1	REPORTER'S RECORD					
2	VOLUME 3 OF 7 VOLUMES TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. 1401543 FILED IN 1st COURT OF APPEALS					
3	THE STATE OF TEXAS) IN THE DISTRICT COURT 11/17/2015 12:29:59 PM					
4	VS.) HARRIS COU dhris, tophera. Prine (lerk					
5	MARIO PAREDES) 339TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT					
6						
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8						
9	TRIAL ON THE MERITS					
10						
11						
12	On the 28th day of July, 2015, the following					
13	proceedings came on to be held in the above-titled and					
14	numbered cause before the Honorable Frank Price, Judge					
15	Presiding, held in Houston, Harris County, Texas.					
16	Proceedings reported by computerized stenotype					
17	machine.					
18						
19						
20	Pamela Kay Knobloch, CSR					
21	Official Court Reporter					
22	339th District Court					
23	Harris County, Texas					
24						
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1
                           APPEARANCES
2
3
   Ms. Paula Hartman
   SBOT NO. 00792733
4
   Ms. Lisa Collins
   SBOT NO. 24054166
5
   Assistant District Attorneys
   1201 Franklin
6
   Houston, Texas 77002
   Telephone: 713-755-5800
7
   ATTORNEYS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
8
   Mr. Mario Madrid
9
   SBOT NO. 00797777
   ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT
10
11
12
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1 Defendant has interpreter) (NOTE: 2 THE COURT: Let me ask you to retire now. 3 She may have some instructions for you, and then we'll call you back out and get started until they bring your 4 food. Okay. 5 6 (Outside jury's presence) 7 THE COURT: Will you please arraign the 8 defendant? 9 MS. COLLINS: Thank you, Judge. In the 10 name and by authority of the State of Texas, the duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents 11 12 in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in 13 Harris County, Texas, Mario Ernesto Paredes, hereafter styled the defendant, heretofore on or about 14 August 31st, 2013, did then and there unlawfully, while 15 16 in the course of committing and attempting to commit the 17 robbery of Jhon Bermudez-Gilces, intentionally cause the 18 death of Jhon Bermudez-Gilces by shooting the 19 complainant with a deadly weapon, namely, a firearm. 20 Against the peace and dignity of the 21 State, and signed by the Foreman of the Grand Jury. 22 THE COURT: And, Mario Ernesto Paredes, 23 how do you plead to that allegation of capital murder 24 just presented to you by the Assistant District Attorney 25 from the indictment, guilty or not guilty?

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1
                 THE DEFENDANT:
                                 Not guilty.
2
                 THE COURT: Okay. Very well. You can sit
3
   down and be at ease for a few minutes.
4
                 Okay. We're ready for the jury.
5
                  (Jury enters courtroom)
6
                 THE COURT: Y'all be seated.
7
                 Would you present the indictment to the
8
   jury, please?
9
                 MS. COLLINS: Yes, Your Honor.
10
                  In the name and by authority of the State
11
   of Texas, the duly organized Grand Jury of Harris
12
   County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris
13
   County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, Mario
14
   Ernesto Paredes, hereafter styled the defendant,
15
   heretofore on or about August 31st, 2013, did then and
16
   there unlawfully, while in the course of committing and
17
   attempting to commit the robbery of Jhon
18
   Bermudez-Gilces, intentionally cause the death of Jhon
19
   Bermudez-Gilces by shooting the complainant with a
20
   deadly weapon, namely, a firearm.
21
                 Against the peace and dignity of the
22
   State.
           Signed by the Foreman of the Grand Jury.
23
                 THE COURT: To which indictment, members
24
   of the jury, the defendant has entered his plea of not
25
   guilty.
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Does either side want to make an opening statement at this time?

MS. HARTMAN: Briefly from the State, Your Honor.

OPENING STATEMENT

was in his mid twenties. He also went by the nickname of Bicho. He worked for his uncle. You're going to hear that his uncle sold drugs, and Jhon sole drugs for his uncle. On Saturday night, August 31st, 2013, a little after 7:00 o'clock, Jhon was talking to his girlfriend, Daisy. And during their conversation, his phone is going to drop and it's going to go dead; and Daisy is not going to call back until later on.

During that time, Jhon has gotten a phone call from Osmin Hernandez. You're going to find out that Osmin Hernandez is a codefendant in this case.

Osmin Hernandez is ordering some drugs from Jhon, and Jhon is going to go to the apartment complex where Osmin lives. And that is going to be over off Conventry Square; and that's on the southwest side of the Harris County, 59 South, kind of about the West Belfort/Dairy Ashford area.

So, when Jhon gets there -- he gets there a little after 7:00 o'clock. And when he gets there,

there is going to be -- in the parking lot there is going to be Gerardo Arredondo, who you're going to hear from. And there is also going to be the defendant, Mario Paredes, and Osmin Hernandez. And when Jhon gets there, he is going to park the car. And as soon as he parks the car, Osmin Hernandez is going to get to the passenger side and get in really fast. And, also, Mario Paredes is going to approach the driver's side door; and he's going to make Jhon get in the backseat.

And Jhon gets into the backseat by climbing over. And when he does, Gerardo Arredondo is going to be in the backseat. Osmin Hernandez is in the front seat. Mario Paredes is in the front seat driver's side. And Gerardo Arredondo is going to be in the backseat with Jhon.

Unbeknownst to Jhon, at this point in time his fate has already been sealed. There has already been a plan made. The plan is to rob and kill him for the drugs. They are going to drive Jhon on to a nearby neighborhood about ten minutes away. And when they get into that neighborhood, at some point in time Gerardo is going to try to hand the gun to Mario Paredes. And at that point in time, Jhon is going to make a break for it and try to run. And when he tries to run, Osmin Hernandez gets out of the car, briefly chases Jhon; and

Mario, driving the car with Gerardo, are going to follow him for a bit.

At some point in time, Mario Paredes and Gerardo Arredondo are going to get out of the car. And when they get out of the car, they are going to chase after Jhon. And Osmin Hernandez is going to have called Nilson Alvarez (sic) to come pick him up. And you're going to hear that Nilson is going to be Osmin Hernandez's step -- his -- Nilson is Osmin Hernandez's stepbrother's stepson. So to make that clear, Nilson's stepfather is Osmin Hernandez's brother. And Nilson is also a good friend of Gerardo Arredondo.

So, Jhon makes the break for it. He's going to be chased by Mario Paredes and Gerardo Arredondo. Osmin Hernandez, who took the drugs, is going to leave with Nilson. Jhon is going to make it to the backyard. And at some point in time in the backyard, he's going to be shot in the abdomen and in the shoulder. He's going to keep running. And when he gets to the gate, he's going to fall to his knees; and he's going to be shot in the back of the head.

He's not going to be found until the next morning. And when the police arrive, they start canvassing the neighborhood. They're going to talk to the neighbors, and the neighbors are going to tell you

that they heard two or three shots between 7:00 and 7:30. And this is p.m. And then after Mario Paredes and Gerardo Arredondo shot Jhon, they're going to take his car; and they're going to take his car about ten minutes from that neighborhood to another neighborhood.

At that point they're going to attempt to burn his vehicle, and it's not going to completely burn. And there is going to be a 911 call from that, and an offense report was made through the arson investigator through Fort Bend County. And you're going to get a timeline that that was several minutes later. They are going to go -- after that, Nilson is going to get a call from Gerardo Arredondo to come pick up himself and Mario Paredes.

So, Nilson, in the car with Mario Paredes, Gerardo Arredondo and Osmin Hernandez, are going to go back to the apartment complex. Through the investigation, officers are going to find the suspects. They are going to be interviewed. They're going to give statements. Some are going to be more truthful, are going to be laced with self-serving statements.

But you're going to find that Gerardo

Arredondo is going to give a statement to the police,

and he is going to testify for you. And he is the one

individual who brought the police to the gun that killed

Opening Statement by Ms. Hartman July 28, 2015

1 Jhon Gilces. And you're going to find through 2 ballistics evidence that the gun that was recovered, 3 matches the fragments that were recovered from Jhon. 4 And by the end, the State will have proven to you that 5 Mario Paredes is guilty of capital murder. 6 THE COURT: Any remarks? 7 MR. MADRID: Yes, Your Honor, just 8 briefly. 9 OPENING STATEMENT 10 MR. MADRID: Good afternoon. You're going 11 to meet a cast of characters in this case. And you've 12 heard them, and they might be a little bit confusing. 13 Hopefully, as the case goes on, you'll get this down. 14 There is a young man, Jhon Gilces. He's the complaining witness. And unfortunately, he was --15 16 he died. He was murdered in this case, and the evidence 17 is going to be clear about that. He died the way a lot 18 of people in his line of work die. He was shot and 19 killed. He was a drug dealer. He worked with his 20 uncle, who they're going to call Bicho or Profe, as in 21 professor. He was known as Bicho, which is an El 22 Salvadorian word for, like, little young one; because he 23 was younger and worked for his uncle selling drugs. 24 He knew a few people, including Mario 25 Paredes, my client. Mario had a friend named Osmin, who

was also charged in this case. Osmin had a step-nephew named Nilson, who wasn't charge in this case but was extremely involved in this case. And then Gerardo Arredondo, who is going to come and testify. So, these are the four players and the complaining witness.

other than the evidence of a self-serving murderer,
Gerardo Arredondo, that my client did this or committed
this crime. There is not going to be -- all the
evidence is going to -- you'll certainly have evidence
that he was there, that he bought drugs from Bicho, that
he had known Profe for a number of years, that he had no
reason to murder these people that he knew and he liked.

But you will hear that Gerardo Arredondo is the person that had the gun and brought the police to the gun, and he's going to claim that he was threatened. Yet, you will hear he's the one that had the gun, and he knew where it was. And you're going to hear he was also involved in another case where he was charged with capital murder that was later reduced to murder. And the State is going to use that testimony to try to convince you that Mario Paredes is guilty.

At the end of all that evidence, I'm certain that you'll find that they're not going to prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt. And I'll be

Opening Statement by Mr. Madrid July 28, 2015

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asking for a not guilty. Thank you.
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2
                  THE COURT: Members of the jury, I've been
3
   told that the lunch is here. So, I'm going to ask that
4
   you go back to the jury deliberation room. Just
5
   remember the instructions I've given you about not
6
   talking about the case. Okay.
7
                  (Lunch recess)
8
                  (Jury enters courtroom)
9
                  THE COURT: Call your first witness.
10
                 MS. HARTMAN:
                                Daisy Alvarez.
11
                  THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, this witness has
12
   not previously sworn in.
13
                  (Sworn)
14
                  THE COURT: The Rule has been invoked,
15
   which means none of the other witnesses can hear your
16
   testimony; and you can't talk to any of the other
17
   witnesses about it, okay?
18
                  THE WITNESS: All right.
19
                  THE COURT: Okay. Keep your voice up loud
20
   and clear.
21
                  Go ahead.
22
                 MS. HARTMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.
23
24
25
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1 DAISY ALVAREZ, 2 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows: 3 DIRECT EXAMINATION 4 BY MS. HARTMAN: 5 Daisy, can you please introduce yourself to the Q. 6 jury? 7 My name is Daisy Alvarez. Α. 8 0. You might need to speak up just a little bit. 9 All right. Α. 10 0. Okay. And how old are you, Daisy? 11 Twenty-three. A . 12 0. Maybe scoot up just a tad. There you go. 13 are you employed? 14 Α. Yes, ma'am. 15 And where do you work at? 0. 16 Α. At a law firm. 17 And what part of town is your law firm at? 0. 18 A . Galleria area. 19 And how long have you been there? 0. 20 Α. Four months. And do you know Jhon Gilces? 21 0. 22 Α. Yes, ma'am. 23 And how did you know Jhon? 0. 24 A . I used to have a relationship with him. 25 And how long did you know him? Q.

1 Probably like three years. Α. 2 What kind of relationship did you have with 0. 3 him? 4 We were friends. We were kind of dating Α. 5 towards the end. 6 0. And how long were you dating? 7 A. About a year. 8 MS. HARTMAN: Your Honor, may I approach? 9 THE COURT: All right. 10 0. (By Ms. Hartman) I'm going to show you State's 11 Exhibit No. 1 and State's Exhibit No. 2. Can you please 12 take a look at those? And do you recognize the 13 individual in State's Exhibits Nos. 1 and 2? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Okay. 16 MS. HARTMAN: Your Honor, previously 17 tendered to defense counsel, I'll go ahead and offer State's Exhibits Nos. 1 and 2. 18 19 MR. MADRID: No objection, Your Honor. 20 THE COURT: Admitted. 21 0. (By Ms. Hartman) Can you tell the jury who 22 this is in State's Exhibit No. 1? 23 Jhon Gilces. A. 24 Can you recall about how old Jhon was in that 25 picture?

- 1 Twenty-three, twenty-four. A . 2 And do you recall how old Jhon was back in 0. 3 2013? 4 Twenty-five. Α. 5 And did you speak to him on Saturday, August Q. 6 the 31st of 2013? 7 Yes, ma'am. Α. 8 0. And what were you talking to him about? 9 We were just normally texting towards the end Α. 10 of the day. 11 Where were you when you were talking? Q. 12 A . My grandma's house. 13 Q. Do you live with your grandma? 14 No, ma'am. I was visiting. A . 15 About what time were you talking -- did you 0. 16 talk to him? 17 Probably about 7:00, and we talked about ten Α. minutes or so. 18 19 Did anything happen during that phone call? 20 Α. He just finished getting a haircut. And then 21 my grandma was talking to me, too. And I heard Jhon say 22 something, but I'm not sure what he said. And the call 23 just hanged up, and I just didn't call back. 24
 - Q. Was that 7:00 p.m. or a.m.?
- 25 Α. P.m.

