

1 Ms. Bennett, you may proceed.

2 MS. BENNETT: Thank you, Judge.

3 **THOMAS MEEK,**

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

6 BY MS. BENNETT:

7 Q. Officer, if you would please introduce yourself
8 to the jurors by telling them your name and where you
9 work?

10 A. I'm Officer Thomas Meek. I work for the Humble
11 Police Department.

12 Q. How long have you been with the Humble Police
13 Department?

14 A. A year and a half.

15 Q. Did you serve with any other law enforcement
16 agencies prior to that?

17 A. The Harris County Sheriff's Office and Mental
18 Health.

19 Q. How long were you there?

20 A. Approximately three years.

21 Q. Are you a certified peace officer in the State
22 of Texas?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What are your duties with the Humble Police
25 Department?

1 A. Currently I'm on the nightshift patrol
2 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

3 Q. Do you patrol the Humble area?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do y'all have jurisdiction outside of Humble?

6 A. Yes, we do.

7 Q. I want to take your attention back to August
8 the 21st of 2011, were you on duty that day around
9 3 o'clock in the afternoon?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What were you doing?

12 A. I was working a second shift patrol 2:00 p.m.
13 to 10:00 p.m., and I was sitting watching traffic on one
14 of the main roads through Humble.

15 Q. Were you in a marked police car?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were you by yourself?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you hear something on the radio that caused
20 you to move?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. DUARTE: Your Honor, just for -- excuse
23 me, Officer. Just for the record, I'll make that same
24 objection I had earlier regarding this testimony,
25 404 (b), 403, 37.07, and ask the Court that my objection

1 be noted and continuing objection throughout this
2 testimony.

3 THE COURT: All right. Your objection is
4 noted and overruled.

5 Q. (BY MS. BENNETT) Did a call go out over the
6 radio?

7 A. Yes, it did.

8 Q. And what kind of call was it?

9 A. It was a robbery of an individual in progress.

10 Q. And what did you do when you heard that call?

11 A. As soon as I heard the tones go out for the
12 call, I immediately did a U-turn because I was on First
13 Street, I went to 59 and First Street, which is in the
14 center of Humble.

15 Q. Does the Eastex Freeway or 59 the north part of
16 59 through Humble?

17 A. Yes, it's a more major thoroughfare through
18 Humble. It goes right through the middle of Humble.

19 Q. And you headed in that direction?

20 A. Yes, I did. I headed to First Street and 59 at
21 the intersection, which was on the southbound side is
22 where I was waiting.

23 Q. So, why did you wait at that location?

24 A. I waited there because usually from past calls
25 at the mall if we have burglaries or robberies, the

1 suspects usually go south on the highway. So, we try to
2 position ourselves around the mall so that way we can
3 get where the entrance ramps are and the exists.

4 Q. Do you find that people that commit crimes in
5 Humble find 59 to be an easy and fast exit away from
6 your jurisdiction?

7 A. Yes.

8 MR. DUARTE: Objection.

9 THE COURT: He's answered the question.

10 Q. (BY MS. BENNETT) While parked there are you
11 continuing to hear call-outs on the radio?

12 A. Yes, the dispatcher was, I believe, talking to
13 the reportee at the site; and they were giving us
14 up-to-date information about the suspect's vehicle and
15 last known direction of travel.

16 Q. What vehicle or what description were you
17 looking for?

18 A. It was a red Pontiac passenger car.

19 Q. And did you at some point have an occasion to
20 leave that place where you had parked at First and 59?

21 A. Yes, after I arrived at the location, I waited
22 a, probably about a minute and a half or so, and I
23 haven't heard anybody that was going towards the mall,
24 and so I proceeded through the intersection because it
25 was several other officers that were coming from where I

1 originally started, and so I went through the parking
2 lot of Kroger to make my way towards the mall to see if
3 they had gone through the parking lot because it's a cut
4 through between 1960 and First Street.

5 Q. At some point does somebody come on the radio
6 and say that they've seen this red passenger car?

7 A. Yes, our dispatcher advised us that one of the
8 Humble wreckers called in and said that they observed
9 the suspect's vehicle on the southbound service road,
10 and I believe he said that the license plate and the
11 description of the vehicle matched what our dispatcher
12 was telling us. So, he was on the phone with them while
13 they were letting us know where they were at.

