

TRANSCRIBED BY INTERROGATIONS STENOGRAPHER
DEBRAH A. ENNEVOR

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CASE #120526-151711

OFC. J. RAMIREZ' POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING

VIC: #1 B/M RUDY EUGENE (DECEASED)

VIC: #2 W/M RONALD POPPO

LOC: NORTH BAYSHORE DR. & 13TH ST.
MIAMI, FL

OFND: RUDY EUGENE

STENOGRAPHICALLY TRANSCRIBED

VIA DIGITAL RECORDING

OF

MR. RONALD POPPO

A P P E A R A N C E S

SGT. WILLIAMS, ALTARR
DET. FRANK SANCHEZ

JACKSON PERDUE MEDICAL CENTER
19590 OLD CUTLER ROAD
CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA 33157.

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

ORIGINAL
COPY

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1 (UI-UNINTELLIGIBLE)

2
3 SGT. WILLIAMS: All right, we're here to
4 investigate the police shooting that occurred
5 on May 26, 2012, in the area of Biscayne
6 Boulevard or Bayshore Boulevard -- Bayshore
7 Drive and 13th Street.

8 It's gonna be in reference to City of
9 Miami Police case No. 120526-151711.

10 MR. POPPO: It was the 26th of May? I
11 thought it was about the 16th of May.

12 SGT. WILLIAMS: No, it's the 26th of May.

13 MR. POPPO: Well, whatever.

14 SGT. WILLIAMS: Today's date is July 19th.

15 MR. POPPO: Nineteen, right.

16 SGT. WILLIAMS: And the time is now
17 7:02 p.m.

18 MR. POPPO: Right.

19 SGT. WILLIAMS: We're here -- I am Sgt.
20 Williams of the City of Miami Homicide Unit.
21 Here with me is Det. Frankie Sanchez, who is
22 also with the City of Miami Homicide unit, and
23 Ms. Aldofa, A-D-O-L-F-A.

24 DET. SANCHEZ: Canangca-An.

25 MS. CANANGA-AN: Yes, correct.

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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DET. SANCHEZ: C-A-N-A-N-G-C-A-, dash,
capital A-N.

SGT. WILLIAMS: Who is the registered
nurse here at Jackson Perdue Medical Center.
Which is located at 19590 Old Cutler Road,
Cutler Bay, Florida 33157.

Also here with us is Mr. Ronald Poppo, who
has been listed as a victim in this
investigation.

Mr. Poppo, to the -- can you raise your
right hand?

A Sure thing.

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1 Thereupon,

2 **MR. RONALD POPPO,**

3 having been first duly sworn, was examined

4 and testified under oath as follows:

5

6 A So help me God.

7 Q Okay, you're aware that the statement
8 you're about to give, is being taped?

9 A Okay, sure.

10 Q Obviously, your home address is currently
11 here at Jackson Perdue Medical Center. And outside
12 of this facility, do you have any other addresses
13 that you use?

14 A No, not at all.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Too old.

17 Q And you're currently not employed, right?

18 A Yes, I'm over 65.

19 Q Okay.

20 A So it's gonna be hard for me to get
21 anything.

22 Q Okay. On the day of May 26, 2012, in the
23 vicinity of South Bayshore Drive and 13th Street; on
24 the McArthur Causeway, can you tell me, in your own
25 words, speak slowly and clearly, what happened on or

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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1 about two o'clock p.m. that afternoon?

2 A The hitchhiker returned from the Beach,
3 who was in kind of a glad mode for a while. Then he
4 turned kind of vicious after -- after -- after a
5 minute or two. And he start to rip -- rip me apart.

6 He mashed my face into the, ah, sidewalk.
7 My face is all bent, mashed up. My eyes -- my eyes
8 got plucked -- plucked out. He was strang --
9 strangling me in wrestling holds. At the same time,
10 he was picking my eyes out. He was strangling me in
11 wrestling holds.

12 For a very short amount of time, I thought
13 he was a good guy. But he just went and turned
14 ber -- berserk. He apparently didn't have a good
15 day at the beach, and he -- he was coming back. And
16 I guess he took it out -- took it out on me -- or
17 something. I don't know.

18 Q Okay, um --

19 A The police, of course, ah, came around and
20 freed me from him.

21 Q -- okay.

22 A You want anymore detail -- details about
23 that? Or is that -- that sufficient?

24 Q Well, let me ask you a couple of
25 questions. You said that a stranger came from the

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1 beach. How did he came from the beach?

2 A I believe he hitchhiked back, for sure.

3 Q Okay. You say --

4 A Sometimes -- sometimes he might have
5 walked back. Sometimes he might have hitched back.

6 'Cause that day, I think he hitched back.

7 Q -- okay. Have you -- did you see him
8 hitch back -- hitch hack back [sic]?

9 A Well, I heard a car door slam. Then I saw
10 him move around, right along the sides of the
11 Causeway. So it appeared that he was just being
12 discharged from a car.