1 At any time, did you try to call him back after 0. 2 that? 3 Not during the time. I called him back, like, Α. 4 hours later. 5 0. Was that unusual that the call would drop like 6 that? 7 Not really. A . 8 0. It didn't cause you any concern at that point 9 in time? 10 Α. No; because my grandma was bothering me, too. 11 Did you have any other contact with Jhon after Q. 12 that telephone conversation? 13 Α. No. Did you know where Jhon was going? 14 0. 15 I believe he was going to see some friends. A . 16 Q. Do you recall their names? 17 Osmin. A . 18 Q. Was it just Osmin, or was there anybody else? 19 That's what he told me, but there was a bunch A . 20 of guys in the apartment. 21 Is Osmin the only name that you remember? 0. 22 Α. Right now, yes. 23 Did you know that Jhon was selling drugs? 0. 24 No, ma'am. Α. 25 What did you think he did? Q.

He worked at a carpet company. Carpet company, 1 Α. 2 like you put carpet in. 3 0. Oh, carpet. Okay. Did you have any idea how 4 he knew Osmin? 5 Α. They used to hang out at a park, I believe. 6 0. Do you recall how -- who Jhon lived with? 7 His mother, his dad, and his brother and Α. 8 sister. 9 Q. Did, at any time, he live with his uncle? 10 Α. No. 11 And how did -- did his immediate family live? 0. 12 Α. They all lived in the one-bedroom apartment. 13 Did he show any signs of extravagant living Q. 14 with his immediate family? 15 Α. No. 16 0. Were you aware of what his uncle did? 17 Α. No. 18 Q. Do you know any additional names that his uncle 19 went by? 20 Α. No, ma'am. 21 0. Do you recall where Jhon was going to meet 22 Osmin? 23 I believe at his apartment, which is on Α. 24 Kirkwood. 25 Q. And do you recall where on Kirkwood?

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1
             On Bissonnet and Kirkwood.
       Α.
2
             Okay. Is that in Harris County?
       0.
3
       Α.
             Yes.
4
                  MS. HARTMAN: Your Honor, may I approach?
5
             (By Ms. Hartman) Show you State's Exhibit 39
       Q.
6
   and 98.
             Do you recognize the vehicle in these photos?
7
       A .
             Yes.
8
       0.
             Does the vehicle look like it did back in 2013?
9
             Yes.
       Α.
10
                  MS. HARTMAN: We'll go ahead and offer
11
   State's Exhibit No. 39.
12
                  MR. MADRID: No objection, Your Honor.
                  MS. HARTMAN: And 98.
13
14
                  THE COURT: Admitted.
15
       0.
            (By Ms. Hartman) State's Exhibit 39. Is this
16
   a picture of John's car?
17
            Yes, ma'am.
       Α.
18
       Q.
            And State's Exhibit No. 98, does that look like
19
   a picture of Jhon's car?
20
       Α.
            Yes.
             It looks like it's driving through an entrance
21
22
   ramp?
23
             Correct.
       Α.
24
            And, Daisy, I'm going to show you State's
25
   Exhibit -- show you what's been marked as State's
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1
   Exhibit No. 2 and already admitted. Is that a picture
2
   of Jhon?
3
       A .
            Yes, ma'am.
4
                 MS. HARTMAN: Pass the witness, Your
5
   Honor.
6
                 THE COURT: All right.
7
                 MR. MADRID: May I proceed, Your Honor?
8
   May we approach briefly?
9
                 (At the bench)
                 MR. MADRID: Just wanted to see if the
10
11
   State could advise their family not to be crying or
12
   making noise in the courtroom.
13
                 THE COURT: Well, I looked at them, and
14
   there was no visible outburst. But I know what you're
15
   saying. Come here. I know you guys got to move around
16
   the courtroom. Don't ask permission. Just get up and
17
   do it. Do what you need to do. Good Lord, quit asking
18
   permission.
19
                 (Continuing in jury's hearing)
20
                 MR. MADRID: May I proceed, Your Honor?
21
                 THE COURT: Yes.
22
                      CROSS-EXAMINATION
23
   BY MR. MADRID:
24
       Q. Good afternoon, Miss Alvarez. You knew Jhon a
25
   couple of years?
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DAISY ALVAREZ - July 28, 2015 Cross-Examination by Mr. Madrid

1 Α. Yes. 2 0. And you dated for a year? 3 Α. Correct. 4 But you weren't at all aware that he was 0. 5 dealing drugs? 6 Α. No, sir. 7 You were asked about his uncle. What did you 8 know of his uncle's name? Which uncle did you think the 9 prosecutor was referring to? 10 John Carlos. Α. 11 John Carlos' uncle? 0. 12 No. John Carlos is his name. Α. 13 And you didn't know him as Profe or Professor? Q. 14 Α. No. 15 0. You weren't aware he was selling drugs? 16 Α. No. 17 Did you know -- you were asked a question about 0. 18 whether he had -- something to the effect that you know 19 he lived in a one-bedroom apartment, right? 20 Α. Correct. 21 Is there any extravagance he had or anything 0. 22 like that? 23 He lives in, like, the basic Hispanic area when A . 24 people first arrive. They don't ask for papers or 25 anything to get an apartment type of complex.

- Q. He was from Ecuador, right?A. Correct.
- Q. He was wearing a Gucci hat. That's kind of extravagant, right, in that picture?
- A. Well, from what I know or see, I believe there is a lot of, like, fake stuff sold in the foreign countries. So, that's why I never knew stuff like real.
- Q. And when he was found -- unfortunately, when he was found dead, he was wearing True Religion jeans. I don't know if you know. Those are expensive jeans, right?
 - A. I believe so.
- Q. And if you know, did you know that he was found with \$1,500 cash on him?
 - A. Not till after the fact.
 - Q. So you had heard that, that he still had --
- 17 A. Correct.

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- Q. -- he still had a lot of money on him?
- A. He had just got paid. He had actually just got paid that same day. He picked up his check earlier.
 - Q. So, whoever committed this act didn't steal this. You know, they had an opportunity if they wanted to steal all this money from him, right?
 - A. Right.
- 25 Q. But they left \$1,500, right?

Α. Correct.

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25

- 2 And I think he had a Gucci belt, too. They didn't take that, either.
 - Like I said, I mean, in his country everybody has stuff like that. It's all the duplicates.
 - 0. You said that you had heard -- you had this conversation on that Saturday night. It was August 31st, 2013. So, it's just about two years ago now, right?
- 10 Α. Correct.
 - And he was getting his hair cut, right? Q.
- 12 A . Uh-huh.
- 13 And you exchanged texts? Q.
- 14 A . Correct.
- 0. I guess you also heard something, him saying he 16 was going to Osmin?
 - We were texting, and he didn't text me back til about like thirty or forty minutes. So, that's when I called him. I was trying to text him back, but that's when he was getting a haircut. And he's just like going let it go, with Osmin or whatever. And I was just like, okay. So, we were on the phone; and he was driving. But then I got distracted, and I just I heard him say -well, I heard something. I'm not sure if he said

something. It was just a noise. But after that, the

DAISY ALVAREZ - July 28, 2015 Cross-Examination by Mr. Madrid

```
1
   call dropped. And my grandma was talking to me, so I
2
   didn't brother to call him back. I just text him.
3
             Did you know who this was, Osmin or Osmin?
4
             I knew they would hang out sometimes.
       Α.
5
             He was -- this person, Osmin, he's an older
       0.
6
   person, right?
7
       Α.
             Correct.
8
       0.
             Or older than -- not that much older, early to
9
   mid thirties?
10
       Α.
             Uh-huh.
11
             They didn't have any reason to hang out, did
       0.
12
   they?
13
             I mean, they did, you know.
       Α.
14
             What did they do?
       0.
15
             They would smoke together. That's what I would
       Α.
16
   know.
17
             They would smoke marijuana?
       0.
18
       A .
             Correct.
19
             Does they smoke crack?
       0.
20
       Α.
             Not that I know of.
21
       0.
             Did you also know this person to my right,
22
   Mario Paredes?
23
             I think I've seen him a couple of times.
       Α.
24
             Where did you see him?
       Q.
25
             Whenever he would go to get some marijuana,
       Α.
```

```
1
   they would go to their place.
2
            Can you be clear with it? When Jhon would go?
       0.
3
            Like whenever -- like, sometimes I would drop
4
   him off whenever he would go smoke with them.
5
       0.
            And when you say drop him off, in that picture
6
   that you saw, it was in that apartment complex, right?
7
       Α.
            Uh-huh.
8
       0.
             So, they were friends?
9
            They would hang out occasionally.
       Α.
10
       0.
            And did you know anybody else? Did you know
11
   Gerardo, a younger guy named Gerardo Arredondo?
12
       Α.
            No.
13
            They call him Grande or something like that?
       Q.
14
             There was a whole bunch of guys in the
       Α.
15
   apartment that would hang out. I wouldn't know all of
16
   them.
17
       0.
            Did you know another guy named Nilson?
18
       Α.
            No.
19
            Okay. Thank you.
       0.
20
                  MR. MADRID: Pass the witness, Your Honor.
21
                  MS. HARTMAN: Nothing further, Your Honor.
22
                  THE COURT: You may step aside.
23
                  MS. COLLINS: State calls Isidro
24
   Villafuente (sic) to the stand. And he is
25
   Spanish-speaking, Your Honor.
```

DAISY ALVAREZ - July 28, 2015 Cross-Examination by Mr. Madrid

```
1
                  (This witness is testifying through an
2
   interpreter)
3
                  MS. COLLINS: May I proceed, Your Honor?
4
                       ISIDRO VILLABERTA,
5
   having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
6
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
7
   BY MS. COLLINS:
8
       0.
             Could you please state your full name for the
9
   Court, spelling your first and last name?
10
             Isidro Villaberta.
       A .
11
             How do you spell that?
       Q.
12
       Α.
             I-S-I-D-R-O, V-I-L-L-A-B-E-R-T-A.
13
             Sir, what do you do for a living?
       Q.
14
             Construction.
       Α.
15
             Missing work today to be here?
       Q.
16
       Α.
             Two days.
17
             We'll try to make it as quick as possible,
       0.
18
   okay?
19
       Α.
             Yes.
20
       Q.
             Sir, can you tell us where you live?
21
             It's 12427 Howard Drive in Stafford, Texas.
       Α.
22
       Q.
             Is that where you were living back in 2013?
23
       Α.
             Yes.
24
             And I think you already answered that; but is
       Q.
25
   that in Harris County, Texas?
```

ISIDRO VILLABERTA - July 28, 2015 Direct Examination by Ms. Collins

- A. No. It's in Stafford.
- Q. Is that an area of town that is right on the line of Harris County and Fort Bend?
 - A. Yes.

1

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6

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10

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12

17

18

19

- Q. So, some of the houses in your neighborhood are in Harris County and some are in Fort Bend?
 - A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Mr. Villafuente (sic), I want to show you some
 9 photos.
 - MS. COLLINS: Let the record reflect I'm showing him State's Exhibits Nos. 3, 4 and 5. Can you tell us if you recognize what we're looking at here?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And are these maps and photos of the area where 15 you were living in 2013?
- 16 A. Uh-huh, yes.
 - Q. We're talking over each other. Sorry. Do these all look the way they did back in 2013, more or less?
- 20 A. Uh-huh, yes.
- Q. Is that a yes?
- 22 A. Yes.
- MS. COLLINS: State offers into evidence
 State's Exhibits Nos. 3, 4 and 5 and tender to opposing
 counsel.

ISIDRO VILLABERTA - July 28, 2015 Direct Examination by Ms. Collins

```
1
                  MR. MADRID: No objection.
2
                  THE COURT:
                              Admitted.
3
            (By Ms. Collins) Okay, sir, showing you
       0.
4
   State's Exhibit No. 3, is this the area of town that you
   live in?
5
6
       A .
            Yes.
7
             I'm going to show you State's Exhibit No. 4.
8
   It might be a little easier to look at. Is this a
9
   bird's-eye view of that same area?
10
       Α.
            Yes.
11
            Could you point out to us where in this area
       Q.
12
   you lived, where your house is?
13
             It's this one.
       A .
             Okay. If you can, actually put your finger on
14
15
   there and leave a mark. Push real hard. Okay.
16
   think -- is this -- is this your house right there?
17
       Α.
            Yes.
18
       Q.
            Okay. Now, I want to talk to you about
19
   August 31st of 2013. Had you been at work that day?
20
       Α.
            Yes.
21
            And about what time would you have gotten home
       0.
22
   from work that day?
23
             6 -- between 6:30, 6:40.
       Α.
24
             Is that about the normal time you get home?
       Q.
25
             Sometimes. Sometimes I'm home earlier or
       Α.
```

```
1
   later.
2
             On that particular evening, do you remember
       0.
3
   hearing some noises outside?
4
             When I arrived in the driveway, in the parking,
       Α.
5
   we heard two shots.
6
       0.
             And when you say we, who are you talking about?
7
             Myself and my wife.
       Α.
8
       Q.
             Okay. Now, you said you heard what? What did
9
   you hear?
10
       Α.
             Two shots.
11
             Okay. When you say shots, what are you talking
       Q.
12
   about?
13
       Α.
            Like gunshots.
14
       0.
             Gunshots. Are you familiar with weapons,
   Villafuente (sic)?
15
16
       Α.
             Yes.
17
             And how are you familiar with weapons?
       0.
             I have a permit.
18
       Α.
19
             And do you go to the firing range and shoot?
       0.
20
       Α.
             Yes.
21
             Have you done that actually pretty often?
       Q.
22
       Α.
             Oh, yes.
23
             Okay. Because of that, when you heard those
       0.
   two shots that night, could you tell what kind of weapon
24
25
   was being fired?
```

A. 9-millimeter.

1

2

3

4

5

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8

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14

15

16

17

19

20

21

- Q. Now, when you heard those two shots, could you tell what direction they were coming from?
 - A. Behind my house, from the back.
- Q. Okay. And so, you said that your house is right here?
 - A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Could you use your finger and point in the direction where you heard the shots?
- 10 A. I live here, and I heard them around here, the 11 back of the house, behind the house.
- 12 Q. Okay. So, you said you live here; and you 13 heard them in this direction?
 - A. Yes. Because if you're on the street, you can hear from the back.
 - Q. I'm showing you State's Exhibit No. 5. Is this the type of fencing that you have in the neighborhood?
- 18 A. Yes.
 - Q. And is this the type of fencing that was separating your house from the house where you heard the gunshots?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Because of that -- well, let me ask you this:
 Did you go and look at the area where you heard the
 gunshots?

