming as well as
6 so that there's no doubt that they know there's a
7 emergency vehicle, physically a -- a police car
8 behind them attempting to detain them.

9 RC: Okay. So you turn on all your lights.
10 And what was the effect on the vehicle you were
11 following? What did it do?

12 TH: So the vehicle continued to -- to
13 drive. That's when it accelerated to the higher
14 speed to about fifty, fifty-five.

15 RC: Okay. What speed was it at when you
16 first turned your lights on, if you recall?

17 TH: I -- I don't recall the exact speed.

18 RC: Okay. But you noticed that they
19 accelerated once you turned your lights on?

20 TH: Yes.

21 RC: Okay. And then at some point you
22 noted that it was approximately fifty-five miles
23 per hour?

24 TH: Correct.

25 RC: Okay.

26 TH: It -- it was enough that it was a --
27 a big difference between them peaking at about

1 fifty, fifty-five versus what they had -- when
2 they had made their turn and got onto Pederson.

3 RC: Okay. So while they're driving and
4 you have your lights on and they speed up, how far
5 behind that car were you or can you recall?

6 TH: I -- I don't recall the exact
7 distance.

8 RC: Okay. Were they --

9 TH: It was -- it was enough so that I was
10 able to -- to read the license plate.

11 RC: Okay. And before that vehicle made
12 the right turn onto Calle whatever, did you notice
13 if they used their turn signal?

14 TH: I -- I don't recall if they used
15 their turn signal.

16 RC: Okay. Can you describe the turning
17 movement from that car making the right turn or --

18 TH: It was -- it was a -- a wide turning
19 movement, which is usually indicative of somebody
20 driving at a -- at a higher rate of speed;
21 whereas, a normal person driving the speed limit
22 'cause roadways are designed for you to be able to
23 operate at the speed limit safely. You could just
24 move from your lane easily or move to the shoulder
25 and turn.

26 This one kind -- this vehicle kind of came
27 out to the left a little bit and then made kind of

1 a wider turn obviously to account for the speed.

2 RC: Okay.

3 TH: It was just something that typically
4 either somebody does because they're trained to
5 safely turn or somebody who doesn't know what
6 they're doing and they panic and they don't want
7 to crash.

8 RC: Okay. And you believe that's a
9 twenty-five mile an hour street you turned onto?

10 TH: Yes, I believe so.

11 RC: And -- and you mentioned it was about
12 this time you turned on your siren?

13 TH: It was -- I believe it was just
14 before they made the turn.

15 RC: Okay. So lights and siren on before
16 the turn. They make the wide sweeping turn onto
17 what we believe is -- is likely a twenty-five mile
18 per hour residential?

19 TH: Correct.

20 RC: That turning movement onto the
21 residential, do you feel that was a safe speed to
22 turn onto that street?

23 TH: No. I believe it was an unsafe turn,
24 in violation of 22107 of the vehicle code.

25 RC: Okay. Could you tell which lane or
26 part of the road that this driver turned onto once
27 they completed their turn or were -- did you lose

1 sight of it temporarily?

2 TH: So when -- when I made my turning
3 movement behind them, I saw that they had -- had
4 partially entered. I saw the tail end of it on
5 the wrong side of the road before they crossed
6 back over to the -- to the right. I didn't see
7 the entirety of where they entered on, but I did
8 see that -- that they were coming from the wrong
9 side of the road.

10 RC: Okay.

11 TH: Which would -- which would -- would
12 be consistent with them attempting to kind of turn
13 around.

14 RC: Okay.

15 TH: A wide turn.

16 RC: And at some point did you activate
17 your body worn camera?

18 TH: Yes. I don't recall the exact
19 moment. I believe it was when I activated my
20 emergency lights as I -- as I turned around from
21 Radcliffe.

22 RC: Okay. So now after it completed its
23 turn onto this what we believe to be a residential
24 street, how -- how long did that -- I guess what
25 I'm asking you is, describe kind of that pursuit
26 going down that road. How long did that go for,
27 was it pretty brief or was it going for a while

1 or --

2 TH: It -- I don't recall the exact
3 timeframe but it was very brief. It was maybe,
4 maybe a few seconds that -- that they were on the
5 straightaway before they --

6 RC: Okay.

7 TH: -- suddenly stopped and that was
8 when, as I described, I got out.

9 RC: Okay.

10 TH: Told them to stop and then they took
11 off again.

12 RC: Okay. When they stopped the first
13 time, how did they -- how was their car positioned
14 on the roadway?

15 TH: I believe that the vehicle was -- was
16 at a slight, kind of a right angle. I don't know
17 why. I assume just because of a sudden -- a
18 sudden stop. But they -- they abruptly stopped,
19 which I thought they had just given up.

20 RC: Uh-huh.

21 TH: I -- I didn't expect them to suddenly
22 take off again.

23 RC: Was it middle of the road, right side
24 of the road, left side of the road, or do you
25 recall?

26 TH: Towards the right side of the road.

27 RC: Okay. At that point could you see any

1 movement inside the vehicle or identify a
2 particular person in the vehicle?