14 Q. And you said a wrecker, you mean like a tow
15 truck driver?

16 A. Yes, a tow truck driver.

17 Q. Not somebody that worked for the Humble Police
18 Department?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were you able to find that tow truck driver?

21 A. Yes, I got on the southbound service about
22 where the wrecker driver said he was at, and he had his
23 caution lights on in the back, which were flashing so I
24 knew that was him because there were no other wreckers
25 in that area.

1 Q. And were you able by finding him to find the
2 red car that you were looking for?

3 A. Yes, I asked dispatch where the vehicle was to
4 his location, and they said approximately four or five
5 vehicles in front of him. And I found the red car was
6 at the stoplight attempting to make a right when the
7 light turned green.

8 Q. What did you do?

9 A. I got on the radio with the officer that was at
10 First and 59, which is where my original location was,
11 and he stated we're going to take down the car together,
12 conduct a traffic stop. So, that way we were together
13 while we did it. As soon as the light turned green is
14 when the suspect's vehicle turned right onto First
15 Street, and that's when the other officer pulled up
16 behind it.

17 Q. Did it immediately pull over?

18 A. It did. It drove a little while because
19 there's no driveways where you turn right at, and it
20 pulled into the Kroger parking lot, which is maybe less
21 than a hundred feet from the intersection.

22 Q. Once it pulled into the parking lot, did you
23 see any occupants get out of the car?

24 A. Yes, I observed a black male wearing a white
25 T-shirt open up the passenger's side, front passenger's

1 side door and start running away from the vehicle.

2 Q. Did anybody else in the car get out and try to
3 run?

4 A. No.

5 Q. He was the only one?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. What did you do after he took off?

8 A. As soon as I seen him take off running out of
9 the vehicle, I followed him with my patrol car; and I
10 alerted the other officers where he was running towards.
11 He was running towards the back of I-Hop, which is in
12 the same parking lot. There's also a CiCi's Pizza. And
13 he ran between the two buildings and went west in front
14 of CiCi's Pizza.

15 Q. And were y'all able to catch him pretty quickly
16 there?

17 A. Yes, as soon as he turned the corner, I didn't
18 have a visual of him, but there's another officer that
19 pulled into the parking lot that was standing at CiCi's
20 Pizza waiting for him while he was running towards him.

21 Q. Do you see that individual sitting in the
22 courtroom today?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Could you please point him out and describe
25 what he's wearing?

1 A. He's wearing a blue shirt right there.

2 MS. BENNETT: Your Honor, may the record
3 reflect the witness has identified the Defendant?

4 THE COURT: It will.

5 Q. (BY MS. BENNETT) Did you have an opportunity
6 to the see other occupants of the red car?

7 A. Yes. As soon as one of our officers detained
8 the Defendant, I immediately got in my car and drove
9 back to where the stopped location was because there's
10 only one officer that originally conducted the traffic
11 stop, and he had the rest of the occupants on the ground
12 at gunpoint.

13 Q. How many were there? I'm sorry. How many were
14 there?

15 A. There was four all together. There was three
16 still inside the car.

17 Q. What was the gender of the individuals inside
18 the car?

19 A. The driver was a female, and there was two male
20 occupants in the back.

21 Q. The other two male occupants, do you recall
22 whether or not they were wearing white shirts?

23 A. No, they were not.

24 Q. Do you recall what color shirts they were
25 wearing or the shade of the shirts they were wearing?

1 A. I know for sure one of them was a darker color.
2 I don't remember what the other one was.

3 Q. Did you have an opportunity to come into
4 contact with Linda Mowrey there in the parking lot you
5 were in?

6 A. Yes, I did. After everything, she came to the
7 scene.

8 Q. And did you ask her whether or not she saw the
9 person that robbed her there in the parking lot?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. And was she able to make an identification?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who did she identify?

14 A. She identified the Defendant Latson.

15 Q. Did you have an opportunity to look inside the
16 red vehicle?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And what did you find inside the red vehicle
19 that was related to this robbery?

20 A. I found, I believe it was a pink purse and a
21 wallet inside the purse, and inside of the wallet was a
22 driver's license of Ms. Mowrey, and there's also an
23 umbrella and some other items that she had described
24 that was in her purse.

25 Q. Where within the red car were those items

1 located?