13 Q Okay. Can you --

14 A The vehicle.

15 Q -- describe that car?

16 A No, I can't. Because there's some kind of
17 obstructions. Like I couldn't get a view of the
18 road from the walkway.

19 Q All right. Did it sound like a -- a -- a,
20 ah, car or maybe a big truck, or...?

21 A It didn't sound like much of anything,
22 but...but a car.

23 Q Okay. Did you get a chance to see the
24 driver of the car?

25 A No, I didn't get a chance to see anything.

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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1 Q All right. Did you make any contact and
2 communicate with the driver?

3 A No. Nothing like that.

4 Q Okay. When Mr. Eugene got out of the car,
5 can you describe how he looked?

6 A He was, ah, a bit taller than me, a bit
7 bigger than me. He definitely have size over me.
8 He had hair that was brown and wavy. And it looked
9 like a Mohican type of haircut. Almost, almost
10 looked like a Mohican. It came out little spiny
11 curls, or something like that; whatever you call
12 them. And he had a whole bunch of those going down
13 the -- the middle of his head. I don't know. I
14 really couldn't assume what -- what -- what he was.

15 Q All right. What about his facial hair?
16 Did he have a mustache? Beard --

17 A No, he had nothing like that.

18 Q -- no? No beard?

19 A He appeared to be clean-shaved guy.

20 Q What color shirt did he have on?

21 A Like a dark green.

22 Q What color pants did he have on?

23 A I think a dark color also, probably --
24 probably black. I think we were both dressed about
25 the same. I think I mentioned that before.

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1 Q You just said, "They both were dressed
2 about the same." Who were -- who were they?

3 A My -- myself and Eugene.

4 Q Okay. Both of you were dressed about the
5 same.

6 A Both had the same color shirt, and the
7 same type of pants; I think.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Not much difference.

10 Q Did Mr. Eugene have anything in his hand?

11 A No. Eugene did not have any type -- type
12 of weapon. He did not use any weapon on me. He
13 basically was using brute -- brute force.

14 Q But before he attacked you, when you saw
15 him getting out of that car; did you have any, ah,
16 clothes? any materials? any books?

17 A No.

18 Q Or anything in his hands?

19 A I don't really recall him having anything.

20 Q Okay.

21 A Just himself.

22 Q So after he gets out of the car, what
23 happened after that?

24 A Oh, he ran -- he ran up to the walkaway.
25 And he wanted to, ah, just to, you know, lounge --

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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DEBRAH A. ENNEVOR

1 lounge around for a while. And he -- he -- he was
2 talking for a little bit. And then -- then he start
3 to attack me.

4 Q Okay, when he came up to the walkway, and
5 you guys were talking; what did he talk about?

6 A Basically, the Beach; coming back.

7 Q What did he say?

8 A He -- he didn't like the Beach for
9 something. He said he wasn't scoring there, or
10 something. He went to the Beach to score, or
11 something. He is in -- he is in kind of
12 flustered -- flustered mode about it, I think.

13 Q Okay. Did he tell you -- did he elaborate
14 any further as to what was he doing at the Beach?

15 A No, he didn't. But I heard -- I heard
16 somebody say he was an "acidhead". That's what I
17 heard.

18 Q But that would have been after the
19 incident?

20 A Well, certainly.

21 Q What did -- did you hear anything about
22 his character, or his demeanor; before the incident?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. So he -- he's telling you that he
25 came from the Beach. And he was, ah, appeared to be

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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1 flustered, as you say?

2 A For a while, he was acting nice. Then he
3 got a little bit flustered.

4 Q All right.

5 A He probably remembered some incident on
6 the Beach, and got -- got kind of mad about things.

7 Q What happened after that?

8 A He attacked me. He just ripped me to
9 ribbons. He chewed up my face. He plucked out my
10 eyes. Can -- can you see my face was -- you could
11 see around my eyes where it is? It's all...

12 Q Yes, I could see it.

13 A Basically, that's -- that's all there is
14 to say about it. He --

15 Q What was he saying when he was assaulting
16 you?

17 A -- "You, me, buddy, and nobody else here.
18 I'm gonna -- gonna kill you." or something like
19 that, I guess.

20 Q Did he say why?

21 A No, he just started to scream. And he was
22 talking kind of funny talk for a while too, yeah.

23 Q What do you mean by "funny talk"?

24 A That I was gonna die. And he was gonna
25 die. He must have been souped up on something.

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1 Q Okay.

2 A He -- he had some kind desperate
3 preoccupation of that type.

4 Q Did you did --

5 A Like I said --

6 Q -- did you say anything to him to provoke
7 him?

8 A I don't see where. Nothing like that.
9 What can provoke an attack of that type?

10 Q Okay.

11 A I certainly didn't curse at the guy, or
12 say anything mean or nasty to him.

13 Q Did you have anything of his personal
14 belongings that would've made him --

15 A No, I did not have his personal
16 belongings.

17 Q -- okay. Prior to him attacking you, do
18 you recall what he was doing before he attacked you?

19 A Mozing around a little bit. He -- he was
20 just gonna get himself adjusted, I imagined; to
21 where -- where he had to.