3 TH: I -- I still saw it looked like there
4 were three people inside the vehicle, but at this
5 time I don't recall.

6 RC: Okay.

7 TH: I -- I would have to look back at --
8 at body cam footage. I -- I don't recall --

9 RC: Okay.

10 TH: -- what they looked like.

11 RC: What did you hear happening at that
12 time when you made that stop? Did you hear
13 anything?

14 TH: I -- my -- my radio of -- of the
15 dispatch re- -- readvising that I was in pursuit
16 and I just, I don't recall other -- other deputies
17 on the radio.

18 RC: Uh-huh.

19 TH: Whether or not they're talking to me
20 or talking to dispatch, I don't. I don't recall.

21 RC: Could you tell if any of the vehicle
22 windows were rolled down on the suspect vehicle?

23 TH: I don't recall.

24 RC: Okay. Did it look like anybody in the
25 suspect vehicle was trying to communicate with
26 you?

27 TH: No.

1 RC: Okay. And then you mention that it
2 took off again.

3 TH: Yes.

4 RC: Can you explain a little bit more
5 about that?

6 TH: So, the vehicle came to a complete
7 stop. When I put my vehicle in park, opened my
8 door, I exited out, unholstered my firearm and
9 aimed at the vehicle or I saw the vehicle
10 immediately just -- I don't recall if I saw brake
11 lights at all. I just recall the vehicle suddenly
12 just accelerated forward. And it wasn't a smooth
13 like, you know, you -- you'd be pulling out of
14 your driveway or pulling into traffic. It was
15 just a sudden like -- like accelerate and -- and I
16 don't -- I don't know exactly what speed they may
17 have gotten to there. It -- it may have -- it may
18 have been only maybe twenty to twenty-five, but it
19 was a sudden -- it was a sudden start.

20 RC: Okay. Were your lights still on at
21 this time?

22 TH: Yes. My lights were still on and my
23 siren had -- had been activated. But when I put
24 it in park, it disengages the siren.

25 RC: Okay. So then what did you do in
26 response to that?

27 TH: As they started to go forward, I

1 yelled stop as -- at -- so to give them a command
2 to stop. But I don't think that is very
3 effective --

4 RC: Uh-huh.

5 TH: -- since they're already moving. I
6 immediately got back into my vehicle and as I did
7 that, I -- I reholstered my firearm and advised
8 sheriff's dispatch, you know, of their direction
9 of travel. Shortly after that, they made a left
10 turn onto Rollings Avenue.

11 RC: Okay. And so you pursued them onto
12 Rollings Avenue.

13 TH: Correct.

14 RC: Your lights were still on?

15 TH: Yes.

16 RC: Was your siren now back on again?

17 TH: Yes.

18 RC: Okay. And you'd mentioned earlier
19 that you're not really familiar with these streets
20 and you didn't realize at the time you were
21 turning that it was a cul-de-sac.

22 TH: Correct.

23 RC: Is this where the cul-de-sac occurred?

24 TH: Where the --

25 RC: At this point where you make the left
26 onto Rollings?

27 TH: I -- I'm sorry, could you rephra- --

1 I -- I -- you said the where the cul-de-sac
2 occurred? Were you --

3 RC: Yeah. The termination point of the
4 pursuit?

5 TH: Oh, okay. Yes. So when I made --
6 when we made the left turn onto Rollings, I don't
7 recall the -- the exact distance on Rollings. But
8 that right turn into what ended up being a
9 cul-de-sac was the termination point.

10 RC: Okay. Now, you also mentioned earlier
11 that you weren't able to properly position your
12 car for what you referred to as a felony stop.

13 TH: Correct.

14 RC: Right? So can you describe to me what
15 a felony stop is?

16 TH: So, I think now it's referred to as a
17 high risk stop. But felony stop, a high risk
18 stop, it's a traffic stop conducted more --
19 there's more risk behind it. Typically
20 (INAUDIBLE) felony stop for a felony, you know,
21 fleeing or felony subjects or there's some sort of
22 risk associated. Like in this case of a vehicle
23 pursuit where I don't know what they're doing. I
24 don't know if they have weapons. There's --
25 there's -- I need to be safer. I can't just
26 approach this and walk and talk up -- walk and
27 talk to them like a normal traffic stop.

1 The current training that we receive on
2 that is to angle our vehicles off to the side
3 typically like I would angle mine to my -- to the
4 left so if the suspect vehicle was parked like
5 this, I would angle mine out. It allows me to
6 have more cover for myself to protect myself from
7 somebody shooting at me or attempting --
8 attempting to hit me with a -- a vehicle. It
9 gives me more ability to do that.

10 Instead, I -- I didn't know the street. I
11 don't know if they -- if they did or not. But as
12 we made that turn, it was just sudden, suddenly a
13 stop and we found ourselves in a cul-de-sac that I
14 was right -- essentially right behind them. I was
15 in line with them.