- A. I went to the back of my yard.
- Q. Did you see anything?
- 3 A. No.

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121

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16

20

- Q. Did you hear any voices when you went to the backyard?
 - A. No.
- Q. Mr. Villafuente (sic), throughout the rest of the evening, did you hear any further gunshots that night?
- 10 A. No, not anymore.
 - Q. Mr. Villafuente (sic), did you eventually learn that someone had been killed?
 - A. The following day when the detective arrived, I noticed that there was some people walking on the other side behind my yard. And since the dogs were barking a lot, I went outside to find out what was going on.
- 17 That's when I met with Officer Avila.
- Q. And the people that were walking around backthere, were they officers, as well?
 - A. Yes. It was the Houston Police.
- Q. Did you eventually learn where they had found the person that had been killed?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And was that in the same area where you had heard the gunshots the night before?

ISIDRO VILLABERTA - July 28, 2015 Direct Examination by Ms. Collins

```
1
       Α.
             Yes.
2
             And you said you got home from work that
        0.
3
   evening between 6:30 and 6:45?
4
             Before 7:00, between.
       A .
5
             And you heard the gunshots after you got home?
       Q.
             When I arrived. I was outside in the car.
6
       Α.
7
                  MS. COLLINS: Pass the witness.
8
                  MR. MADRID: Your Honor.
9
                        CROSS-EXAMINATION
10
   BY MR. MADRID:
11
       Q.
            Good afternoon, Mr. Villafuente (sic).
            Good afternoon.
12
        Α.
13
        Q.
             This incident that we're talking about, it's
14
   two years ago; is that right?
15
       Α.
             Yes.
16
        0.
             And when you heard those gunshots -- you live
17
   on Jaguar, right?
18
       Α.
             Yes.
19
             And so, the street behind you is Tambourine?
        0.
20
       Α.
             Yes.
21
             And that's where the shots came from, right?
       0.
22
       Α.
             Yes.
23
             And when you looked back there, you didn't see
        0.
24
   anybody, did you?
25
       Α.
             No.
```

ISIDRO VILLABERTA - July 28, 2015 Cross-Examination by Mr. Madrid

```
1
        0.
             Did you see -- do you know this man to my right
2
   in the blue shirt?
3
       Α.
             No.
4
             And you've never seen him before?
        0.
5
       Α.
             No.
6
       0.
             And this area of the city where you live, that
7
   would be, I guess, out 59 and then outside the Beltway,
8
   right?
9
       Α.
             Yes.
10
             And if you go, say, outside the Beltway and the
11
   Westpark Tollway, that's not too far from you, is it?
             It's a bit.
12
       Α.
13
             But kind of the same general area?
       Q.
             No. Beltway and Westpark?
14
       Α.
15
             Yeah, the Westpark Tollway.
       Q.
16
       Α.
             No. It's further back.
17
             Okay. That's fine. You never saw -- did you
       0.
   ever see the victim in the case?
18
19
       Α.
             No.
20
             So, you don't know anything other than you
21
   heard some shots, right?
22
       A .
             Exactly.
23
        0.
             Okay. Thank you.
24
                  MR. MADRID: Pass the witness.
25
                  MS. COLLINS: Nothing further, Your Honor.
```

ISIDRO VILLABERTA - July 28, 2015 Cross-Examination by Mr. Madrid

```
1
                  THE COURT: You may step aside.
2
                  MS. COLLINS: State would call Officer
3
   Villarreal to the stand.
4
                  THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, this witness was
   not previously sworn in.
5
6
                  THE COURT:
                              Okay.
7
                  (Sworn)
8
                  MS. COLLINS: May I proceed, Your Honor?
9
                  THE COURT: Uh-huh.
10
                         J. VILLARREAL,
11
   having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
12
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
13
   BY MS. COLLINS:
14
            Could you introduce yourself to the Court?
15
            My name is Investigator Villarreal. I'm with
16
   the Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office.
17
       0.
            How long have you been with the Fire Marshal's
18
   Office?
19
            I've been with Fort Bend for four years in
       A.
20
   February.
21
           And before that, what law enforcement
       0.
22
   experience do you have?
23
            I've been an investigator with Rosenberg Fire
24
   Marshal's Office for approximately eight years prior to
25
   that and a police officer for two years prior to that.
```

- Q. Specifically, with regard to being a fire marshal, can you tell us kind of day-to-day what you do as a fire marshal?
- A. I work for the Fire Marshal's Office as an inspector/investigator. So, our job entails doing fire inspections, clearing views, and also fire investigations in the unincorporated areas of Fort Bend County.
- Q. As part of the fire investigation, what are the steps you take? What do you investigate?
- A. We investigate all fires that we're called to in the unincorporated Fort Bend County, as far as we work with several fire departments. We come when they call us out. We look into the cause and origin investigation of that fire, whether it be accidental or intentional.
- Q. Can you tell us about the training that you've received in order to be able to hold that job?
- A. As far as the job that I do, you have to have your -- your peace officer. You have to have your fire investigator and your fire inspector.
- Q. I want to talk to you specifically about

 August 31st of 2013. Were you working in the -- with
 the Fire Marshal's Office at that time?
- 25 A. Yes, ma'am, I was.

- Q. And did you hold the position you do now of an inspector within that office?
 - A. Yes, I did.

1

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11

- Q. On that particular evening, were you called out to a fire?
 - A. Yes, I was.
 - Q. Can you tell us what time that call went out?
- A. I believe the call was dispatched at approximately 8:00 p.m. that night. I didn't arrive on-scene until approximately -- without having it in front of me, I think it was around 9:00 o'clock.
- Q. Would it help -- did I take your only copy of
 your report? Would it help you if you had that with
 you?
- 15 A. Sure.
- 16 Q. Feel free to use that as we go along.
- 17 A. Okay.
- 18 Q. Okay. Can you tell us the exact time that the 19 call went out?
- 20 A. I was dispatched at 20:01, 8:00 o'clock, 8:01 p.m.
- Q. And at that time, can you tell us, was it dark at that hour?
 - A. When I arrived on the scene, it was dark.
- Q. Where were you dispatched out to?

- A. I was dispatched to 14030 Panhandle Drive.
 - Q. Is that in Fort Bend?
- A. Yes, ma'am.

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17

- Q. Okay. Now, when you were dispatched out, what's the area like where you were dispatched?
 - A. It's a residential neighborhood.
- Q. Is this the typical type of place where you get dispatched out to?
 - A. Depending on the circumstances, yes.
- Q. I'm going to show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit No. 37, 38 and 40 through 52, have you take a look at those, sir. Can you tell us what you're looking at there?
- A. 37 is the car that I was called to, the fire scene I was called to involving this vehicle.
 - Q. Okay. And are all of these photos the vehicle you were dispatched out to on August 31st, 2013?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And do they all depict the vehicle the way that you saw it in 2013?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you take a look at those.
- A. These are of the scene.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- MS. COLLINS: We offer into evidence

```
1
   State's Exhibits 37, 38 and 40 through 52.
2
                  MR. MADRID: No objection, Your Honor.
3
                  THE COURT: Admitted.
4
             (By Ms. Collins) Okay. Now, you said that you
       0.
5
   were called out to Panhandle Road. And I think you
6
   mentioned, at that point, what were you called out to?
7
            To investigate a vehicle fire.
       Α.
8
       0.
            Okay. Showing you State's Exhibit No. 37.
                                                          Ιs
9
   this the vehicle you were dispatched out to?
10
       A .
            Yes, ma'am.
            Now, when you arrived on-scene, was there a
11
       Q.
12
   large crowd there, or who was there?
13
       A .
             There were a couple of deputies from the
14
   sheriff's office on-scene, and the fire department was
15
   on-scene.
16
       0.
           Now, when you arrived, was there anybody inside
17
   of the vehicle?
18
       Α.
            No.
19
            Was there anybody around the vehicle claiming
20
   ownership of that vehicle?
21
       Α.
            No, there was not.
22
       Q.
            Could you tell -- showing you State's Exhibit
23
   No. 38, the lower photo. Could you tell kind of,
24
   basically, what had happened once you got to the scene?
25
            Yes, that there had been a fire that occurred
       A .
```

in the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

- Q. Could you tell whether it was started in the front of the vehicle, the back of the vehicle or the side?
- A. We determined that it started on the floorboard of the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Q. Is that what we're looking at here in State's Exhibit No. 38?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Now, upon arrival, could you tell -- well, was there any obvious cause for that fire?
 - A. We just know that there was a fire.
- Q. Were you able to investigate and determine whether or not this was from some kind of mechanical problem with the car?
 - A. There was no mechanical problem.
 - Q. And how do we know that?
- A. The engine compartment was intact, and the area where the dashboard and things of that nature are all intact. There was nothing in that area that could say electrical or anything of that nature.
- Q. Because of that, were you suspicious that this fire had been intentionally started?
- A. The fire was -- we just know there was a fire in that area, so everything leading up to that was not

1 normal. 2 Not normal. Okay. Now, in this case, were you 0. 3 able to determine the specific cause of the fire? 4 Α. No. 5 Q. And why not? We were not able to -- we weren't able to find 6 Α. 7 an owner. We didn't have any witnesses or anything of that nature at that time. 8 9 Q. Were you able to determine -- well, let me ask 10 you this: What you found, would it have been consistent 11 with someone sticking a lighter in the car and lighting it on fire? 12 13 It could have been. Α. 14 Any way to know one way or the other? 0. 15 Not at that time. Α. 16 Q. Okay. Were you able to determine who the owner 17 of this vehicle was? 18 Through the vehicle, the return from the Α. 19 registration. 20 Q. Who was the vehicle registered to? 21 If I can look at my notes. Α. 22 Q. Of course. 23 To Beatrice Gilces. Α. 24 Were you able to speak to the registered owner 25 of the vehicle?

1 Α. No. 2 Did you attempt to? 3 Yes. I went to the address listed on the 4 registration, and there was no contact. 5 The owner, did she live in that area? 6 Α. If it's the same address, then yes. It wasn't 7 very far away. 8 0. Let me ask you this: When you arrived on the 9 scene, was the fire still going? 10 Α. No. 11 It had already been put out? Q. 12 Α. Correct. 13 Any way to determine how long that fire had Q. 14 been burning? 15 I believe from what the fire department had 16 told me that night, that they were able to -- they got 17 there very early in the stage. They were able to keep 18 it right there in the area of origin. 19 Would it be fair to say that there is reason to 0. 20 believe it had been started minutes, certainly within an 21 hour, of the fire department getting there? 22 Α. Yes. 23 MS. COLLINS: Pass the witness, Your 24 Honor. 25 MR. MADRID: Cross, Your Honor?

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2 BY MR. MADRID: 3 0. Investigator Villarreal, good afternoon. 4 Good afternoon. Α. 5 Beyond what you've testified to, did you do any 6 further investigation in the case? 7 Α. Other than what's in our report. 8 0. And in your report, when there is a fire like 9 this, are you able to get prints or DNA or any other 10 additional evidence? 11 Depending on the circumstances. Α. 12 0. Were you able to in this case? 13 No, we did not. Α. 14 0. Was there anything -- were there any witnesses 15 that you spoke with? 16 Α. There was none in the area. We did look. 17 So, you didn't have any witnesses that said, I 0. saw a Hispanic male that looked this high and was 18 19 wearing this or anything like that? 20 Α. No. 21 Was there any witnesses or any kind of -- any kind of evidence, DNA prints or otherwise, that pointed 22 23 to somebody named Mario Paredes? 24 Α. We did not do that. That was another 25 department that took care of that.

J. VILLARREAL - July 28, 2015 Cross-Examination by Mr. Madrid

```
1
       Q.
            As far as you know?
2
       A .
            No.
3
       Q.
            And do you know the person sitting to the right
4
   of me?
5
       Α.
            No.
6
                  MR. MADRID: Pass the witness, Your Honor.
7
                  MS. COLLINS: Nothing further, Your Honor.
8
                  THE COURT: You may step aside.
9
                  MS. COLLINS: State calls Officer John
10
   (sic) Hughes to the stand.
11
                  (Witness sworn)
12
                           JOE HUGHES,
   having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
13
14
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
   BY MS. COLLINS:
15
16
       0.
          Good afternoon. Can you introduce yourself to
17
   us?
18
       A .
            Yes. Hello. Officer Joe Hughes, Jr., Police
19
   Officer Joe Hughes, twelve years in the department.
20
   Just made twelve years actually today.
21
            Congratulations.
       0.
22
       Α.
            Thank you.
23
            And when you say the department, where do you
       0.
24
   work?
25
            Houston Police Department.
       Α.
```

- Q. How long have you been with HPD? Is it twelve years?
 - A. Twelve years today.
 - Q. During that time period, where have you worked?
 What would your responsibilities have been?
 - A. Normally in 19 District 19 40s beat, 20 District, but mostly 19 District.
 - Q. Is that all in Harris County, Texas, your area?
- 9 A. Yes.