2 A. It was in the front right passenger's seat.

3 Q. Is that the same seat from which you saw the
4 Defendant flee when he took off running?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So, would those items have been basically at
7 his feet in that car?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you search the vehicle for any firearms?

10 A. Yes, I did.

11 Q. How many firearms did you find in that car?

12 A. I located three firearms.

13 Q. And do you recall were they handguns or long
14 guns?

15 A. They were handguns.

16 Q. Do you recall the caliber of each one off the
17 top of your head?

18 A. The one in the front right passenger's seat was
19 a .45 caliber.

20 Q. Let me just stop you. Was it in the seat?

21 A. It was underneath the seat.

22 Q. Okay. And that's the same seat the Defendant
23 had been sitting in?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What about the other two guns?

1 A. There was a, I believe, the back right
2 passenger had a black revolver. I don't recall the
3 caliber, possibly a .380; and the back left passenger
4 had a smaller pistol.

5 Q. Did you recover those items?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 MS. BENNETT: May I approach the witness,
8 Your Honor?

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 Q. (BY MS. BENNETT) I'm going to show you three
11 firearms.

12 MS. BENNETT: And I note for the Court that
13 they've been secured.

14 THE BAILIFF: Not this morning.

15 All weapons are clear.

16 THE COURT: Thank you, Deputy Kaminski.

17 All right. Ms. Bennett, you may proceed.

18 MS. BENNETT: Thank you, Judge.

19 Q. (BY MS. BENNETT) Officer Meek, first, I'm
20 going to show you what's been marked for identification
21 as State's Exhibit No. 48, and along with that State's
22 Exhibits 49 and 50, if you would take a look at that.
23 Do you recognize State's Exhibit 48?

24 A. Yes, that's the .45 caliber that was in the
25 front right passenger's seat.

1 Q. Underneath the seat?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. And 49 and 50, what are those items?

4 A. 50 is the clip that was found inside of the
5 gun, and 49 are the bullets that were inside the clip in
6 the gun.

7 Q. So, the gun was loaded when you found it?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Showing you State's Exhibit No. 51, as well as
10 State's Exhibit 52, would you take a look at that,
11 please?

12 Do you recognize State's Exhibit 51?

13 A. Yes, that's that black revolver that was in the
14 back right passenger's seat.

15 Q. And 52?

16 A. Those are the bullets that were inside the
17 revolver.

18 Q. And I didn't ask you this on the previous
19 question, but did you actually bring these items to me?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. From the Humble property room?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And now showing you State's Exhibit 53 along
24 with State's Exhibit 54; do you recognize State's
25 Exhibit 53?

1 A. Yes, that's the gun that was in the back left
2 passenger's seat.

3 Q. And State's Exhibit 54?

4 A. That's the clip that was inside the gun.

5 Q. Along with ammunition?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So that gun was loaded as well?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So all three of these guns were loaded when you
10 found them?

11 A. Yes, they were.

12 MS. BENNETT: Your Honor, at this time I'll
13 tender to Defense counsel State's Exhibit 48 through
14 State's Exhibit 54 and ask that they be admitted.

15 THE COURT: I have State's Exhibit 49
16 through 54. What is 48?

17 MS. BENNETT: 48 is the .45. 49 is the
18 ammunition, and 50 is the magazine for the .45.

19 (State's Exhibit Nos. 48 through 54
20 offered.)

21 MR. DUARTE: What were the numbers again?

22 MS. BENNETT: 48 through 54.

23 MR. DUARTE: Your Honor, we would object
24 under Rule 404 (b), 403 and 37.07 of the Texas Rules of
25 Evidence and Criminal Procedure.

1 THE COURT: Those objections are overruled.
2 State's Exhibits 48 through 54 are admitted.

3 (State's Exhibit Nos. 48 through 54
4 admitted.)

5 MS. BENNETT: May I publish them to the
6 jury, Your Honor?

7 THE COURT: You may.

8 Q. (BY MS. BENNETT) Officer Meek, I'm going to
9 hold up for you State's Exhibit No. 48. Could you
10 please tell the jurors what they're looking at there?

11 A. I believe it's a High Point .45 caliber handgun
12 that was in the front right passenger's seat. It was
13 found underneath the seat loaded.

14 Q. Where the Defendant was seated?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Showing you now State's Exhibit No. 51, would
17 you please describe for the jurors what they're looking
18 at there?