16 So I -- I - I didn't have the chance to --
17 to reposition my vehicle safely as well as to let
18 dispatch know where I was at and that we were
19 having a felony stop. So I elected just to get
20 out of my car right then and there 'cause I know
21 if I stay in the car, I -- it's more risk for me
22 getting killed in my car. I have nowhere to go.
23 If I get shot at, I can't -- other than duck down,
24 I can't really run anywhere at all.

25 RC: Do you receive training or based on
26 personal experience or talking with your partners
27 in regards to getting out of your vehicle --

1 TH: Yes.

2 RC: -- you kind of touched on it, but
3 why -- why couldn't you just turn your car at that
4 point once you realized you're stopped, you
5 evaluate, okay, I better -- I better move my car
6 to the proper position; why wouldn't you do that?

7 TH: Given the high risk of -- of -- of
8 associated with this or a traffic stop with a
9 vehicle pursuit and the potential for me getting
10 hurt, injured or, you know, killed, it wasn't
11 practical for me to -- to stay in my vehicle or to
12 get back into it to relocate it. It would be time
13 that -- that I would -- may lose sight of the
14 suspects, that they could -- they could attack me
15 and I would not have as much time to react. I
16 needed to be out of my vehicle with my firearm so
17 that I could best protect myself. I'm -- I'm
18 alone in an area that I'm not entirely certain of
19 what the -- of these streets. I -- I -- I was,
20 essentially at a disadvantage and we were stuck at
21 a -- a -- a dead end.

22 RC: Okay. So then what happens right
23 after you get out of the car?

24 TH: When I got out of the car, I took my
25 firearm out, aimed it at them, and almost
26 immediately the vehicle accelerated and made a
27 left-hand turn. I remember I yelled at them to

1 stop several times. And --

2 RC: Did you get a response from them when
3 you yelled to stop?

4 TH: No. No, they did quite the opposite.

5 RC: Did you see anybody trying to
6 communicate with you?

7 TH: No.

8 RC: Did you hear anything coming from the
9 car?

10 TH: They accelerate -- the engine
11 accelerating.

12 RC: Okay. Did you see any windows down on
13 the vehicle?

14 TH: I did not see.

15 RC: That you could recall?

16 TH: I did not see windows down. I
17 just almost, 'cause it was so -- such a fast
18 movement --

19 RC: Uh-huh.

20 TH: -- I almost immediately just saw
21 headlights right at me and it just suddenly just
22 it was accelerating at me. It just -- it just
23 seemed so big and so quick. So at that -- that
24 second I was -- it was just this car is barreling
25 down and all I can see is the front of the car
26 headlights just like just blinding towards me.

27 RC: Okay. Now, in regards to this street

1 and you kind of described the car being in front
2 of you, you being behind it, you stop, notice it's
3 a cul-de-sac, you -- you have to get out of your
4 car. Physical positioning in the street, and I
5 have a picture of the cul-de-sac here.

6 TH: Yes.

7 KS: (INAUDIBLE).

8 TH: Yeah. I'm Okay, I'm okay.

9 RC: Do you have a pen he can borrow?

10 CS: Yeah. Oh, here's a --

11 RC: Blue.

12 CS: Blue show up better?

13 RC: Yeah.

14 Okay. And I understand this is just an
15 estimation on your part. I'm not asking you to
16 draw a scale diagram, but if you could indicate
17 for me as best from your recollection, kind of the
18 location of the suspect vehicle and the location
19 of your vehicle when you -- when you stopped and
20 got out of your car.

21 TH: Okay.

22 RC: If that's a fair --

23 CS: And obviously, it's just off Google
24 Maps. We don't --

25 TH: Yeah.

26 CS: Those cars that are there were taken
27 at the time. It's not --

1 TH: Yeah.
2 CS: -- current photos.
3 TH: I gotcha.
4 CS: We don't know if they were there when
5 this happened.

6 TH: So I believe my patrol car was there
7 and they were -- and this is not to scale or
8 anything but, and they were ahead of me. It
9 might have been a little bit closer but
10 essentially we -- it was like we tried to drive
11 down it like it was a -- a -- a straight street.

12 RC: Uh-huh.

13 KS: Can we mark which car is which?

14 RC: Absolutely.

15 TH: So that would be --

16 RC: Do you want a black color? Is that
17 going to show up better?

18 TH: The blue seems to --

19 RC: Okay.

20 TH: How would you like me to mark it? I
21 can mark like suspect, just I'll write it? Just
22 patrol. And it was facing that way, facing that
23 way.

24 RC: Okay. Now using a blue pen --

25 TH: Or --

26 RC: -- from your recollection, this
27 could -- I'm not asking for scale, but can you put

1 a mark on where you believe you were standing in
2 the road when the shooting occurred? Okay.

