

1 stand.

2 You may proceed when you are ready.

3 **SERGEANT VICTOR NGUYEN,**

4 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

6 BY MS. MITCHELL:

7 Q. Would you please introduce yourself to us?

8 A. My name is Victor Nguyen. I'm a sergeant with  
9 the Houston Police Department.

10 Q. How long have you been with the Houston Police  
11 Department?

12 A. I've been with Houston for 19 years.

13 Q. What's your current assignment?

14 A. I'm at the jail division.

15 Q. Which division?

16 A. Central jail division.

17 Q. What was your assignment March -- in March,  
18 2012?

19 A. I was assigned to the Westside Division.

20 Q. I'd like to take your attention to March 23,  
21 2012. Were you called out to a suspicious vehicle on that  
22 day?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. And what was the location of the suspicious  
25 vehicle?

1           A.       It was inside a parking lot of an apartment  
2 complex.

3           Q.       Do you know the address of that apartment  
4 complex?

5           A.       I can't recall.

6           Q.       Do you need to look at your offense report?

7           A.       Yes.

8           Q.       Okay.

9           A.       The location was 9797 Meadowglen.

10          Q.       And what did you see whenever you arrived?

11          A.       When I get to the location, I saw a gold car in  
12 the parking lot with the door open.

13          Q.       Is that unusual?

14          A.       Yes, ma'am.

15          Q.       Did you approach the car?

16          A.       Yes, I did.

17          Q.       Was there anyone inside of it?

18          A.       No, ma'am.

19          Q.       So, what did you see whenever you approached  
20 the car?

21          A.       I was walking around to see if somebody just  
22 happen to leave their door open. And as I walk around, I  
23 saw what appeared to be a handgun laying on the floorboard  
24 on the passenger side.

25          Q.       Okay. What did you do at that point?

1           A.       At that point, I took custody of the gun and  
2 secured it in the trunk of my car and continued to -- at  
3 this time, I looked through the vehicle to make sure it  
4 was safe and secure.

5           Q.       Did you ever try to find anything in the  
6 vehicle that would, I guess, lead you to the owner, or the  
7 person who had the car?

8           A.       Yes, ma'am. I start doing a little research.  
9 I ran the license plate and the vin serial number to make  
10 sure it's not reported stolen.

11          Q.       Okay.

12          A.       And at that time I contacted my supervisor to  
13 tag the gun. In order for me to tag the gun, I have to  
14 find the owner of the gun so later we can contact the  
15 owner and return the gun back to them. So, I searched  
16 through the vehicle to look for any names. And I looked  
17 through the glove compartment and I found several names  
18 inside the glove compartment, including one of the old  
19 tickets.

20          Q.       What kind of a --

21          A.       Copy of ticket.

22          Q.       What kind of ticket?

23          A.       Violation.

24          Q.       Like a traffic ticket?

25          A.       Traffic ticket.

1 Q. What name did that traffic ticket have on it?

2 A. The name was Patrick Sowell.

3 Q. Whenever you ran the license plate, do you  
4 remember if it was a paper tag or a real plate?

5 A. It was a paper tag.

6 Q. Were you able to get the registered owner from  
7 the paper tag?

8 A. No, ma'am.

9 Q. And then did you generate, I guess, a report  
10 after this?

11 A. Yes, ma'am, I did.

12 MS. MITCHELL: Pass the witness.

13 THE COURT: Cross?

14 MS. BELL: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

16 BY MS. BELL:

17 Q. Officer, when you were dispatched out to the  
18 scene, you said the door was left open?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. And you searched -- first, you secured the gun,  
21 and you searched and found a number of people's names on  
22 the information inside the car?

23 A. Okay. When I found the gun, the procedure was  
24 to check the gun, make sure it's not stolen. When it's  
25 not reported stolen, we are obligated to tag it for

1 safekeeping. In order for us to tag the gun, we have to  
2 have the owner, that way they will be able to contact that  
3 individual to return the gun back to that person.

4 Q. And did you find the owner of the gun?

5 A. No, ma'am. It wasn't my job to find it, but I  
6 was looking for names inside of the vehicle so they would  
7 be able to contact later.

8 Q. You said that when you searched the glove  
9 compartment, you found a number of names, or a number of  
10 pieces of papers that had different names on it; is that  
11 correct?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. What were some of the other names?

14 A. It should be in my report. I found an  
15 insurance policy holder, and the name listed on it was  
16 April Beckham.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And also the paper -- the buyer tag would list  
19 Domio Dangeoa.

20 Q. Could you spell that for us?

21 A. D-o-m-i-o, D-a-n-g-e-o-a. Also, the Houston  
22 police citation copy was issued to Patrick Glenn Sowell,  
23 S-o-w-e-l-l-s. That's all.

24 Q. Are those all the names that you found inside?

25 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.

1 Q. But there could have been more in there. When  
2 you ran the paper tag, did you run it -- were you able to  
3 determine that other people had actually been arrested  
4 driving that car?

5 A. No, ma'am.

6 Q. Did you run the tag?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 Q. And you ran it for arrests in that car?