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- 10 Q. Now, when you first become an officer, did it 11 put you through some training?
- 12 A. Yes.
 - Q. Can you tell us about that?
 - A. Sure. It's six months of academy training, and also six months of on-the-job training. You work various shifts, and they try to get you into all the categories of the crime so you've been exposed to a lot during those six months of training.
- Q. Along with that, are there a series of tests to be able to be a certified peace officer?
- 21 A. Yes.
 - Q. And did you pass those tests?
- A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And have you maintained your certification as a peace officer?

A. Yes, ma'am.

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18

- Q. As part of that, do you receive ongoing training each year about different aspects of being a police officer?
 - A. Yes, we do. Receive forty hours every year. It's mandated.
 - Q. Now, I want to turn your attention specifically to August 31st of 2013. What area of town were you working at during that period of time?
 - A. I was working in the southwest side, Southwest Belfort -- yeah, Belfort -- in that area, 19 40s beat.
 - Q. Were you new to that area at that time?
- 13 A. That was my first day shift.
- 14 Q. Now, when you -- you say it was your first day,
 15 first day in that area?
- 16 A. Yes.
 - Q. Now, during that time period, were you riding alone, or did you have a partner with you?
- 19 A. I was riding solo.
- Q. On August 31st, 2013, did you receive a call or dispatch out?
 - A. Yes, I did.
- Q. And, actually, I said August 31st. Was it actually in the early morning hours of September 1st?
- 25 A. September 1st, that's correct.

- Q. About what time did you receive that call?
- 2 A. About 8:45 or 9:45.

1

5

- 3 Q. Is that in the morning?
- 4 A. Yes, early in the morning.
 - Q. Now, when you got dispatched out, what did you think you were going to?
- 7 A. I really didn't know, just that a shooting had occurred. So, I really didn't know.
- 9 Q. I'm showing you State's Exhibit No. 4. Is this
 10 the area that you were called out to?
- 11 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 12 Q. And, specifically, what was the address of 13 where you were dispatched?
- 14 A. It was actually out -- it's like on Tambourine
 15 Street. I'm not sure of the correct address.
- 16 Q. Would it help if you had your report in front
 17 of you?
- 18 A. Yes, yes, yes.
- Q. Can you tell the exact address you were calledout to?
- 21 A. Yes. It's 12406 Tambourine Street.
- Q. Now, when you arrived at that location, can you tell us what you found?
- A. When I got there, several people were walking around. A gentleman was pointing this way, and the

other gentleman was pointing the other way. And I turned my attention to Mr. Villafuente (sic). First I spoke to him.

- Q. Why did you turn your attention to him first?
- A. He walked up towards me and advised me that he observed -- well, he stated his neighbor observed a body laying on the ground, and I need to go to my right.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to show you some photos marked as State's Exhibits Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. If you'll take a look, are those all photos of the area you were called out to that day?
 - A. Yes. All the photos are correct.
- Q. Were they in the same basic condition as when you got there that day?
- A. Yes, ma'am.

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- MS. COLLINS: Offer into evidence State's Exhibits Nos. 9 through 13, tendering to opposing counsel.
- MR. MADRID: No objection.
- THE COURT: It's admitted.
- Q. (By Ms. Collins) Officer, when you were called out to this area, can you tell us, is this a business area, residential?
 - A. This is a residential area.
- Q. Now, I know that on September 1st, it was your

```
1
   first day; but have you become familiar with this area
2
   since then?
3
             Yes. The major streets, yes.
4
             Now, is this the type of area that you would
       0.
5
   expect calls out for people finding bodies in their
6
   backyards?
7
       Α.
             No.
8
       0.
             Okay. Atypical for this area?
9
       Α.
             Yes.
10
             Now, when you got to the scene, you said
11
   Mr. Vega said that someone had been found; is that
12
   right?
13
             Correct.
       A .
14
             Showing you State's Exhibit No. 9.
                                                  Is this
15
   just a photo of the street where you were?
16
       Α.
             That is correct.
17
       0.
             Okay. Now, you said there was Mr. Vega and one
18
   other individual; is that correct?
19
       Α.
             Yes.
20
       Q.
            Other than that, was there a big crowd of
21
   onlookers or people in that area?
22
       A .
             No.
23
             Okay. Showing you State's Exhibit No. 10.
24
   this the home that Mr. Vega took you to?
25
            Yes, it is.
       Α.
```

- 0. And when you got there, were you, in fact, able to determine that someone was in that yard?
 - Α. Yes, ma'am.

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- Were you able to identify at that time who that 0. person was?
 - Α. No, not at that time.
- I'm showing you State's Exhibit No. 12. 0. this the location as you found it that day?
 - Α. Yes, it is.
- 10 0. And is this the individual that you found in 11 the yard that day?
- 12 Α. Yes, ma'am.
- Now, as a patrol officer, when you get to a 14 scene like this and find someone, what do you do? What are your first steps that you take?
 - Α. Immediately recover the scene, separate everybody that's involved with it and make sure I ask for backup units to help me out; because that's a pretty big scene right there.
- 20 Q. Now, let me ask you this: And, hopefully, this 21 goes without saying. Do you check and make sure if this 22 person is alive?
 - Α. Yes.
 - Was this individual alive? Q.
- 25 A . No.

- Q. Was it fairly obvious at that point that there was nothing more that could be done for him?
 - A. Yes, it was.
- Q. Now, you said at that point you want to secure the scene; is that right?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. How do you go about doing that?
- A. Immediately we start sectioning off the area, getting crime scene tape, getting a perimeter to keep outsiders from coming in and tampering with the evidence.
- Q. Now, obviously, we're seeing in State's Exhibit No. 10 here what looks to be some kind of a sheet between two houses. Can you tell us how that got there?
- A. Yes. HFD Unit arrived, and the body was really exposed to the street side right there. So, they put this cover there to hide the view from small kids and other families in the area.
- Q. When you got there, were you able to find anybody that could possibly be a suspect either in that alleyway or in the backyard to that house?
- A. No, I didn't. I checked the entire perimeter of the house all the way around, did a 360. No one was present.
- Q. After you secured the scene -- and were you

able to do that? 1 2 Α. Yes. 3 You mentioned that you made calls for other 4 officers. What was the purpose of that? 5 For backup units, like I say, to assist in that 6 investigation. That's a pretty big scene there. I want 7 to knock on doors and get all the information. I can't 8 do that alone. It's a big task. 9 Q. Now, because there is a person that -- well, 10 let me ask you this: Was there a fairly obvious cause 11 of death when you got to the scene? 12 A . Yes, it was. 13 I'm showing you State's Exhibit No. 13. Can 0. 14 you tell us what that obvious cause of death was? 15 It's a gunshot wound to the back of the head. A . 16 0. When you have someone who clearly has not died 17 of natural causes, is there a special division that gets 18 involved at that point? 19 Yes, Homicide Division and Crime Scene Unit, 20 also. 21 Okay. Were those divisions contacted? 0.

- A. Yes. I contacted them.
- Q. And did they arrive on the scene?
- 24 A. Yes.

22

23

Q. Did you stay there at that scene to make sure

it was secure up until the point that CSU and Homicide
officers arrived?
 A. Yes, I did.

- Q. Now, once they arrived, do you have any further duties at the scene at that point?
- A. Just to continue the investigation, pass on all the information that I received, separate all the witnesses that were involved and just follow the steps from that point.
- Q. Were there many witnesses that you were able to locate that day?
- 12 A. No.

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- Q. Other than you mentioned speaking to a Mr. Vega, did you learn who it was that was his neighbor that had found this individual?
- 16 A. Yes, I did.
 - Q. And do you remember his name?
- 18 A. Mr. Vasquez.
- Q. And with the knowledge that Homicide Units are going to be arriving, do you make sure that Mr. Vega and Mr. Vasquez are available to be able to speak to the Homicide officers?
 - A. Yes, I do.
- Q. And how long did you stay at the scene that day?

1 All day. It was a long scene. Α. 2 After everything was complete and the 3 investigation there at the scene was done, did you have 4 any further involvement with the investigation of this 5 case? 6 Α. No. 7 And is that normal? 0. 8 A. Yes, ma'am. 9 Why is that? Q. Well, once Homicide comes on, they take lead 10 A. 11 investigation. We pass all the information over there 12 in doing a homicide case. Since it's so sensitive, they 13 take over. 14 MS. COLLINS: Pass the witness, Your 15 Honor. 16 MR. MADRID: Thank you, Your Honor. 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION 18 BY MR. MADRID: 19 Officer Hughes, good afternoon. 0. 20 A . Good afternoon, sir. 21 So, you've been working with HPD for twelve 0. 22 years, right? 23 Α. That's correct. 24 And this was two years ago -- or I assume -- or

25

you work an area?

1 Α. Yes. 2 0. What you call your beat or your area? 3 Α. Right. 4 Do you still work the same area? Q. 5 19 District, but not the particular beat. Α. 6 0. So, how long did you work in this beat about 7 the case we're talking about here? 8 Α. First day. 9 That was your very first day. And how long did Q. 10 you stay afterwards? 11 Possibly about three months. Α. 12 0. And where are you now? 13 19D 20s Beat, Bellaire/Beltway area. Α. 14 I'm going to show you State's 4 on the overhead 0. 15 The picture of the house that you were showing, 16 it was this blue dot here, right? 17 That's correct. Α. 18 Q. And when you're saying the front, where you put 19 the cover-up where nobody would see the body? 20 Α. Yes. 21 And Jaguar would be the street behind it, 0. 22 right? 23 Α. Yes. 24 And the area, I guess, where the blue dot is, Q. 25 that's an expanded view of Tambourine between Bissonnet

```
1
   and Belfort, right?
2
            That's correct.
       Α.
3
       0.
            Does that sound right to you?
4
       Α.
            Yes.
5
             I just want to get a general idea of where this
       Q.
6
   occurred. So, it occurred outside the Beltway, right?
7
       Α.
            Yes.
8
       0.
            And between 59 and Westpark Tollway?
9
       Α.
            Correct.
10
            And if you continue towards Westpark Tollway,
11
   that's where Aldine Clodine is?
12
            Correct. That's where I work now.
       Α.
13
            And that area, that's where I think Harwin
       Q.
14
   turns into that street, right?
15
       Α.
           Correct.
16
       0.
            And Bellaire is in between, right?
17
            Right.
       A .
18
       Q.
            Did you work any other murder? Did you work
19
   that other murder -- did you know any of the defendants
20
   in this case, who they were?
21
       Α.
            No.
22
       Q.
            Okay. So, you wouldn't have any knowledge of
23
   anything about Gerardo Arredondo, would you?
24
       Α.
            No.
25
            Would you have any -- or where the murder
       Q.
```

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1
   weapon was found?
2
             No, I didn't.
       A .
3
             But if the murder weapon was found on -- right
       0.
4
   there on Aldine -- how do you pronounce it, Clodine or
5
   Clodine?
6
       A .
            Clodine.
7
             Aldine Clodine, that runs kind of along right
       0.
8
   by the tollway?
9
             Westpark Tollway, that's correct.
       Α.
10
             If you look on the top of that screen, it would
11
   kind of be parallel to the very top?
12
       Α.
             Correct.
13
             So, if the gun was found further up there, it
       Q.
14
   would be two or three miles or so? Would that be right?
15
       Α.
             Yes, sir.
16
       Q.
             Obviously, you had a body there. You had to
17
   talk to people; and you had to call in Homicide, right?
18
       Α.
            Correct.
19
             Did you handle the body at all?
20
       Α.
             No, I did not.
21
             Were you aware that there was money, $1,500,
       0.
22
   found with the complaining witness in the case?
23
             No, I did not.
       Α.
24
             So, you didn't see -- or you didn't see the
       Q.
```

medical examiner come out or anybody search his pockets?

1 Α. No. 2 0. Did you take any pictures? 3 Α. No. 4 The people you talked to out there -- because 0. 5 this was -- you were out there -- the shooting allegedly 6 happened or did happen the 31st, right? So, you were 7 there the next day, September the 1st? 8 Α. Correct. 9 And at the beginning, during the daylight Q. 10 hours, the people that you talked there, were they 11 just -- you said you weren't able to find very many 12 people. Were they asleep or --13 A . No. When I got there, it was just those two 14 guys that were outside. 15 0. And they're the ones that saw the body and 16 called the police, right? 17 Right. Α. 18 Q. Did you see this man to my right, the man in 19 blue here? 20 Α. He looks familiar. 21 Where did you see him before? 0. 22 Α. He looks like he may have been on the scene. 23 You think he was on the scene? 0. 24 I can't really say. Α.

But did you take any notes that he was on the

25

Q.