3 TH: I was standing to the left of my --
4 my patrol vehicle in the -- essentially in the --
5 in the center, maybe a little bit left of center.
6 Again, that's not to scale from my patrol car
7 'cause I -- is it -- with my door, it's a bigger
8 door, I might have been slightly more left of
9 center. I --

10 RC: Okay.

11 TH: I don't recall the exact location.

12 RC: When you first got out of the car to
13 point your firearm at them and to tell them to
14 stop, where were you standing in relation to your
15 car?

16 TH: It was initially kind of, I believe
17 next -- like in between my door and my -- my
18 driver's seat.

19 RC: Like the doorjamb?

20 TH: Yes.

21 RC: Okay. And then how did you react to
22 the vehicle accelerating and turning around?
23 What -- what -- do you recall what your movements
24 were? Did you stay in the same spot the whole
25 time or did you move?

26 TH: I -- I honestly don't recall if I --
27 if I slightly stepped back or if I was standing

1 there. It just happened so quick, I very well
2 might've have taken some step -- some steps back.
3 But it just, it caught me so off guard to have him
4 suddenly flip around --

5 RC: Uh-huh.

6 TH: -- I just remember yelling, yelling
7 at them to stop. It was just, it was like panic.
8 Like, oh my God, I'm -- I'm going to die, they're
9 going to hit me.

10 RC: Okay. So leading up to this point,
11 you have -- you talked about catalytic converter
12 thefts.

13 TH: Yeah.

14 RC: These crews committing crimes with
15 vehicles that you described the vehicles as being
16 destroyed once these things are cut off, right?

17 TH: Yes. At least that's my
18 understanding of it.

19 RC: Your understanding? And then you see
20 they're driving patterns and the one vehicle, both
21 vehicles running the stop sign, accelerating. Do
22 you feel that this suspect vehicle that you were
23 pursuing was driving recklessly?

24 TH: Yes.

25 RC: Okay. Is that also a crime?

26 TH: Yes.

27 RC: Okay. So in addition to the theft and

1 the reckless driving, was there anything else
2 going through your mind as far as what these folks
3 were wanted for as far as crimes go?

4 TH: Other than -- than the catalytic
5 converter theft, the multiple vehicle code
6 violations including the -- the failing to yield,
7 there's -- honestly, my -- my understanding is
8 that these people commit more crimes and there's,
9 you know, probably a -- a flurry of other
10 associated crimes, even maybe even the same
11 associated with that. And I know typically career
12 criminals especially in this, at this time of
13 night, they could be -- they could be armed as
14 well. These were all thoughts that I usually think
15 of when -- when encountering these people. But
16 this, honestly in that moment, I was just thinking
17 these -- just the catalytic converter and then the
18 multiple vehicle code violations and the driving
19 unsafely. I --

20 RC: Uh-huh.

21 TH: And then obviously them turning
22 around and it happened so quickly, I -- I wasn't
23 even thinking of all their crimes in that exact
24 second when they flipped around.

25 RC: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

26 TH: It was just like -- like holy -- holy
27 crap. I'm going to -- I'm going to get hit.

1 RC: Okay.

2 TH: That's all. That's honestly, at that
3 moment, that's all I was thinking about right --
4 right then, was -- was -- was holy shit. Like I'm
5 -- yeah.

6 RC: Okay. You mentioned discharging your
7 firearm.

8 TH: Yes.

9 RC: At the time that you discharged your
10 firearm, are these the things that were going
11 through your mind?

12 TH: It was -- it was kind of just a
13 quick, like a sudden -- I don't -- I don't know
14 how to describe it. Like it's a -- it's a sudden
15 emotion like -- like -- like just -- just terror
16 essentially.

17 RC: Uh-huh.

18 TH: Of -- of I'm going to die and if --
19 and if -- and if I don't -- if I don't --
20 essentially if I don't shoot this person to stop
21 him, I'm -- I'm going to be dead and again,
22 that's -- that's it for me. They're going --
23 they're going to -- they're -- I'm going to die
24 and they're going to get away and they're just --
25 they're just going to drive off.

26 RC: Okay. Did you consider maybe using
27 your taser instead?

1 TH: Absolutely not. That would be
2 completely ineffective against a vehicle given
3 the glass and the sheer size of the vehicle. The
4 only -- the only -- the only method that -- that I
5 saw feasible was deadly force, to use my firearm
6 to -- to stop the driver, to attempt to stop that
7 vehicle from -- from being used as a weapon
8 against me.

9 RC: Okay. Who -- who were you shooting at
10 when you discharged your firearm?

11 TH: I was shooting towards the driver.

12 RC: Okay. And why were you shooting the
13 driver?

14 TH: The driver is operating the vehicle.
15 He's -- he's using -- he was using that vehicle to
16 attempt to kill me.

17 RC: Okay. What about going back into your
18 trunk and grabbing your other force options? Was
19 that feasible?

20 TH: No. Not at all. The -- the
21 timeframe that it'd have to go do that would
22 have -- would have been impractical. It would
23 have taken too long. I would've had to turn my
24 attention away from them and I would have surely
25 been -- been hit and killed.