19 A. That's the black revolver that was found in the
20 back right passenger's seat tucked in between the two
21 cushions. And it was the same handgun that was given as
22 the description of the handgun used in the robbery.

23 Q. A revolver?

24 A. Yes, it was a black revolver.

25 Q. I'm finally showing you State's Exhibit No. 53?

1 A. Yes, that's the pistol that was found in the
2 back left passenger's seat. It was, I believe, in
3 between the cushions as well; and that was reported
4 stolen.

5 Q. So, State's Exhibit No. 53 you learned had been
6 reported previously stolen?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now, I'd like to show you a couple of other
9 items starting with, give me just a moment, State's
10 Exhibit No. 56. There you can see the sticker; do you
11 recognize what that item is?

12 A. Yes, that's a black head gear.

13 Q. Where was that found?

14 A. I don't exactly remember where it was found. I
15 think it was on the Defendant.

16 Q. Okay. Did you see the Defendant wearing this
17 item, State's Exhibit 56?

18 A. Yes, I believe so.

19 Q. And showing you State's Exhibit No. 57, do you
20 recognize those items?

21 A. Yes, those are black gloves that were found on
22 the back passenger's seat in between the two passengers.

23 Q. And did you recover both of these items, 56 and
24 57?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And did you bring these to me as well as the
2 guns?

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 MS. BENNETT: I'm tendering to Defense
5 counsel State's Exhibit 56 and 57. I'd ask that they be
6 admitted.

7 (State's Exhibit Nos. 56 and 57 offered.)

8 MR. DUARTE: Same objection, Your Honor,
9 404 (b), 403 and 37.07, Texas Rules of Evidence and
10 Criminal Procedure.

11 THE COURT: All right. State's Exhibit 56
12 and 57 are admitted over objection.

13 (State's Exhibit Nos. 56 and 57 admitted.)

14 Q. (BY MS. BENNETT) Officer Meek, I want to show
15 you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 56 now; do you
16 recognize what this item is?

17 A. I believe it's head gear, and that it's worn on
18 someone's head.

19 Q. Do you know what happens with these long
20 straps?

21 A. I believe that it's used to tie around the head
22 to hold it on.

23 Q. I want to show you now what I've marked for
24 identification as State's Exhibit 58; do you recognize
25 this to be a map of the northern part of Harris County?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And on that map do you see a location
3 marked for the Deerbrook Mall?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And does that fairly and accurately depict the
6 location of the Deerbrook Mall there in Humble?

7 A. Yes, it does.

8 Q. I'm showing you now what's been admitted as
9 State's Exhibit 47; do you recognize what's depicted in
10 that photograph?

11 A. Yes, that's the red Pontiac passenger car that
12 was stopped.

13 Q. And is that the vehicle that you found these
14 guns in?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that the Defendant jumped out of?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 MS. BENNETT: State will pass the witness.

20 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Duarte.

21 MR. DUARTE: Yes, ma'am, thank you.

22 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

23 BY MR. DUARTE:

24 Q. Good morning.

25 A. Good morning.

1 Q. Good afternoon, just about. Just a few
2 questions, you prepared a report part of a report for
3 Humble police as far as your participation in this
4 investigation, correct?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. And it documents things that were
7 collected and that were said out there at the time of
8 the event, correct?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And things that maybe Ms. Mowrey would have
11 told the police about what had happened, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And it's your understanding that she just
14 mentioned, according to your report that the person that
15 robbed her just had a white T-shirt on, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Nowhere in the police report does it say
18 anything about the color of the pants that the person
19 was wearing; would you agree with that?

20 A. Not that I recall.

21 Q. Can you look at your report and see is there
22 anywhere about the color of pants that the assailant
23 would have been wearing? You've had a chance to review
24 that today before testifying, haven't you?

25 A. Yes. Okay. It doesn't say anything about the

1 pants.

2 Q. And that was, again, information that she had
3 given the police that would have been documented into
4 your report, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. And she did mention that the person
7 that did rob her had used a revolver, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Then again going over to, I'm going to call it
10 the second scene over near the CiCi's Pizza area?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Were you the one that found the location of
13 these three weapons?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And you understood that a revolver had been
16 used in robbing Ms. Mowrey?