9 A. No, ma'am. Can you repeat that question?

10 Q. When you ran the car, you ran the plates,  
11 right?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. And did it show any hits for any other persons  
14 having been arrested in that car?

15 A. No, ma'am.

16 MS. BELL: Judge, may we approach?

17 THE COURT: You need to approach?

18 MS. BELL: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 (Whereupon counsel approached the  
21 bench out of the hearing of the jury.)

22 MS. BELL: I don't have a copy of that  
23 offense report. So, we'd like to have a minute to  
24 get it and read over it.

25 THE COURT: Okay. No problem.

1                   (Whereupon the following proceeding is  
2                   held in the hearing of the jury.)

3                   THE COURT: I'll give them just a few  
4                   minutes to look over this document real quick.

5                   Q.        (By Ms. Bell) Officer, you said you found a gun  
6 in that car. What kind of gun was it?

7                   A.        It's a 9-millimeter Glock.

8                   Q.        You said you were dispatched out to a  
9 suspicious vehicle call?

10                  A.        Yes, ma'am.

11                  Q.        Did the person also tell you when they called  
12 in -- when that broadcast went out, that there had been  
13 some shooting earlier in the morning?

14                  A.        No, ma'am.

15                  MS. BELL: Judge, may I approach the  
16 witness?

17                  THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

18                  Q.        (By Ms. Bell) Officer, did you compile an  
19 offense report for this case?

20                  A.        It's not a shooting. I know what you're  
21 talking about. It's not a shooting. She heard some  
22 gunshots, but not a shooting.

23                  Q.        I'm sorry, I did say it all wrong. Sorry about  
24 that. And when you got out there, you saw the gun on the  
25 floorboard, correct?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. Did you have that gun printed?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 Q. When you got to the car and you did an  
5 inventory of the car, there were several articles of  
6 clothing in the car, correct?

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. And they're women's clothing, correct?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. When you -- you were wanting to determine who  
11 this car belonged to, correct? You ran the vin number to  
12 determine who it belonged to?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And the car came back as registered to a Velma  
15 Hines in Richmond, Texas, correct?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. Did you contact Velma Hines?

18 A. No, ma'am.

19 Q. To your knowledge, did anybody contact Velma  
20 Hines to ascertain who had access to that car, how long it  
21 had been out of her possession, who she routinely let use  
22 it?

23 A. At that time, I didn't go that far, because  
24 when I ran the license plate, it didn't come back stolen.  
25 So, we didn't have to go that far, contact that owner.



1 Q. And you noted that this car didn't, based upon  
2 anything you saw, appear to have been involved in any type  
3 of crime?

4 A. No, ma'am, not at that time.

5 Q. And you ran it, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. This car was covered by Lloyds Insurance --  
8 that was the insurance provider -- to an April Beckham?

9 A. I don't recall. All I know is that I found a  
10 piece of policy in there with the names, and I took it  
11 down.

12 Q. Would looking at your offense report refresh  
13 your memory to 2.004, fourth line in?

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. And y'all were even given -- you have April  
16 Beckham, you have her address and her zip code, and all  
17 that, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And she has insurance on this car, correct?

20 A. It's a piece of insurance paper.

21 Q. Okay. Did anybody try to contact Ms. Beckham  
22 to determine where the car had been, who had access to it,  
23 how many people she let drive it, any of that?

24 A. I didn't do it.

25 Q. But you did list this in --

1 A. Yes, I listed it.

2 Q. -- your report?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So, anybody investigating this case could have  
5 went and talked to any of these people to determine who  
6 were all the people that had access to this car, correct?

7 A. They could have.

8 MS. BELL: Pass the witness, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Any redirect?

10 MS. MITCHELL: Briefly, Your Honor.

11 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

12 BY MS. MITCHELL:

13 Q. Did you break down in your offense report the  
14 vin number of that gold Chrysler 300?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. Could you please read it into the record?

17 A. The vin number was 2C3HE66G04H664171.

18 Q. And the insurance paper that was found with  
19 April Beckham's name on it, what address was listed for  
20 her?

21 A. It listed 3814 Jacob Field Lane, Houston, Texas  
22 77047.

23 MS. MITCHELL: Pass the witness.

24 THE COURT: All right. Anything else?

25 MS. BELL: No, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. All right.  
2 You may step down, sir.

3 Call your next witness.

4 MS. MITCHELL: The State calls Stephanie  
5 Wilson.

6 THE BAILIFF: This witness has been  
7 previously sworn.

8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Come  
9 forward, please, ma'am. You may have a seat.

10 You may proceed when you are ready.

11 **SERGEANT STEPHANIE WILSON,**

12 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

13 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

14 BY MS. MITCHELL:

15 Q. Would you please introduce yourself to us?

16 A. Sergeant Stephanie Wilson.

17 Q. Where are you currently employed?

18 A. Houston Police Department.

19 Q. How long have you been with the Houston Police  
20 Department?

21 A. Twenty years.

22 Q. What is your current assignment?

23 A. I'm currently assigned to the auto theft  
24 division.

25 Q. Were you assigned to the auto theft division