```
1
   scene?
2
             I wrote down everybody's name.
        Α.
3
        Q.
             Did you write down the name, Mario Paredes?
4
        Α.
             No.
5
             So, the people you talked to, you had written
        Q.
6
   down their names?
7
        Α.
             Yes.
8
        0.
             And then if Homicide, as they followed up, they
9
   would have been able to identify who was out there,
10
   right?
11
        Α.
             Correct.
12
        Q.
             And it would be in their report --
13
             Yes.
        A .
14
             -- if he was out there?
        0.
15
        A .
             Yes.
16
        Q.
             Or he might just look like somebody that's
17 l
   familiar that's out there?
18
        Α.
             Right.
19
             Is it a predominantly Hispanic community out
        0.
20
   there?
21
             Yes, it is.
       A .
22
        Q.
             An immigrant community?
23
        A .
             Yes.
24
             Did -- did you see anybody else? Did anybody
        Q.
25
   tell you, I saw -- for instance, I saw the shooter?
```

```
1
       Α.
            No.
2
       0.
             So, nobody was able to identify the shooter?
3
       Α.
            No.
4
            Just -- and at that the point, nobody was able
       0.
5
   to identify who the complaining witness was?
6
       Α.
            Correct.
7
            And then after you were done, obviously, other
8
   people have the specialty of working the homicide; and
9
   that's what they did?
10
       A .
            Right.
11
       Q.
            Thank you.
12
                 MR. MADRID: Pass the witness.
13
                  THE COURT: Anything else?
                  MS. COLLINS: Nothing further. May we
14
15
   approach, Your Honor?
16
                  THE COURT:
                              Sure.
17
                  (At the bench)
18
                  MS. COLLINS: Judge, we have two more
19
   witnesses here. Due to some work problems, our next
20
   witness can't be here until --
21
                  THE COURT: What.
22
                  MS. COLLINS: Work problems. She works in
23
   the J.P. courts handling certain dockets.
24
                  THE COURT: Wait, wait. Who's got
25
   work problems?
```

```
1
                 MS. COLLINS: One of our witnesses. We
2
   had not -- our next witness, after the next two, we
3
   didn't plan on having here until the morning. She has
4
   some work issues.
5
                 THE COURT: I'm just not hearing you.
6
                 MS. COLLINS:
                                Sorry. We have two
7
   witnesses that are left. Our witness after that, our
8
   third witness, can't be here until the morning.
9
                 THE COURT: The third witness what?
10
                 MS. COLLINS: Can't be here till the
11
   morning hours.
12
                 THE COURT: Who is that?
13
                 MS. COLLINS: Latasha Neal.
14
                 THE COURT: Okay.
15
                 MS. COLLINS: We just wanted to see if you
16
   wanted us to try to scoop somebody else up.
17
                 THE COURT: Wanted you to do what?
18
                 MS. COLLINS: To have somebody else here
19
   to keep going, or if two more witnesses would be
20
   sufficient.
21
                 THE COURT: How long are these witnesses
22
   going to take?
23
                 MS. COLLINS: The next two or all of them?
24
                 THE COURT: Huh?
25
                 MS. COLLINS: I'm sorry.
```

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1
                  THE COURT: Well, you've got Taravella.
2
                 MS. HARTMAN: CSU.
3
                  THE COURT: Okay. How long is that
4
   witness going to take?
5
                 MS. HARTMAN:
                                Thirty minutes, about.
6
                 THE COURT: How about Juan Vasquez?
7
                 MS. COLLINS: Probably about the same,
8
   Judge.
9
                 THE COURT: Okay. Latasha Tasha, who's
10
   next?
11
                 MS. COLLINS: Uh-huh.
12
                  THE COURT: So, what are you saying? You
13
   want to quit?
14
                 MS. COLLINS: Well, we can try to get
   another individual here. I didn't know how late you
15
16
   wanted to go tonight.
17
                 THE COURT: Who is Chavez?
18
                 MS. COLLINS: He's one of the homicide
19
   officers.
20
                 MS. HARTMAN: He's off today, though,
21
   Judge. And we plan on calling him tomorrow.
22
                 MS. COLLINS: But we can call him and have
23
   him here.
24
                  THE COURT: The only day they can take off
25
   this week is Thursday. So, what you're trying to tell
```

```
1
   me is you don't have much left?
2
                 MS. COLLINS: For today, correct. But we
3
   can make that happen if the Court wants us to.
4
                  THE COURT: I want -- I would like to
5
   finish the testimony tomorrow, if possible.
6
                 MS. COLLINS: We're hopeful that that will
7
   happen.
8
                  THE COURT: You've got several more
9
   witnesses on here for one day.
10
                 MS. COLLINS: We're moving pretty fast,
11
   though.
12
                 THE COURT: Do what?
13
                 MS. COLLINS: We're moving fast.
14
                  THE COURT: You're moving fast for now,
15
   yeah, I agree. But it's going to be -- it's possibly
16
   going to take --
17
                  (Off-the-record discussion)
18
                  THE COURT: Members of the Jury, let's
19
   take a short break; and we'll call you back in a few
20
   minutes.
21
                  (Outside jury's hearing, off-the-record
22
                  discussion)
23
                  (Jury enters courtroom)
24
                  THE COURT: Court call your next, please.
25
                 MS. HARTMAN: Officer Taravella.
```

1 (Witness sworn) 2 ANDREW TARAVELLA, 3 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows: 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION 5 BY MS. HARTMAN: 6 0. Sir, could you please introduce yourself to the 7 jury? 8 A . My name is Andrew Taravella. 9 And how are you employed, Officer Taravella? Q. 10 I'm employed with the Houston Police 11 Department, assigned to the Houston Forensic Science 121 Center as a crime scene investigator. 13 Q. How long have you been with the Houston Police 14 Department? 15 A . A little over twenty-three years. 16 0. And did you have any specialized training to 17 become a police officer? 18 Α. I did. I went through the police academy it 19 was a six-month long academy in 1992. 20 Q. Do you have to have any kind of certification to become a certified peace officer? 21 22 Α. I am certified as a peace officer through the 23 State of Texas after graduating the academy. 24 0. And do you have to take any type of test and 25 any additional training to maintain that certification?

- A. We take continuing education training throughout every year, annually, different classes, different tests.
- Q. And you have done that for your twenty-plus years as a peace officer?
 - A. I have.
- Q. And you said you're assigned to the Crime Scene Unit?
 - A. I am.

- Q. And how did you become assigned to the Crime Scene Unit?
- A. I've been assigned to the Crime Scene Unit a little over thirteen years. I joined the unit from the patrol division. I was on patrol out of the Westside Division before changing.
- Q. Did you have any specialized training or education to become a member of the Crime Scene Unit?
- A. I've had specialized training both before and after. I've taken lots of classes before I was a crime scene investigator. And since being assigned to the Crime Scene Unit, I've taken numerous classes. In fact, I teach a lot of those classes now in fingerprinting, photography, videography, bloodstain analysis. I maintain those requirements. And I'm certified through the International Association for Identification, which

is the largest forensic practitioner organization in the world. I'm certified as a forensic photographer and certified as a senior crime scene analyst.

- Q. And what are the duties as a crime scene officer?
- A. The primary duties is mainly to go to a scene and document what is there and then collect potential evidence for a case, preserve that evidence for trial.
 - Q. Do you take photos at the scene?
- 10 A. I do.

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- 11 *Q*. Video?
- 12 A. I do.
- Q. Swab for DNA if necessary?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Prints and collect any type of evidence?
- 16 A. I do.
- 17 Q. Were you on duty on September the 1st, 2013?
- 18 A. I was.
- 19 Q. What hours were you working that day?
- 20 A. I worked the day shift. I worked from 7:00 in the morning to, typically, 3:00 in the afternoon.
 - Q. How do up get assigned a call-out?
- A. We have a rotational basis; so whoever is first out or whoever is out at the time just gets a phone call from our Homicide Division, who indicates to us that

1 there is a scene they'd like us to go to. We load up
2 our gear from the headquarters building and drive out to
3 the scene.

- Q. So, you don't have a specific area of Harris County or Houston that you work?
- A. I do not. We can go anywhere, typically, within the city limits. But we, on occasion, go outside the city limits, depending on where the evidence brings us.
 - Q. And how did you get called out on September 1st, 2013?
- A. I received a phone call from the Homicide Division, as usual, at about 10:20 in the morning.
 - Q. And where did you go after the phone call?
 - A. The assignment was to go to 12406 Tambourine.
- 16 Q. Do you recall about what time you arrived on 17 Tambourine?
 - A. About 11:20, almost an hour later.
 - Q. Is that in Harris County, Texas?
- 20 A. It is.

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- Q. What part of the city is that in?
- 22 A. Southwest Houston.
 - Q. And what is the first thing that you do once you get to a crime scene?
- 25 A. One of the first things I do is I meet up with

the Homicide investigators that are there and, typically, the primary patrol officer or other officers that may be present and just discuss how we're going to handle the scene, find out what they've observed, what they've noted for me to look at, and just kind of make a list of priorities of how I'm going to handle the scene, make sure there is nothing -- a satellite area I'm not aware of, a vehicle around the corner or a dumpster a couple blocks away, and just so we're all on the same page of what they expect me to do.

- Q. Back on September 1st, did you do that at the crime scene at Tambourine?
 - A. I did.

- Q. Do you remember who you talked with?
- A. The investigators were Avila and Sosa -- those were the Homicide investigators -- as well as the primary patrol officer. I don't remember his name offhand.
 - Q. Officer Hughes?
- A. I'm sorry?
 - Q. Is it Officer Hughes?
- A. Officer Hughes may ring a bell. I don't have his name in my report. I have Gercheski (phonetic), which may have been a relief officer that relieved somebody there.

- Q. After you went to the crime scene and discussed the scene with those officers, did you get an idea of where you needed to look for evidence?
 - A. I did.

- Q. What did you do after that?
- A. One of the first things that I do is begin to photograph the scene, so I will -- that's one of the first forms of documentation that I perform. And I began taking photographs and, typically, don't stop taking photographs until I leave the scene. So, I'll take photographs of the scene originally and then the things that I do while I'm on the scene.
- Q. How do you know where to make start taking photographs and where to end taking photographs?
- A. Well, it's kind of a judgment call. It's -if -- typically, the patrolman has already cordoned off
 a certain amount of area that's considered to be the
 crime scene, according to his judgment. I will see if
 that is consistent with what I find. If evidence brings
 me further, I will have that expanded; or I will process
 an area outside that and then come back in.
- Q. Okay. Officer Taravella, I'm going to show you State's Exhibit No. 14. Do you recognize that diagram?
 - A. I do.
- Q. And did you make this diagram?

1 A . I did. 2 Is this of the scene at Tambourine as it was 3 back in 2013? 4 It was. Α. 5 And does it document the evidence that you 0. 6 found at the scene? 7 This particular one does not. A . 8 0. Okay. It shows the area and the houses of the 9 scene that are depicted in the pictures? 10 A . Correct. It gives an overview, like a 11 bird's-eye view of the scene and the surroundings. 12 0. I'm going to show you State's Exhibits 15, 16, 13 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 14 31, 32, 33 and 34. Did you get a chance to look through 15 those? 16 Α. I did. 17 Did you take these pictures? 0. 18 Α. I did. 19 Do these pictures pretty much show the scene 0. 20 out off of Tambourine as it did in 2013, on September 21 1st? 22 Α. They do. 23 MS. HARTMAN: Your Honor, at this time I 24 would like to offer State's Exhibit No. 14, the diagram,