26 RC: Okay. Was there a way for you to move
27 to a different location to avoid this entirely?

1 TH: The only other way for me was either
2 back in the vehicle, which I just -- I could get
3 shot or killed. We're -- we're trained to get out
4 of the vehicle or I could be pinned in the vehicle
5 when that car came at me. Or to go to -- to -- to
6 try to run essentially towards the roadway to my
7 left and that's -- that's worse.

8 RC: Uh-huh. Was there something on your
9 right side that was preventing you from --

10 TH: My -- my ve- -- my vehicle was --

11 RC: Your vehicle --

12 TH: Was parked there.

13 RC: -- was blocking you? Okay. And you'd
14 mentioned shooting a few shots and then at some
15 point you stopped shooting. Why did you stop
16 shooting?

17 TH: I stopped shooting because the
18 vehicle turned and went past me and I said --
19 essentially it would no longer become a threat so
20 there was no -- there was no reason to -- to
21 continue shooting at them; that the -- the threat
22 of the -- of them of using the vehicle against me
23 unless -- unless he was to turn around, that would
24 be a separate thing.

25 RC: Uh-huh.

26 TH: It -- it was now no longer being used
27 against me.

1 RC: Okay. Was this the only weapon that
2 you deployed as far as discharging firearm or
3 rounds?

4 TH: Yes.

5 RC: Okay. You didn't grab any of the
6 other firearms and shoot those?

7 TH: No.

8 RC: Okay.

9 TH: Sorry. I need to blow my nose.

10 RC: It's okay. Do you know if any of your
11 rounds hit your intended target?

12 TH: I believe they did. I don't -- I
13 don't know how many. I -- I bel- -- I believe so
14 because I was aiming at -- at the driver through
15 the windshield.

16 RC: Uh-huh.

17 TH: But I, again, I -- I don't know for
18 certain.

19 RC: Do you recall seeing any of your
20 rounds hitting the vehicle?

21 TH: I don't recall for certain.

22 RC: Okay. You didn't see any bullet holes
23 as you were firing, anything like that?

24 TH: No. I was -- I was thinking, in that
25 exact moment, just focus on -- on stop the threat
26 of -- of me getting killed by this guy driving
27 this car. I wasn't -- I wasn't paying attention

1 to see, you know, what the aftermath of -- of what
2 it looked like as it went past me. I was -- I
3 was -- I was kind of more just -- just still super
4 amped up. I was just glad I didn't get -- get --
5 get hit by the -- by the car.

6 RC: Okay.

7 TH: It was just so scary. It's -- it's
8 never -- I never had something like that happen to
9 me before, ever.

10 RC: Did you have any time to coordinate
11 the response of the additional deputies to this
12 call for service prior to observing the suspect
13 vehicles and engaging the suspect vehicles? Were
14 you able to coordinate any type of response or
15 transfer information to or from your partners or
16 dispatch or anything like that?

17 TH: I -- it was -- I don't recall the
18 exact time, but it was a very short response.

19 RC: Uh-huh.

20 TH: I -- I did not. I believe I heard
21 somebody else on the radio. I believed it was
22 Deputy Lopez, 9 Adam. I heard him. I -- I
23 believe I heard him say something about if -- if I
24 had eyes on the vehicle or if I -- if I knew where
25 the vehicle was. I think he assumed I was -- I
26 was probably already there. But there -- there
27 wasn't really much time given that it was an in

1 progress and it was so close to me that given I
2 was essentially on the same thoroughfare towards
3 that.

4 RC: Okay.

5 TH: It was -- it was more focused on get
6 there safely and -- and -- and efficiently but at
7 the same time trying to keep my eyes open.

8 RC: Uh-huh. Do you recall the lighting
9 conditions at that time? Was it dark, daylight,
10 or somewhere in between?

11 TH: So it was most -- it was mostly dark
12 but there were streetlights.

13 RC: Okay. And have you ever seen this
14 suspect vehicle before or had interactions with
15 anybody that might be registered to that vehicle
16 or any background at all?

17 TH: Not that I recall. I didn't
18 recognize the vehicle.

19 RC: Okay. At the time that this occurred,
20 were you wearing your jacket or was it just your
21 uniform that, with (INAUDIBLE).

22 TH: It was -- it was just my uniform
23 as -- as we took the pictures of here.

24 RC: Okay.

25 TH: No jacket.

26 RC: And at the time that you stopped your
27 vehicle and observed it accelerating and start to

1 turn, did you consider increasing the distance
2 between yourself and the vehicle?

3 TH: It honestly happened so fast, there
4 was no time to -- to -- to think of other
5 alternatives other than, oh my God, I'm -- I'm --
6 I'm gonna die. And I -- I don't want to allude to
7 hindsight but going back to the whole is it
8 practical to go back for a vest to -- to try to
9 run from that, I would have to turn my attention
10 away. I -- I would -- I would -- I would have
11 been killed and there would have been no way for
12 me to -- to even try to intervene in that.