22 Q Okay.

23 A That was about -- about it. I can't say
24 much more, actually.

25 Q You don't know exactly what was he doing

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1 before he attacked you?

2 A Just -- just mozing around. Being chummy.
3 Like I said, we were chummy for a while. Then he
4 just snapped. And God knows what --

5 Q When -- when he attacked you -- when he
6 came up to you, what was he wearing, at that time?

7 A -- he was wearing a dark-green shirt, and
8 some -- some shorts.

9 Q So while he was attacking -- attacking
10 you -- he had on dark-green shirt --

11 A Yeah, and shorts.

12 Q -- and shorts?

13 A I think they're also dark color.

14 Q Okay. And what exactly were you doing
15 when he first attacked you?

16 A I didn't do a thing. I just didn't know
17 how to get away from the guy, either.

18 Q I mean, but what were you doing? Were you
19 sitting down? Lying down? Standing up? Do you
20 recall?

21 A Stand -- standing up, I think. I think I
22 was.

23 Q Just to the best of your memory.

24 A I think I was standing up, yeah.

25 Q But you're not sure what you was doing?

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1 A Pretty well sure, I was -- yeah -- I was
2 standing up. But he was bigger than me. He had
3 advantage -- he had advantage over me.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Can I get a drink of water?

6 Q Yes, sure.

7 MS. CANANGA-AN: You need some water?

8 A Or some juice, whatever you can get.
9 It's a little bit more talking?
10 Like I told you guys, you couldn't come
11 early in the day; about two, three o'clock,
12 something like that.

13 SGT. WILLIAMS: Well, we were trying to
14 get here by three, but traffic is bad. And we
15 had a lot of things, other things to do.

16 MR. POPPO: Tied up. Tied up.

17 BY SGT. WILLIAMS:

18 Q Is there anything else that happened, that
19 we haven't discussed; that you want to talk about?

20 A Just to the fact that the police got there
21 after I screamed. You said the camera caught some
22 of that too, whatever. (UI) right in front of the
23 Herald, all that. That's the walkway that goes over
24 the bridge, that goes past the Herald.

25 Q Yeah.

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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DEBRAH A. ENNEVOR

1 A 'Cause I think they have private security
2 over there, and a few other -- few other things.

3 Q Do you recall -- do you recall ever seeing
4 Mr. Eugene before?

5 A I do not think so.

6 Q Did you ever, ah, to the best of your
7 knowledge; remember Mr. Eugene providing any type of
8 food to the homeless?

9 A Nah, I don't remember not -- nothing like
10 that. Excuse me.

11 Q Okay. So on the day of the incident, that
12 was like the first time you've ever seen him?

13 A Yeah. I don't think it was any other time
14 I saw him.

15 Q No?

16 A It might even be worth much to even
17 mention. If he's known for going up and down the
18 road, that's about as much -- as much as we ever
19 would've thought of him, either.

20 So apparently, he -- he usually went to
21 the Beach and back all the time.

22 Q How do you know that?

23 A I said parent -- "apparently" -- I'm not a
24 hundred percent certain of it.

25 Q Oh, you don't know that?

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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DEBRAH A. ENNEVOR

1 A Well, he's a young guy. There's option
2 over there; isn't there?

3 Q Well, that is true. I mean, there's
4 always something going on over the Beach; but that
5 doesn't necessarily mean that --

6 A I think -- I think he dealt or
7 something -- but I'm not sure.

8 Q How do you know that?

9 A 'Cause I heard, I hear stuff. Whatever
10 you want to call it telepathy.

11 Well, any way; I'm getting kind of
12 exhausted.

13 Q Okay, I understand. I understand. All
14 right, um, like I said; is there anything else you
15 want to say that, um...?

16 A Nah, I think the Miami Police Department
17 for saving my life. That -- that's about the best I
18 could sum it up as.

19 If they didn't get there in a nick of
20 time, I would -- would've definitely be in worse
21 shape. Possibly I'll be DOA.

22 Q Okay. Is this statement you've given,
23 true and correct; to the best of your knowledge?

24 A Yes, it is.

25 Q Have you given this statement freely and

STATEMENT OF MR. RONALD POPPO

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DEBRAH A. ENNEVOR

1 voluntarily?

2 A Yes, I have.

3 Q Has anyone threatened you, or coerced you
4 to make this statement?

5 A No, nobody has.

6 Q And has anyone promised you any, or
7 offered you a rewards for making this statement?

8 A No, no one has offered me any rewards.

9 SGT. WILLIAMS: Okay. The time is now
10 7:16 p.m. This concludes this sworn statement;
11 of Mr. Ronald Poppo.

12

13 (Thereupon, taped-sworn statement was transcribed
14 and completed on this 25th day of July, 2012.)

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By: [Signature]
Debrah A. Ennevor
Interrogations Stenographer

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