and State's Exhibits Nos. 15 through 34, the pictures of

```
1
   the scene, tendering them to defense counsel and
2
   offering them into evidence.
3
                 MR. MADRID: No objection, Your Honor, to
4
                I just have to confer with counsel for a
   all but 16.
5
   quick second on 16.
6
                  (Off-the-record discussion)
7
                 MR. MADRID: No objection, Your Honor.
8
                 THE COURT: Admitted.
9
       Q. (By Ms. Hartman) All right. Officer
10
   Taravella, State's Exhibit No. 14, is this the diagram
11
   that you drew?
       Α.
12
            It is.
13
       0.
           And 12410 Tambourine and 12406 Tambourine, are
14
   those the actual homes?
15
            Correct. Those are just the outlines of where
16
   the home -- the footprint of the house.
17
       0.
            Is this the backyard between the house and the
   wooden fence?
18
19
       A .
            It is.
20
       Q.
            Now, do you recall where you started taking
   pictures of the front of the house on State's Exhibit
21
22
   No. 15?
23
            Yeah. I won't say which ones I took first, but
       A .
241
   I do recall. Typically, I will stand on the street,
25
   take the houses the neighboring houses, the area.
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- Q. And there is no rhyme or reason to what comes first and what comes last?
- A. Sometimes there is. In this particular case of these overalls, I don't believe that's relevant.
- Q. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 15, can you tell us which house it is in State's Exhibit No. 14, the diagram?
- A. I believe the photograph that you're showing is of 12410 Tambourine, the house to the left.
- Q. Okay. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 16, which house is that?
- A. That, again, is the house to the left. What we're looking at here in the middle is the alleyway between 406 and 410.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall if there was any type of back gate between those homes?
 - A. Between those two there was no gate. There was a straight fence.
- Q. And State's Exhibit No. 17, can you tell the jury what that is?
- 21 A. That is the house at 12406 Tambourine.
 - Q. No. 18?

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- A. I believe that's the one at 12402 Tambourine, the one on the right side of the diagram.
- Q. And you're talking about this one way out here?

A. Correct.

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- Q. State's Exhibit No. 19, can you tell us what that is?
- A. That's a picture of an open gate, the bricks on the left here. This is the house at 12406 Tambourine, and there is an open wooden gate that leads to its backyard.
 - Q. Are you talking about right here?
- 9 A. I am.
 - Q. Let me show you State's Exhibit No. 20. Can you tell us what State's Exhibit No. 20 is?
- 12 A. This is the same area, only I'm looking at it
 13 from a different direction. I'm actually standing
 14 inside the backyard at that open gate looking toward the
 15 street.
- 16 Q. And again, it's the one coming out of 12402
 17 Tambourine?
 - A. It's coming out of 406 Tambourine.
 - Q. Correct. Is that just an up-close picture?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And that was State's Exhibit No. 21.
- 22 And State's Exhibit No. 23, is that the way the body appeared?
- A. That's the way the body appeared when I arrived, yes.

- Do you move or touch anything on the body when 0. you arrive?
- When I arrive, typically not. If the body is covered when I get there, I leave it covered. If it's uncovered, I leave it uncovered. Technically, we don't have permission to touch until the medical examiner or their representative gives us permission. So, in this case, the body wasn't touched until the examiner arrived.
- And did the -- is the examiner the one who 0. looks at the body and sees if there was any additional 12 injuries?
 - A . Correct. They'll do a cursory or field exam on the scene before the body is removed, and a full exam and autopsy is performed later.
 - Okay. And as part of your training and experience as a peace officer, have you had any training in firearms?
 - A . I have.

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- 20 Q. And have you ever seen where a firearm can 21 leave a mark on an individual's skin?
 - A . I have.
 - And how does that happen? 0.
- 24 That happens in a couple of different ways. Α.
- 25 There is one that's called stippling or tattooing, where

the gunpowder residue that precedes the bullet or comes out the barrel right after the bullet, a lot of that gunpowder isn't burned yet or is in the process of still being burned. So, that will leave marks, some telltale marks on the skin around the clothing.

And there is also what we call contact wounds, where the skin is actually scorched by the heat of the weapon. And when a weapon is fired, it gets very, very hot and can leave actually scorch marks or burn marks on the skin.

- Q. Looking at that injury, what can you tell the jury on the injury on the back of the head?
- A. Because this one actually has a pattern to it or looks -- it's very similar to a pattern, and the way that it's marked is an indication to me that it's a scorch mark and looks like this was a direct contact wound from the muzzle of a pistol.
- Q. In looking at a little bit closer view of State's Exhibit No. 24, what is this round scorch mark right there? Can you tell?
- A. Again, from my experience, this appears to be the muzzle of a weapon. That round mark is typically the spring, where the slide spring is on a weapon; and it protrudes through the front of the weapon as the slide comes back, and that will leave that type of

1 pattern.

- Q. And when you're collecting your evidence, do you do any additional searches of the body for any type of casings?
- A. I search the body in case there is casings that could be caught up in the clothing. But again, I don't remove clothing; and that's just a field exam. Once the body is picked up, I'll do another search of the area.

 And then, of course, I'll search the surrounding areas.
- Q. It's going to be picked up by the Medical Examiner's investigator?
- A. Correct. So, from time to time there may be a cartridge casing or a fired bullet that's caught up in the complainant's clothing. And that will be found in the initial X-ray when they X-ray the complainant at the autopsy. Other times, when the body is rolled and removed, some of that evidence may fall out. And if I see it, we'll collect it at that time.
- Q. Did you find any casings on the body in this scene?
- 21 A. I did not.
 - Q. Did you do a search around the body for casings?
 - A. I did.
- Q. And how did you search around the body?

- I searched with flashlights. Even during the Α. daytime we use flashlights to try and get a glint from some of the metal that may be there, the brass, and hands and knees, and in this case the assistance of a metal detector.
 - 0. That's depicted in State's Exhibit No. 25?
 - That is. Α.
 - 0. Were you able to find anything?
- I did. We found one fired cartridge casing A . 10 just a few feet from the head of the complainant.
- 11 Okay. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 26, 12 is that the marker, No. 5, that we saw in State's
- 13 Exhibit No. 25?

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- 14 It is. Α.
- 15 Okay. Is that the way the casing laid in the Q. 16 ground?
- 17 A . It is.
- 18 Q. And you used a metal detector to find that?
- 19 I did. A .
- 20 Q. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 27, that's a 21 close-up of it?
- 22 A . Correct. After it was recovered, that's the 23 photograph I took of it.
- 24 Q. And I'm going to show you State's Exhibit 25 No. 28 and its contents, 28A. Can you take a look at

1 that? 2 A . Yes. 3 Okay. And did you collect State's Exhibit No. Q. 4 28A? I did. 5 Α. 6 0. And how do you know that you collected State's 7 Exhibit No. 28A? 8 A . It's labeled with my information; my name, my 9 unit number, the address and case number. And it's 10 labeled in the manner that I labeled it and then placed 11 into an envelope, a plastic envelope. And this envelope 12 has my signature and my unit number, as I typically do. 13 That envelope is inside another envelope that is -- has 14 the markings of the firearms lab. 15 And when the firearms lab, when they test it, 0. 16 they will make additional markings on that, as well? 17 Correct. They will remove it from my original packaging, which is there. But they will not, or should 18 19 not, discard the original packaging. Like they've done 20 here, they include it with the cartridge case when they 21 repackage it.

Q. And State's Exhibit No. 28, that's just the evidence envelope that you -- that it got packaged in?

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A. Correct. This one is the submission envelope that has the property bar code and all the identifying

information on it, as well as my signature and unit 1 2 number on the back. 3 The offense report number is also labeled on 4 here? 5 Α. Correct. 6 MS. HARTMAN: Your Honor, at this time I 7 would like to tender State's Exhibit No. 28 and 28A to defense counsel and offer it into evidence. 8 9 MR. MADRID: No objection, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: Admitted. 11 (By Ms. Hartman) So 28 is the actual casing 0. that was found at the scene; is that correct? 12 13 I think that's 28A. A . 14 0. Excuse me. 28A. 15 Yes. A . Q. 16 And did you take any pictures of the backyard? 17 I did. A . 18 Q. And did you find any evidence in the backyard? 19 I found some items that I believe to be A . 20 evidence, yes. 21 And when you're looking for evidence and going 0. 22 over a scene, do you really know what could possibly be 23 evidence or be pertinent to the investigation at that

A. It's a judgment call. I use my best judgment.

24

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point in time?

I try and take the scene into its context and see what's there. So there are some items that struck me as being unusual and could possibly be related. There were some other items there that I thought could possibly be related but I kind of discounted as I examined a little further, investigated further. For instance, there were some red and blue threads that looked like it was from a torn garment in the grass. Later we found an old shredded ball cap that looked like it had been run over by a mower. That, originally, was collected. I thought it was evidence until we found the ball cap and then 12 realized it's possibly been a long time before this happened. So, we try -- we never really know what's 14 evidence until we know.

- Better to collect it all and not need it is the 0. philosophy?
 - Α. Of course.

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- Q. Looking at State's Exhibit No. 29, can you tell the jury what that is?
- Α. This is the backyard fence. This is looking, I believe, toward the -- this would be looking toward the west in the backyard. This is a toppled-over clothesline that is on that part of the backyard.
- 0. And going back to State's Exhibit No. 14, is that the clothesline at 12406 Tambourine?

A. Yes. This is the clotheslining right there in the back.

- Q. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 30, can you tell the jury what that is?
- A. This is looking clear across the whole backyard now, back toward that clothesline. So, this is the clothesline back here. It's mounted with very dry, rotted wood. It looked like it was ready to fall over any minute. In fact, part of it was already leaning, as you saw. And then there is a back patio. This is a little concrete patio that's attached to the house, as well.
- Q. And State's Exhibit No. 31, can you tell us what this is?
- A. This is the same backyard, only now I'm standing in front of the clothesline looking the other direction.
- Q. And did you find something unusual in the backyard?
- A. I did. I found some -- a piece of jewelry, and what you can see here is what looks like a man's belt.
 - Q. State's Exhibits 32, is that just an up-close?
 - A. It is. That's an up-close view of the belt.
- Q. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 33, can you see?

A. I can. This is a -- it's a silver -- and I'm not -- I call it a square pattern. It looks like a herringbone-type pattern of a necklace. It was a 22-inch-long necklace.

- Q. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 34, is that another picture of the necklace?
- A. It's another picture, just a little bit closer-up, yes.
- Q. And when you collected these items, what did you do, first of all, with the casing?
- A. The casing was collected and packaged and tagged in the property room for the intent to go to the firearms lab.
- Q. And then what did you do with the belt and the necklace?
- A. The belt was collected and tagged in the property room for comparison and maybe recognition by someone who might recognize the belt, and thinking it might have come from a suspect in a struggle. It may have come from the complainant at some point in time. The necklace was collected and actually swabbed the necklace for contact DNA, thinking that because the necklace was broken, maybe during the struggle it was pulled off and wanted to try and identify a person who had handled it.

- Q. Did you collect anything else from the backyard at that point in time?
- A. I collected those red and blue fibers that I mentioned earlier, and I believe that was it.
- Q. At any time, did you do any kind of testing or bagging of the hands on Jhon, the complainant?
- A. I assisted the medical examiner in collecting a gunshot residue kit. It's an SEM kit that tests for gunshot residue, or the kit will be examined for the presence of gunshot residue on the hands of Jhon.
 - Q. And do you test both hands?

- A. I do. I test them separately with different swabs, the left and the right hand.
- Q. And can that test prove or disprove that somebody has fired a firearm?
- A. It cannot. What -- in fact, typically, someone who has been injured by a firearm or who has received a gunshot wound will be on the receiving end of not only the bullet from the gun, but also that gunshot residue as it comes out the weapon. So, typically, that will come back as a positive reading even on someone who has not fired the weapon.
- Q. Would you say the closer a person is to the gun being fired, the more likely they might have some residue or some gunshot residue on them?

ANDREW TARAVELLA - July 28, 2015 Direct Examination by Ms. Hartman

1 Α. That's fair to say, yes. 2 And were you there when the Harris County 0. 3 Medical Examiner removed the body? 4 I was. Α. 5 At that time, did any other evidence -- did you Q. 6 find any other evidence after that --7 I don't believe so. Α. 8 0. -- once the body was removed? 9 Α. Correct. 10 At that time, did you do any more investigation 11 into this case? 12 There was some stains on the fence that we Α. 13 examined as possible bloodstains. At the time we 14 weren't sure what they were. In fact, to this day, I 15 don't know what they were, if they were tested or not. 16 But I swabbed some of those stains and submitted them, 17 as well. And that's the extent of my investigation. 18 MS. HARTMAN: Pass the witness, Your 19 Honor. 20 MR. MADRID: Cross-examination, Your 21 Honor? 22 THE COURT: Sure. 23 24 25

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2 BY MR. MADRID: 3 Good afternoon, Officer Taravella. 4 Good afternoon. Α. 5 You said that -- I just had a question. 0. 6 guess my first question was, you were a senior crime 7 scene analysis -- or analyst, and I wasn't familiar with 8 that. So, that's crime scene analyst, right? But 9 not -- because I think I got a little confused in my mind. A lab analyst, you don't do that part of it? 10 11 I don't do that part, no. The crime scene 12 analyst is a specialist that is certified to process the 13 crime scene itself. 14 Okay. But in doing that, you did a number of 0. 15 For instance, the -- you looked for contact 16 DNA, right? 17 Α. I did. 18 Q. And then with the gunshot residue, right? 19 I did. A . 20 Q. And then you also have familiarity with 21 stifling and contact wound, so you have kind of a broad 22 range? 23 I do. Α. 24 I guess that comes with your years of Q.

experience and your training. You trained in different

1 areas, right? 2 Α. I did. 3 But in this crime scene, when you got out 4 there, Sosa and Avila are the lead investigators from Homicide, correct? 5 6 A . Correct. 7 Your job is to take pictures, collect all the 8 evidence? 9 A. Correct. 10 So my question is, on some of these, you didn't 11 deal with the bodies at all. That would just be the M.E.'s Office? 121 13 Correct. The only thing I dealt with the body A . was to collect the qunshot residue kit as a courtesy to 14 15 them. Normally, they would do that, as well. I don't 16 recall the exact reason why they asked me to do that. 17 Did you happen to notice that the complaining 18 witness, he left behind some valuable items, like the 19 State's exhibit that you see on the overhead up there, a 20 chain, some kind of necklace, right? 21 Α. Okay. You said that the complainant left that 22 behind? 23 0. Or somebody did. 24 A. Somebody did.

Could have been whoever shot him. It could

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Q.

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   have been the owner of the house, I guess?
2
       Α.
            Correct.
3
            But it seemed like a valuable item, so you took
       0.
4
   a picture?
5
       Α.
           Correct. It seemed out of place; so, I take a
6
   picture, but then collect it and swab it.
7
            And you swabbed it for DNA to see if somebody
       0.
8
   had pulled it off the complaining witness, right?
9
       Α.
            Correct.
10
            And that part, it goes to the lab.
                                                  And that's
11
   up to the DNA analyst to determine -- taking swabs of
12
   other people to determine if they touched that or not,
13
   right?
14
       A .
            Correct.
15
            You don't have anything to do with that?
       0.
16
       Α.
             I don't.
17
            But that was a valuable piece of -- possibly
       0.
18
   something of value to somebody, right?
19
       Α.
             I don't even -- it could have been a toy, for
20
   all I know. I don't know if it's real silver or what
   the value is. You're trying to say that is valuable.
21
22
   If you're trying to say it's this dollar value or if
23
   it's real jewelry or not, I don't know.
            We don't know that. It could be?
24
       Q.
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Could be.

Α.

- Q. Just like the Gucci belt that you took a picture of?
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. There was, I think -- and I'm not sure if you saw this or not, because you weren't dealing with the body -- a gold earring on the complaining witness that was left behind?
- A. What do you mean by, left behind? It was in his left earlobe.
- Q. Nobody tried to take it off his ear or anything?
- A. I'm not sure if the medical examiner removed it or not. It's sometimes their policy to remove all jewelry from a complainant before they remove him.

 Sometimes, for one reason or another, they decide to leave it. So, I don't know if it was left on the
 - Q. I'm just referring to maybe somebody that's shot -- when the body was found, he had an earring on, right?
 - A. He had an earring, yes.
 - Q. And he had a ring on, right?

complainant when it was removed or not.

- 23 A. I don't recall the ring --
- Q. A kind of silver-type gold, if you saw it? You did or you didn't.

- A. I didn't make note of a ring.
- Q. Did you see the clear plastic bags, the kind that crack dealers might use or drug dealers, in his pockets, anything in his pockets?
- A. The things in his pockets, I, typically, wouldn't make note of or observe. That's the medical examiner when they -- when they're -- when we're all done with our cursory inspection of the injuries and whatnot, I kind of move off and finish my thing. And that's theirs. So, an inventory of his personal possessions is not part of my investigation.
- Q. So, you wouldn't have had a chance to see the almost \$1,600 in cash that he had on him?
 - A. I don't believe so, no.
- 15 Q. And you didn't take any pictures of that, at
 16 least?
- 17 A. No.

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- Q. Because you didn't touch his body. And if somebody else saw that, then it's in their report? They can testify to it, right?
- 21 A. Certainly.
- Q. Okay. But you did have a fired cartridge there, right?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And now, again, that gets sent out, right?

A. Yes.

- Q. And the ballistics expert then will come and testify to that?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And what they would be able to testify to -and you have a little bit of background; so if you do or
 don't, you can tell me -- they would be able to compare
 that -- possibly that cartridge if there was a gun
 recovered and to see if there is a match?
- A. Correct. They can make a determination or attempt to make a determination if that cartridge casing would have come from or been fired from a particular weapon.
- Q. And they do what are called -- they may look for rifling?
- A. Rifling is what's inside a barrel or on a fired bullet. They would look for striations, scratches, marks, different indentations of the firing pin and make comparisons along those regards.
- Q. And so, would they be able to do -- the value of finding that, if -- that you collected -- if the gun is fired or found, then you can match the two together?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Or if there is anything -- anything left in the complaining witness' body, if that's recovered, those

also could be used, right?

- A. Correct. If there's fired projectiles that did not exit the complainant, they would find them during the autopsy and possibly be able to use those to -- for comparison, as well.
- Q. And if, for instance, they made a match, it's also possible that, hypothetically, if the gun is found, you can make a match; and you could also make a match with that gun if the gun was used in any other cases and any other ballistics were recovered?
- A. Correct, if there is evidence it can be compared to, yes.
 - Q. Thank you.

MR. MADRID: Pass the witness.

MS. HARTMAN: Just briefly, Your Honor.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. HARTMAN:

- Q. Officer Taravella, you wouldn't be surprised that if somebody was selling drugs that they would have \$1,500 in their pocket, would you?
- A. Not at all. That's actually small change for that profession.
- Q. And you wouldn't be surprised that they had baggies that would be conducive of somebody who was selling crack cocaine, would it?

ANDREW TARAVELLA - July 28, 2015 Redirect Examination by Ms. Hartman

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             Not at all.
       Α.
2
             Or that they would have a gold necklace?
       0.
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       Α.
             No.
4
             Or a potential Gucci belt?
       Q.
5
       Α.
             Not at all.
6
       0.
             Would it surprise you if they've got a diamond
7
   earring?
8
       Α.
             No.
9
             That's just kind of the lifestyle that he might
       Q.
10
   live?
11
            Of a potential drug dealer? Is that what
12
   you're asking.
13
       Q.
             Yes.
14
       A .
            Yes.
15
             Now, going back to State's Exhibit No. 28A, can
       0.
16
   you take a look at that casing? Can you tell us what
17
   kind of casing that is?
18
             The brand is PPU, and I'm not really sure
       Α.
19
   exactly what manufacturer that is. And it's a
   9-millimeter Luger caliber.
20
21
             Now, I'm showing you what's been -- State's
       0.
22
   Exhibit No. 27. And again, that is a picture of State's
23
   Exhibit No. 28A that you're holding right now?
24
       A .
            Yes, ma'am.
25
             And what kind of firearm would shoot that
       Q.
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9-millimeter Luger casing?

- A. Actually, there is a whole host of firearms that can shoot this. But one it's chambered for?
- Q. Sorry about that question. Correct. What caliber of firearm would shoot a bullet that's a 9-millimeter?
- A. Okay. It would be another 9-millimeter Luger, and a Luger is -- I believe the casing is 19 millimeters long so 9-by-19, or 9-millimeter Luger would -- is the type of firearm it would fire in.
- Q. Does 9-millimeter come in a semiautomatic, or does it come in a revolver?
 - A. Typically, it comes in a semiautomatic only.
- Q. And can you tell the jury, what is a semiautomatic pistol?
- A. Semiautomatic pistol is a type of firearm, handheld, that has a magazine. The magazine is inserted usually in the grip of the weapon. And every time that you pull the trigger, a round fires, it re-chambers a round with the slide. And it takes a round from the magazine, places it in the chamber to where it's ready to fire another round.
- Q. And what -- when one is fired from the weapon, does it usually fire out to the right or out to the left?

A. Most firearms that I'm familiar with and deal with fire either straight up in the air or slightly to the right.

- Q. Okay. And looking at State's Exhibit No. 25, and keeping where you see Marker No. 5, and then looking at State's Exhibit No. 21, any way you can tell where somebody would be standing or positioned when they fired the semi weapon from the casing that you found at the scene?
- A. Judging from the indication on the scene, I can make assumptions; but typically, there is no way to really determine that. If there was a cluster of fired cartridge casings, I can start to draw some conclusions of where someone was standing. But with a single cartridge case, it's very difficult to make that determination; because there is so many things that could affect how it lands and where it lands, especially being close to having the brick of the house, the wood fence, the people, it could bounce off. It could have hit the soffit of the roof and come down. There is really no way to make a conclusion from that.
 - Q. Was the casing hard to find at the scene?
- A. It was difficult to find. In fact, you can see the picture and how it could easily get lost in the grass. It's the same color as that dry grass, so it is

difficult. And that's why I brought out the metal detector to try and find that one and did find that one.

I didn't find any others.

- Q. Did you use the metal detector throughout the backyard to look for any additional casings?
 - A. I did.

- Q. And is it kind of like finding a needle in a haystack on something like that?
- A. It's pretty tough. The number of times where I don't find cartridge casings visually and break out the metal detector, it's still very rare that I find them even with that.
- Q. And do you know if there had been any additional testing on that besides ballistics?
- A. I'm not even aware that the ballistics testing or the result that was done.
- Q. And it's not your duty to go and talk to any additional witnesses or do any of the other investigations that are done in this case?
 - A. It's not.
- Q. And are you following protocol when you're not searching the victim's body looking for any identification or for seeing what's in his pockets?
- A. That's correct. Strictly, the medical examiner does that. If on rare occasion they may ask for our

ANDREW TARAVELLA - July 28, 2015 Redirect Examination by Ms. Hartman

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   assistance, we'll help out.
2
            And that's protocol for every scene in the City
3
   of Houston?
4
       Α.
            It is.
5
                 MS. HARTMAN: Pass the witness, Your
6
   Honor.
7
                 MR. MADRID: Just very briefly, Your
8
   Honor.
9
                       CROSS-EXAMINATION
10
   BY MR. MADRID:
11
       Q. Officer Taravella, you've worked for
12
   twenty-three years with HPD, correct?
13
       A .
           Correct.
14
            And in your -- not all in CSU, has it been?
15
            Thirteen-plus in CSU.
       A .
16
            So, I mean, varied experience. Would it
17
   surprise you if somebody was committing an aggravated
18
   robbery that they would leave behind $1,600, as a police
19
   officer?
20
                 MS. HARTMAN: I'm going to have to object
21
   to speculation, Your Honor.
22
                  THE COURT: Sustained as to the form of
23
   the question.
24
       Q. (By Mr. Madrid) In your experience as a police
25
   officer, have you worked any aggravated robberies or
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robberies? Not as just Crime Scene, but before you were in Crime Scene?

- A. Combined, probably hundreds.
- Q. And normally the goal of that, if you know, is if somebody is robbing someone at gunpoint and possibly killing them is to take items from them of value, right?
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. Things like money and jewelry. So it would be unusual to leave behind \$1,600 if you're robbing someone?
 - A. Are you asking me if --
 - Q. Yeah, just if you know, your opinion.
- A. My opinion, there's all kind of reasons people leave money behind. And I've found -- I mean, it's probably 50/50 that I would find money left behind on a robbery victim.
- Q. It's possible that this is simply not a robbery, but a straight murder, just an execution murder, for instance?
- A. Sure. I have no way of knowing what the motivation was.
 - Q. Could be, though, right?
- A. Of course.
- Q. Obviously, if nothing is taken, there is no robbery; it's just a murder?