13 RC: Uh-huh. Okay. Do you think there was
14 anything you could have said or done to prevent
15 this shooting from occurring?

16 TH: No. It happened so quickly and I
17 think that they had made up their mind that they
18 were -- they were going to get away, at whatever
19 the cost was, even if it was just hitting me with
20 their car. There -- there was no other way.

21 RC: Do you feel that the driver of that
22 car had the ability to cause death or serious
23 bodily injury to you?

24 TH: Absolutely. I think he was -- he
25 was -- he was going to if --

26 RC: Okay. Did you need to reload your
27 firearm or did you have any weapon malfunctions

1 during this shooting?

2 TH: I had no weapon malfunctions and I --
3 I had no need to -- to reload. I mean, we -- we
4 train to do a tack reload, which is to essentially
5 swap out your magazine with a -- a new fully
6 loaded magazine, but given the quick evolving
7 circumstances and -- and the fact that the vehicle
8 had now driven around and essentially at that
9 exact moment, was -- was no longer attempting
10 that, to -- to kill me, I did not tack reload at
11 all. I just holstered my firearm.

12 RC: Okay. And when -- when you fired,
13 what was your stance and positioning? How did you
14 hold your firearm and what type of a platform were
15 you positioned in?

16 TH: I -- I honestly don't recall the
17 manner which I was standing. I -- I believe I was
18 standing pretty square line.

19 RC: Uh-huh.

20 TH: You know, shoulders shoulder width
21 with my feet. It just happened so quickly, I -- I
22 don't know honestly. I'm right-handed so I was
23 holding it with my right arm and I believe I
24 brought my left arm to it like we're trained to --
25 to hold with two hands. But honestly, it was --
26 it was so -- it was so quick.

27 RC: Uh-huh.

1 TH: I don't -- I don't think I had time
2 to achieve any sort of, you know, good shooter
3 stance. There's -- there wasn't any time to
4 prepare for something like that.

5 RC: Uh-huh. Okay.

6 So then at this time I want to take a
7 quick break and then we'll come back, ask any
8 clarifying questions and then we'll just go over
9 briefly what -- what happened after the event, how
10 you got here and stuff like that.

11 TH: Okay.

12 RC: And we'll -- we should be good.

13 KS: Okay.

14 RC: Are you good with that?

15 KS: (INAUDIBLE) yeah.

16 RC: Yeah.

17 CS: (INAUDIBLE).

18 All right. Ending recording for break.

Ventura County Sheriff's Office Memorandum

To: Major Crimes **Date:** April 11, 2022

From: Sergeant Ryan Clark (P)

Subject: Tyler Hackworth OIS / Part III

Re: 22-35758

Date of Interview: March 19, 2022

Time of Interview: 1326 hrs

Case Catalyst Operator: [REDACTED]

Legend: RC = Ryan Clark
 CS = Corey Stump
 TH = Tyler Hackworth
 KS = [REDACTED]

1 RC: Okay. Back on. Saturday, March 19th,
2 2022 at 1:26 p.m.

3 Just a couple of follow-up questions. I
4 know this is long, long process and I apologize
5 for keeping you up.

6 But when we talk about this cul-de-sac and
7 your positioning, your vehicle, where you were
8 standing, how close did this car come to you when
9 it passed?

10 TH: I -- within few inches, maybe --
11 maybe a foot. It was -- it was very close.

12 RC: Okay.

13 TH: It was -- it was very close.

14 RC: What did you hear when the car was
15 passing by?

16 TH: Just the -- the accelerating the
17 engine as they went by and the sound of -- of a
18 car passing at a high rate of speed. I -- I don't
19 know how to describe it. Like the -- the rushing
20 sort of sound.

21 RC: Uh-huh. Did you hear any voices
22 inside the car?

23 TH: Not that I could recall.

24 RC: Okay. Did you feel anything when the
25 car went by you?

26 TH: I mean, other than terror? No- --
27 nothing like -- like physical, nothing --

1 RC: Okay.

2 TH: -- like that.

3 RC: Okay. Were you concerned at any point
4 that this other car was going to show up?

5 TH: Honestly, I -- I was so on like, oh
6 my God, I -- I almost got killed. I -- I wasn't
7 even thinking about this second car turning around
8 or anything like that. And bringing that up,
9 maybe I should've but I was so amped up after
10 that, I -- I just, I was more focused on the scene
11 and -- and where rounds went and -- and just
12 trying to calm -- to calm down. I didn't even --
13 I didn't even think about that other car coming
14 back to me.

15 RC: Okay. Now, you mentioned that vehicle
16 pursuits were high risk. Why --

17 TH: Yes.

18 RC: -- are they high risk?

19 TH: Given the manner in which they're --
20 the vehicles are operated and also the
21 circumstances in which somebody may be -- be
22 fleeing; typically, they're -- they're attempting
23 to escape, you know, the capture, whether it's
24 because they're -- they're armed with a weapon,
25 they've committed a serious crime, and at that
26 point they're willing to -- to put people in
27 danger by driving in an erratic manner or unsafe

1 manner. They're putting me in danger of -- of
2 being hit or crashing or other people is the big
3 thing, around them that don't deal with this.
4 They're not trained for this, that -- that they
5 don't know how to -- to respond to this, that they
6 wouldn't have time to respond to it as well as the
7 fleeing driver that, you know, could hit somebody,
8 that they're putting everybody in danger. It's --
9 that's why it's -- it's so dangerous.