17 A. Yes, sir, a black revolver.

18 Q. And then that revolver would have been found in
19 the backseat of that Grand Am, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And under the front seat where you're saying
22 you saw Mr. Latson exit and take off running that
23 underneath that seat would have been an automatic
24 weapon, correct?

25 A. The High Point .45.

1 Q. Yes, sir, which wouldn't be consistent in his
2 seating with -- the revolver wouldn't have been under
3 where he was seated, correct?

4 A. No, it was not.

5 Q. It was in the back where other individuals were
6 back in the back?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And one of those individuals was -- you know
9 the names of the other individuals that were in the
10 back?

11 A. There was Flint was on the back left side, and
12 Archie was on the back right side.

13 Q. And the revolver was in the backseat, also?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But the purse was up front?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, isn't it true that the -- this do-rag, the
18 head gear, that was found actually in the red Grand Am,
19 correct?

20 A. I don't recall where it was recovered.

21 Q. But when you get the call that this robbery
22 event is going down and you're out doing your patrol and
23 you go off and start going over to the scene where --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- the red car is going to be located and you

1 documented it, didn't you?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. And it's documented in the video, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then you said you saw the individual jump
6 out of the red car --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And that person had, isn't it true, had a white
11 T-shirt and white pants on; isn't that correct?

12 A. It was a white T-shirt. I don't remember what
13 the pants were.

14 Q. You had a chance to look at the video
15 yesterday, didn't you?

16 A. Yes, I didn't see it yesterday; but I saw it
17 previously.

18 Q. And he would have had white pants on, would you
19 remember? He runs across the parking lot?

20 A. I don't remember what pants. I just remember
21 the shirt was white.

22 Q. Is there anywhere in this report that indicates
23 the color of the clothing that the Defendants would have
24 had at the time of their arrest?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Where is that located?

2 A. It says, I believe on mine it says page 4.

3 It's the same report as mine.

4 MR. DUARTE: May I approach, Your Honor?

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 Q. (BY MR. DUARTE) Is it the same one that I

7 have, Officer?

8 A. It's the same report. Mine is a draft from
9 the -- we have two different reporting programs. So, it
10 says right here that "white T-shirt" where the
11 Complainant interview is.

12 Q. But again this is according to what the
13 complaining witness had relayed to Humble police as to
14 what they were wearing?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. I'm talking about at the point when they are
17 already in custody and when they're arrested by Humble
18 police, is there anywhere that would list that would
19 describe the clothing that the individuals would have
20 had on once they're taken into custody?

21 A. That's my narrative right here, white shirt and
22 black head wear, open up the passenger's side door.

23 Q. So, that would be your narrative right there?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Where you describe that?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. But does it indicate where the black head wear
3 was found, other than you saw it on him, correct?

4 A. No, it doesn't say that.

5 Q. I'm referring here to page 8 of your OR. This
6 would be actually --

7 A. Yes, that has all the Defendants' and I believe
8 the Complainant's on the front.

9 Q. The suspects as they were -- when they were
10 arrested, correct? Who was arrested?

11 A. Yes, it describes who each person is.

12 Q. Arrested Anthony Terrell Latson, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Denise Marisa Champ, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Robert Fitzgerald Flint, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And a Rayley Bertchard (phon.) Archie, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And in that area it has for a descriptions of
21 their age, race, weight and height and all that stuff?

22 A. Yes, and their address.

23 Q. And anywhere there there's not a description as
24 far as the clothing that they were wearing when they
25 were arrested, correct?

1 A. No, it does not.

2 Q. Okay. And then the last two pages of the
3 report indicates where the individual firearms were
4 recovered, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that the firearm that was, I guess,
7 identified by Ms. Mowrey that as being the one that she
8 would have been robbed with was found in the backseat
9 where Mr. Flint was, correct?

10 A. No, where Archie was, the back right
11 passenger's seat.

12 Q. But Flint was also in the backseat, also?

13 A. Yes, he was behind the driver on the left side.

14 MR. DUARTE: I'll pass this witness.

15 THE COURT: All right. Is there anything
16 further?

17 MS. BENNETT: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: May Officer Meeks be excused?

19 MS. BENNETT: Yes, ma'am.

20 MR. DUARTE: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Officer.
22 You are released.

23 Call your next witness, please.

24 MS. BENNETT: State would call Jason
25 Sengsatheuane.