```
1
            Well, that's not the case. I mean, the
       A .
2
   robbery -- the act of the robbery is incurred the moment
3
   that the threat is there whether something is taken or
4
   not.
5
            Well, depending on the intent. If there is an
6
   intent to rob, you would agree it's a robbery whether
7
   you take something or not?
8
       Α.
            Correct.
9
            But if you just go shoot someone, you just kill
       Q.
10
   them, it's a murder?
11
            I would think so, yes.
       A .
12
       Q.
            Okay.
13
                  MR. MADRID: Pass the witness.
14
                  MS. HARTMAN: Nothing further, Your Honor.
15
                  THE COURT: You may step aside.
16
                 MS. HARTMAN: May we approach real quick?
17
                  (Off-the-record discussion)
18
                  MS. HARTMAN: Your Honor, we would call
19
   Juan Vasquez; but he's parking his vehicle right now,
20
   Judge.
21
                  (Witness sworn)
22
                  (This witness has an interpreter and is
23
                  testifying some in English and some
24
                  through the interpreter)
25
                  MS. HARTMAN: May I proceed, Your Honor?
```

```
1
                  THE COURT:
                               Sure.
2
                          JUAN VASQUEZ,
3
   having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:
4
                       DIRECT EXAMINATION
5
   BY MS. HARTMAN:
6
       0.
             Sir, could you please introduce yourself to the
7
   jury?
8
       Α.
             My name is the Juan Carlos Vasquez.
9
             And how are you employed, Mr. Vasquez?
        Q.
10
        A .
             I work as a groundskeeper.
11
             And how long have you been working as a
        Q.
12
   groundskeeper?
13
       Α.
             For twenty years.
14
             And do you understand English and Spanish?
       0.
             Little.
15
        A .
             Do you feel more comfortable --
16
        Q.
17
             In Spanish.
       Α.
18
             And she's taking down everything we say; and
19
   so, we have to be really careful about not talking over
20
   each other. And she won't be able to take down head
21
   nods, okay?
22
       A .
             Okay.
23
             And so, I'm sorry, how long did you say you had
24
   been a groundskeeper?
25
       Α.
             Twenty years.
```

```
1
       0.
             Is that for the same company?
2
       Α.
             Yes.
3
       Q.
             And were you at work today?
4
             Yes, from 7:00 to 3:30.
       Α.
5
             And is that the hours you work every day?
       Q.
6
       Α.
             Yes, from Monday through Friday.
7
             Did you take yesterday off?
       Q.
8
       Α.
             Yes, because I came here to the court. It was
9
             It had been canceled.
   closed.
10
             And if you don't work, you don't get paid?
       0.
11
             Yes, because I'm salaried.
       Α.
12
       Q.
             Now, where do you live?
13
             12402 Tambourine, Stafford, Texas.
       Α.
14
       0.
             I'm going to show you Exhibit 14 that's already
   been admitted into evidence. Is this your house, 124 --
15
16
       Α.
             Yes.
17
             I'm going to show you State's Exhibits Nos. 6,
       0.
   7 and 8.
18
19
                  How about since she's interpreting --
20
       Α.
             Okay.
21
             -- for you let her interpret all to Spanish.
22
   And when you tell your answers in Spanish, she'll
23
   interpret them to me in English? I think it will be
24
   more simplistic for her. I know you understand; but
25
   that way, she will know what you don't understand and
```

```
1
   she can just do her job.
2
       Α.
             Okay.
3
            All right. So did you get a chance to look at
       Q.
4
   State's Exhibits 6, 7 and 8?
5
       Α.
            Yes.
6
       0.
             Did you -- do you recognize State's Exhibits 6,
7
   7 and 8?
8
       A .
             Yes.
9
             Do the pictures in these exhibits -- is this
       Q.
10
   how everything looked back in 2013 --
11
       Α.
             Yes.
12
       0.
            -- on September the 1st?
13
       Α.
             Yes, yes.
14
                  MS. HARTMAN: I'd like to tender 6, 7 and
   8 to defense counsel and offer them into evidence.
15
16
                  MR. MADRID: No objection, Your Honor.
17
                  THE COURT: Admitted.
18
             (By Ms. Hartman) Looking at State's Exhibit
19
   No. 6, Mr. Vasquez, can you tell the jury what this is?
20
       Α.
             That's in front of my house.
21
             Who lives in that house with you?
       0.
22
       Α.
             My wife and four children.
23
             And how old are your four kids?
       0.
24
       Α.
             The oldest is nineteen, other one is sixteen,
25
   twelve and ten.
```

- 1 Q. Back in 2013, were you living there with your
 2 wife and your four kids?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Do you recall when you got home on August 31st
 - of 2013?
- A. I arrived on Saturday, on Saturday afternoon.7 I arrived from work at 4:30 in the afternoon.
 - Q. And what did you do when you got home?
- 9 A. When I arrived at home, my wife and I went out 10 to eat. And we returned around 10:00 at night.
- 11 Q. So, you didn't hear any type of gunshots, did
 12 you?
- 13 A. No.

5

8

16

17

18

- Q. Did -- did you know if anything unusualhappened at night on Saturday?
 - A. No. In fact, my wife and children, we were watching a movie until 2:00 in the morning.
 - Q. Did anything wake you up the next morning?
- A. The following day -- I have a dog and I have a little hen. The dog was barking, and the hen was clucking.
- Q. And that was Sunday, the 1st?
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
 - Q. And what kind of dog is it?
- A. A Chihuahua.

- Q. And what did you do once the dog was barking?
- A. I opened the back doors, and I looked over to my neighbor's house. I put the fence (sic). And when I looked over, I saw the body lying there.
 - Q. And about what time was that in the morning?
 - A. Around 9:30 in the morning.
- Q. Looking at State's Exhibit No. 7, is that what you saw when you looked over the fence?
- A. Yes.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

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17

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19

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21

22

- Q. And you can touch the screen. And can you tell the jury where you were standing or where you were looking over the fence at?
- A. I placed the ladder here, and I saw that. And I thought that he was drunk; because there had been a party at that house, at the third house.
- Q. At any time, did you go check to see if he was indeed drunk and just passed out?
- A. At first I saw him. And then I went to notify the neighbors, because I thought they might know him.
- Q. And what was your neighbor's name that you went and notified?
- A. I don't know his name. I don't remember his name.
- Q. What did you do after you notified your neighbor?

- A. After I went to notify the neighbor, he accompanied me. And then that's when we got closer, and that's when we saw that the young man had a gunshot wound here.
 - Q. And could you actually see the gunshot wound?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And after you realized that he was dead, did you call 911?
- 9 A. No.

6

7

8

- Q. Who called 911?
- 11 A. The other neighbor.
- 12 Q. At any time, did you go and walk into the
 13 backyard to see if there was anything else or anybody
 14 else back there?
- A. When we saw that, we both went into the back.

 And we didn't see anything. We went to see if we could

 see anything, but we didn't see anything.
- Q. Did you happen to mow your neighbor's grass theday before?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So, looking at State's Exhibit No. 31,
- 22 is that your neighbor's backyard?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Is that the grass you mowed the day before?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And was that on Friday, or was that on 2 Saturday? 3 A . Friday. 4 And when you mowed your neighbor's backyard, 0. 5 was that belt lying in the backyard? 6 A . No. 7 Okay. I'm looking at State's Exhibit No. 33. 0. 8 Do you see that chain right there? 9 Α. No. 10 0. Was that chain in your neighbor's yard? 11 Α. No. 12 0. And did you see those items when you went into 13 your neighbor's backyard after you found the body? 14 A . Yes. 15 At any time, did you find anything else in your 0. 16 neighbor's backyard? 17 After the detectives went there, I found a Α. spent bullet casing by a little bench that's there. 18 19 Looking at State's Exhibit No. 8, is this the 0. 20 area that you found the casing? 21 It was around here. Α. 22 Q. Is that the bench you're talking about right 23 there? 24 Α. Yes. 25 And does it look like that's a hose on the Q.

JUAN VASQUEZ - July 28, 2015 Direct Examination by Ms. Hartman