10 RC: Okay. You'd mentioned when we talked
11 that, you know, which -- where you could have gone
12 from where you were at when -- when the shooting
13 occurred. You mentioned that moving to the left
14 would have been even worse. What did you mean by
15 that?

16 TH: That's -- that's just more in the
17 roadway. I mean, going to my right would have
18 also been terrible 'cause my car is there and I
19 would have been squished against my car. But to
20 my left just, it just seemed more kind of exposed
21 at that point.

22 RC: Uh-huh.

23 TH: I -- I -- it was more just this
24 happened so quickly, there -- there was no
25 thinking about that. There's -- there's no --
26 there was no way to -- to tactically think of --
27 of I could do this, I could do that.

1 I mean, had there -- had they not suddenly
2 flipped around or maybe, you know, turned around
3 and -- and just stopped at a dis- -- a -- a much
4 further distance then -- then maybe I could have,
5 I would have been able to reevaluate with enough
6 time of -- of -- of relocate myself somewhere
7 else, like then go off to my left and maybe use
8 a -- a house or -- or another car as cover to get
9 offline with that vehicle.

10 But in that exact moment, it was so quick,
11 there was no -- I -- I couldn't -- I couldn't
12 think of that at all. It was -- it was way too
13 quick to even -- to even to think of another plan
14 other than it's happening, now I'm gonna die.

15 RC: Okay. And then in regards to the
16 shots that were fired, that the shots that you
17 fired --

18 TH: Yes.

19 RC: -- was there any particular seq- --
20 sequence to them? Was it pop, pop, pop, pop or
21 was it pop, pop, pop, pop, pop or do you know if
22 there was --

23 TH: It was just -- it was rapid
24 succession. Just --

25 RC: Just rapid?

26 TH: Just immediate of -- of holy shit,
27 I'm -- I'm -- I'm going to -- to die and I need

1 to -- to -- to stop him. I need to stop this
2 threat. I need to stop them like now. And --

3 RC: Okay.

4 TH: -- it's just rapid, like one after
5 the other. There was no pause, there was no
6 stopping to reassess.

7 RC: Uh-huh.

8 TH: There was no time. It was fire at --
9 and stop it right now. And I had stopped once
10 that was no longer a threat to me.

11 RC: Okay. And the final thing in regards
12 to the sequence is, we may have used the term "he"
13 in describing the suspect.

14 TH: Yes.

15 RC: Was that because you identified that
16 person as a male or is just a generic way to
17 identify a person, at (INAUDIBLE).

18 TH: It's a generic, like such as in
19 policy, they may refer to as -- as he just --

20 RC: Okay.

21 TH: I don't know if that's still accurate
22 in policy but they're -- it was before.

23 RC: Okay.

24 TH: Or just to commonly refer to someone
25 as he. I -- I don't know for sure whether they
26 were male or female.

27 RC: But at no time do you specifically

1 remember in your mind whether male or female in
2 any particular position in either of the cars?

3 TH: No.

4 RC: Is that correct?

5 TH: Correct.

6 RC: Okay. Okay. Okay. We talked about
7 what you did after the shooting, the transmissions
8 you made on the radio.

9 TH: Sorry.

10 RC: But there were no officers on scene at
11 the time. The suspects fled. We already talked
12 about what was going through your mind after the
13 shots were fired and they left. The first officer
14 that arrived, who was that?

15 TH: I -- I don't recall. I -- it might
16 have been, I think Walters, but I -- I don't --

17 RC: Okay.

18 TH: I don't recall. I was really amped
19 up. I just remember the first one I told them
20 that somebody needed to -- to check on the
21 backdrop and make sure that the people in the
22 houses were okay.

23 RC: Okay. So after the shooting, you
24 discussed the backdrop, checking on people. Did
25 you discuss any other details with anybody about
26 the shooting itself other than public safety
27 questions?

1 TH: I -- I might have -- have told
2 somebody. I don't -- I don't know who that --
3 that I'd almost gotten hit and that I -- I shot at
4 them. I don't recall the -- the depth of those
5 details or really who it was directed at.

6 RC: Okay.

7 TH: I think I might have just been amped
8 up in the moment. I -- I don't exactly recall
9 what was said.

10 RC: And you mentioned Sergeant Sliva had
11 showed up?

12 TH: I -- I -- I believe s- -- I believe
13 so, yeah.

14 RC: Is that your sergeant, last name?

15 TH: He -- so I didn't initially see him,
16 you know, at the prior start of shift. I believe
17 he started later on. But, yeah.