```
1
   ground?
2
       A .
             Yes.
3
             Let me zoom in. Is that the casing that you
        0.
4
   found?
5
       Α.
             Yes.
6
       0.
             Did you touch that casing?
7
       Α.
             No.
8
       0.
             Did you move it in any way?
9
       Α.
             No.
10
             Well, what did you do once you found it?
       0.
11
       Α.
             I left it there.
12
             Did you call anybody to let them know that you
       0.
13
   found a casing?
14
             Two days later the detective went, and I told
       Α.
   him that it was there.
15
16
            And while you were home, you did not see or
17
   hear anything?
18
       Α.
             No.
19
                  MS. HARTMAN: Pass the witness, Your
20
   Honor.
21
                  THE COURT: All right.
22
                  MR. MADRID: Briefly, Your Honor.
23
                        CROSS-EXAMINATION
24
   BY MR. MADRID:
25
            Good afternoon, Mr. Vasquez. So, you found
       Q.
```

```
1
   this body there in the yard, correct?
2
       Α.
            Yes.
3
            And the night before you had worked, so you
4
   didn't hear any gunshots?
5
       Α.
            No.
6
       0.
            But there was a party, so you just assumed that
7
   was somebody from the party?
8
       Α.
            At the third house.
9
            Three houses down, right. But you didn't see
       Q.
10
   anybody shoot that -- the person that you found, did
11
   you?
12
       A .
            No.
13
       Q.
            And you've never seen the man to my right, have
14
   you?
15
       A .
            No.
16
                  MR. MADRID: Pass the witness, Your Honor.
17
                  MS. HARTMAN: Nothing further, Your Honor.
18
                  THE COURT: You may step aside.
19
                  Is that it?
20
                  MS. HARTMAN: Yes, Your Honor, for today.
21
                  THE COURT: Members of the jury, we're
22
   going to go ahead and adjourn for the evening. It's a
23
   little bit earlier than when I like to adjourn; but this
24
   is probably a good place to break. So, let me just ask
25
   you. I want you to come back to this courtroom actually
```

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before 9:00 o'clock in the morning. I like to get started at 9:00 o'clock. Let me just suggest to you, when you come into the courthouse, if you're not familiar with it, sometimes you can see people outside. There is a serpentine group that goes all the way around the courthouse. These are people that have to come through the metal detector before they enter the courthouse. I don't want you to get caught in that morass of people, so you might want to get here a little bit early.
```

But, also, in case there are a lot of people in front of you, if you will go up to one of the -- there should be a deputy somewhere seated close by -- and show them your jury badge, and just tell them you're supposed to be up in court, say, by 8:45. I want to get started no later than 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

So, please make an effort to be here on time, okay? I would appreciate it if you would. Remember the instructions I've given you about not discussing the matter with anybody.

I'm told that there is a good possibility we can conclude the evidence tomorrow. I don't know if that will be happen or not, but I'm certainly going to make an effort to do that. There is a good chance that

JUAN VASQUEZ - July 28, 2015 Cross-Examination by Mr. Madrid

```
1
   we will, which means we could argue the case Friday
2
   morning. Okay. So, you may now be excused. Thank you.
3
   We'll see you in the morning.
4
                   (Court adjourned at 4:20 p.m.)
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HARRIS

I, Pamela Kay Knobloch, Official Court Reporter in and for the 339th District Court of Harris County, State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of all portions of evidence and other proceedings requested in writing by counsel for the parties to be included in this volume of the Reporter's Record in the above-styled and numbered cause, all of which occurred in open court or in chambers and were reported by me.

I further certify that this Reporter's Record of the proceedings truly and correctly reflects the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.

Signed this 10th day of November, 2015.

/s/Pamela Kay Knobloch

Pamela Kay Knobloch/CSR, #1650 Official Court Reporter 339th District Court Harris County, Texas 1201 Franklin - 14th Floor Houston, Texas 77002 Telephone: 713-755-7784 Expiration: 12/31/16

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25

\$	3	27/18 32/18 32/21 32/24 33/6 33/12
\$1,500 [4] 26/14 26/25 60/21 94/20	30 [2] 73/13 84/3	36/13 39/17 39/22 48/13 49/3 50/1 50/2 54/7 58/6 58/7 58/11 59/23 65/5
\$1,600 [3] 92/13 99/18 100/9	31 [3] 73/14 84/13 107/21	65/6 65/7 70/13 70/16 70/18 75/25
/	31st [13] 9/15 10/15 11/10 20/6 27/8 32/19 39/23 41/17 49/8 49/20 49/23	76/8 96/4 102/19 103/19 106/5 108/22
/s/Pamela [1] 113/18	61/6 105/4	111/20 above [3] 1/13 113/6 113/10
0	32 [2] 73/14 84/22	above-styled [1] 113/10
	33 [3] 73/14 84/24 108/7	above-titled [1] 1/13
00792733 [1] 2/3 00797777 [1] 2/9	339TH [4] 1/5 1/22 113/5 113/20 34 [3] 73/14 73/25 85/5	academy [4] 48/14 67/18 67/19 67/23 accidental [1] 39/15
1	360 [1] 54/23	accompanied [1] 107/2
	37 [4] 41/11 41/14 42/1 42/8	according [1] 72/18
10 [3] 51/9 52/23 54/13 10:00 [1] 105/10	38 [4] 41/11 42/1 42/23 43/8 39 [3] 23/5 23/11 23/15	across [1] 84/5 act [2] 26/21 101/2
10:20 [1] 70/13	3:00 [1] 69/21	actual [2] 74/14 82/11
10th [1] 113/16	3:30 [1] 103/4	actually [16] 26/19 32/14 33/21 47/20
11 [1] 51/9 11:20 [1] 70/18	4	49/23 49/24 50/14 76/13 78/7 78/9 78/13 85/21 94/21 96/2 107/5 110/25
12 [2] 51/9 53/7	40 [2] 41/11 42/1	additional [9] 22/18 46/10 67/25 77/11
12/31/16 [1] 113/22	406 [2] 75/14 76/18	79/3 81/16 98/5 98/14 98/18
1201 [2] 2/5 113/21 124 [1] 103/15	40s [2] 48/6 49/11 410 [1] 75/14	address [6] 45/3 45/6 50/12 50/15 50/19 81/9
12402 [3] 75/23 76/16 103/13	4:20 [1] 112/4	adjourn [2] 110/22 110/23
12406 [6] 50/21 70/15 74/13 75/21	4:30 [1] 105/7	adjourned [1] 112/4
76/5 83/25 12410 [2] 74/13 75/9	5	admitted [11] 5/5 19/20 23/14 24/1
12410 [2] 74/13 73/9	50 [1] 100/15	32/2 42/3 51/20 74/8 82/10 103/15 104/17
13 [3] 51/9 51/17 55/13	50/50 [1] 100/15	advise [1] 24/11
14 [6] 72/23 73/24 74/10 75/6 83/24 103/14	52 [2] 41/11 42/1 5800 [1] 2/6	advised [1] 51/5
1401543 [1] 1/2	59 [3] 11/22 37/7 59/8	affect [1] 97/17 after [28] 11/11 11/25 13/6 14/2 14/12
14030 [1] 41/1	6	21/1 21/11 26/15 27/25 36/5 54/25
 14th [1] 113/21 15 [4] 73/12 73/25 74/22 75/5	6:30 [2] 32/23 36/3	57/2 63/7 64/2 64/7 67/23 68/19 70/14
16 [5] 73/12 74/4 74/5 75/10 113/22	6:40 [1] 32/23	72/1 72/5 78/2 80/22 87/6 106/24 107/1 107/7 108/13 108/17
1650 [1] 113/19	6:45 [1] 36/3	afternoon [16] 11/6 15/10 24/24 36/11
17 [2] 73/13 75/19	7	36/12 46/3 46/4 47/16 57/19 57/20
18 [2] 73/13 75/22 19 [8] 48/6 48/6 48/7 49/11 58/5 73/13	713-755-5800 [1] 2/6	69/21 88/3 88/4 105/6 105/7 109/25 afterwards [1] 58/10
76/2 96/9	713-755-7784 [1] 113/22	again [6] 75/12 76/16 78/21 79/6 92/25
19 millimeters [1] 96/8	77002 [2] 2/6 113/21	95/22
1992 [1] 67/19 19D [1] 58/13	7784 [1] 113/22 7:00 [8] 11/11 11/25 14/1 20/17 20/24	Against [2] 9/20 10/21 aggravated [2] 99/17 99/25
1st [10] 49/24 49/25 51/25 61/7 69/17	36/4 69/20 103/4	ago [3] 27/8 36/14 57/24
70/11 71/11 73/21 104/12 105/22	7:30 [1] 14/2	agree [2] 66/15 101/6
2	8	ahead [4] 17/21 19/17 23/10 110/22
20 [4] 48/6 73/13 76/10 76/11	8:00 [2] 40/9 40/20	air [1] 97/2 Aldine [3] 59/11 60/4 60/7
2013 [23] 9/15 10/15 11/10 20/3 20/6	8:01 [1] 40/20	alive [2] 53/22 53/24
23/8 27/8 30/22 31/15 31/18 32/19 39/23 41/17 41/20 49/8 49/20 69/17	8:45 [2] 50/2 111/15	all [50] 16/9 16/23 17/18 18/9 19/9 22/12 24/6 25/4 26/23 27/5 29/15
70/11 73/3 73/20 104/10 105/1 105/5	9	31/18 39/11 41/16 41/19 43/19 48/8
2015 [3] 1/12 3/3 113/16	9-by-19 [1] 96/9 9-millimeter [7] 34/1 95/20 96/1 96/6	48/16 51/10 51/12 54/23 55/7 56/6
20:01 [1] 40/20 20s [1] 58/13	9-millimeter [7] 34/1 95/20 96/1 96/6 96/7 96/9 96/11	56/7 57/1 57/11 60/19 64/23 71/9 74/4
21 [3] 73/13 76/21 97/6	911 [3] 14/8 107/8 107/10	74/9 81/25 83/15 85/10 89/7 89/11 90/20 91/13 92/7 94/21 95/1 95/5
22 [1] 73/13	98 [3] 23/6 23/13 23/18	99/14 100/13 103/21 104/3 109/21
22-inch-long [1] 85/4 23 [2] 73/13 76/22	9:00 [4] 40/11 111/1 111/2 111/16 9:30 [1] 106/6	111/5 113/7 113/11
24 [2] 73/13 78/19	9:45 [1] 50/2	allegation [1] 9/23 allegedly [1] 61/5
24054166 [1] 2/4	A	alleyway [2] 54/21 75/13
25 [4] 73/13 80/6 80/13 97/4 26 [2] 73/13 80/11	a.m [1] 20/24	almost [2] 70/18 92/13
27 [3] 73/13 80/20 95/22	abdomen [1] 13/18	alone [2] 49/18 55/8 along [4] 40/16 48/19 60/7 93/19
28 [6] 3/3 73/13 80/25 81/22 82/7	able [29] 39/18 43/13 44/3 44/6 44/6	ALPHABETICAL [1] 4/1
82/11 28A [8] 80/25 81/4 81/7 82/7 82/13	44/9 44/16 44/24 45/16 45/17 46/9 46/12 48/20 53/1 53/4 54/19 55/1	already [8] 12/17 12/17 24/1 30/24
82/14 95/15 95/23	56/10 56/21 61/11 62/9 63/2 63/4 80/8	45/11 72/16 84/9 103/14 also [19] 11/7 12/3 12/7 13/12 16/1
28th [1] 1/12	93/5 93/7 93/20 94/4 102/20	16/18 27/15 28/21 39/6 48/15 55/20
29 [2] 73/13 83/18 2:00 [1] 105/17	about [50] 9/14 10/15 11/22 12/20 14/4 15/17 17/5 17/6 17/17 19/7 19/24 20/8	78/6 82/3 86/19 88/20 94/1 94/7 94/8
2.00 [1] 100/1/	20/15 20/17 20/17 25/7 25/17 27/8	111/11 Alvarez [5] 13/7 17/10 18/1 18/7 24/24
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