18 RC: Okay, okay. And what did they do
19 when -- when they showed up? Was there any
20 instructions given to you or --

21 TH: The -- the same question of -- of how
22 many rounds I fired, which direction.

23 RC: Uh-huh.

24 TH: And then immediately asked Deputy
25 Juarez to -- to basically escort me to a patrol
26 car to keep me separate from this incident and
27 away from other people.

1 RC: Okay.

2 TH: And at that point I asked him if --
3 if he still wanted me to have my body cam on and
4 he advised that I could turn it off and I was away
5 and that was the end of my interaction.

6 RC: Is Deputy Juarez one of the partners
7 on your shift?

8 TH: So, he's not assigned to my shift but
9 he works a lot of overtime.

10 RC: Uh-huh.

11 TH: But yes, he was. He was working that
12 shift with me.

13 RC: Does Deputy Juarez hold any other type
14 of collateral assignment on the department or
15 position on the department?

16 TH: I -- honestly, I don't -- I don't
17 know.

18 RC: Okay. Did Deputy Juarez interview you
19 about this incident?

20 TH: No. He -- he -- he just told -- he
21 told me not to talk to anybody about it.

22 RC: Okay.

23 TH: He told me basic info of like, you
24 know, just be prepared. You're going to have a
25 bunch of people come out and talk to you.

26 RC: Uh-huh.

27 TH: Like don't be afraid about it. Just

1 kind of -- just so there was no surprise of -- of
2 seeing all these people show up to me and all
3 and -- and interviews potentially to come. But,
4 no. No questions about what happened.

5 RC: Okay. And you're with Deputy Juarez.
6 How did you get to the station?

7 TH: He drove me in his patrol car.

8 RC: Deputy Juarez did?

9 TH: Yes.

10 RC: Okay. And then what happened when you
11 got to the station?

12 TH: We parked in the front of the
13 station, the -- the public lobby and walked into
14 the station and went to, I believe is Paris'
15 office is -- is that one where I essentially
16 waited until all of you guys and everybody showed
17 up.

18 RC: Okay. During the time you were
19 waiting in Commander Paris' office, did you
20 discuss the details of this shooting with anybody?

21 TH: At the --

22 RC: Beside your attorney? Besides your
23 attorney?

24 TH: No. Just -- just legal counsel.

25 RC: Okay. Did anybody come in and
26 interview you about the shooting?

27 TH: No.

1 RC: Okay. And did you remove any items
2 from your uniform or add anything onto your
3 uniform after you got here? Or was it everything
4 as is we took the photos; is that how you looked
5 at the scene?

6 TH: As far as like before the photos go?

7 RC: Yes.

8 TH: No. I didn't remove anything, I
9 didn't add anything. At the very end when I went
10 to -- to go change, I received a sticky note with
11 a coworker's phone number to call for peer
12 support. I was -- but that was after --

13 RC: That was after --

14 TH: -- all that.

15 RC: -- we -- we collected everything?

16 TH: Yes.

17 RC: Right?

18 TH: Yes.

19 RC: Okay. Okay. And did you -- you
20 already answered this, but you didn't actually
21 have any physical contact with any of these
22 suspects --

23 TH: No.

24 RC: -- or their vehicle, correct?

25 TH: Correct.

26 RC: Okay. And so Deputy Juarez brought
27 you here, was with you. Who else showed up to be

1 with you during this time period besides your
2 counsel?

3 TH: People from peer support, a whole
4 bunch of admin all showed up. I mean, honestly, a
5 lot more people I did -- I honestly did not know
6 and met for the first time.

7 RC: Okay.

8 TH: I --

9 RC: So name all the people that you can
10 identify that are admin or peer support, those
11 folks that came in and -- and visited or stayed
12 with you.

13 TH: There was Cook, Paris was there,
14 Czyrkliis was there. I think Odenath was there.
15 Yeah. And honest, I -- I can't really think right
16 now of everybody else's names and that's in
17 combination I don't know what everybody's names,
18 but also still --

19 RC: Uh-huh.

20 TH: -- trying to re- -- kind of remember
21 'cause I wasn't really thinking about who
22 everybody was. I was just kind of overwhelmed --

23 RC: Okay.

24 TH: -- having to go -- go through this.

25 RC: Do you know what kind of body worn
26 camera you have?

27 TH: I believe it's the Axon 3 Body worn

1 camera.

2 RC: Okay.

3 TH: We just -- we just upgraded to this
4 one.

5 RC: That's assigned to you?

6 TH: Correct.

7 RC: Okay. Okay.

8 Anything?

9 CS: No.

10 RC: All right.

11 I really appreciate it. Thank you. This
12 helps us immensely in our investigation. It's a
13 lot to go through. And we'll be in communication
14 with your attorney and provide you updates on the
15 investigation. Okay? Anything else you would
16 like to say before we close?

17 TH: No.

18 RC: Okay. I appreciate it. Thank you.

19 TH: Thank you.

20 Ending interview.

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