1 JOHN VIDAL,

2 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

- 4 BY MS. SPENCE:
- 5 Q. Good morning, sir. Will you, please, introduce
- 6 yourself?

3

- 7 A. Good morning. My name is Officer -- sorry,
- 8 | Sergeant John Vidal, currently assigned to the northwest
- 9 division, evening shift patrol.
- 10 Q. And since you are so unfamiliar with your new
- 11 | title, are you a newly promoted sergeant?
- 12 A. As of yesterday, yes.
- 13 Q. As of yesterday, well, congratulations?
- 14 A. Thank you.
- 15 Q. Now, Sergeant Vidal, you said that you are on
- 16 | nightshift now; is that correct?
- 17 A. Evening shift.
- 18 Q. All right. Let's go back to June 3rd of 2011,
- 19 were you an officer back then?
- 20 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 21 Q. And how long have you been employed at the
- 22 | Houston Police Department?
- 23 A. About eight years.
- 24 Q. And what shift were you working back then?
- 25 A. Back then familiar beat, 6B30, dayshift patrol.

- 1 Q. And what area does 6B30 encompass?
- A. Everything north of Tidwell and Antoine area
- 3 | all the way over to Hollister up to Tidwell would be all
- 4 the way to the West Bank area.
- 5 Q. Back then were you familiar, since you patrol
- 6 that area, with an apartment complex called the Luxor
- 7 | Apartments?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And was that, is that located at 5801 Sunforest
- 10 in Houston, Harris County, Texas?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. At approximately 12:33 p.m. on June 3rd of
- 13 2011, were you dispatched to that location?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And what was the nature of the dispatch?
- 16 A. It was a Code 1 assist firefighters at the
- 17 | location. And when we arrived, it was a small child
- 18 being tended to by HFD.
- 19 Q. So when you got there, was it at 12:48 p.m.?
- 20 A. I don't have my supplement in front of me, but
- 21 | if that's what it says, yes.
- 22 Q. So, it took you maybe about eight or
- 23 nine minutes to get to the location; is that correct?
- 24 A. Correct.
- 25 Q. When you got there, was EMS and firefighters

- 1 already on the scene working on the child?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. Were you initially dispatched when the ambulance was dispatched?
- A. I'm not sure who was dispatched first, but I know they were there before us, so I think they were dispatched first.
- 8 Q. And the nature of the call you had said was 9 assist the firefighters, correct?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. So, when you got to the location, did you see 12 the child that they were working on? Was she still 13 present?
- A. They were inside the apartment. I didn't physically see the child, but they were inside working in a big group around the child.
- 17 Q. Did you see her being transported at some point 18 thereafter?
- 19 A. Like right away, right afterwards.
- Q. Now, who else was at the apartment besides the child?
- A. At the apartment was -- I don't have the names in front of me but a caretaker and a son, her son or the mother's son.
- 25 Q. Elida Herrera?

- 1 A. Yes, ma'am.
- Q. And do you see Elida Herrera in the courtroom
- 3 today?
- 4 A. Yes, ma'am, she's right there.
- 5 Q. And she described herself as what?
- 6 A. The caretaker.
- 7 Q. And was the mother of the child present as
- 8 | well?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. All right. Did she -- could the mother of the
- 11 child been present and then gone with the ambulance to
- 12 the hospital?
- MR. GONZALEZ: Objection.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. (BY MS. SPENCE) You said the child was
- 16 transported to the hospital; is that correct?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. After the child was transported to the
- 19 hospital, were there people still left at the apartment?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Okay. And one of those persons would be Elida
- 22 | Herrera, correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And the other person was whom?
- 25 A. The son.

- 1 Q. And was his name Eric?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. And what did you do with Elida Herrera and
- 4 Eric?
- A. We basically removed them from the scene and held on to them until we notified homicide and other
- 7 people that could make our scene.
- 8 Q. During that time that Ms. Herrera was at the
- 9 location, do you recall just personally seeing her
- 10 talking on her cell phone while you were there?
- 11 A. I don't remember.
- 12 Q. All right. And she was not, even though she
- 13 was placed in the backseat of your patrol car, she was
- 14 | not in custody; is that correct?
- 15 A. No, ma'am, correct.
- 16 Q. She was being, I guess, detained so that y'all
- 17 could figure out what was going on?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. June 3rd, 2011, was it kind of hot outside that
- 20 day?
- 21 A. It was very hot.
- Q. And was your vehicle air conditioned?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And did you have it running while both Eric was
- 25 in the backseat of the patrol car and Ms. Herrera was in

- 1 the backseat?
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. They were in separate backseats; is that
- 4 | correct?
- 5 A. That's true.
- 6 Q. Do you remember which patrol car Eric was in
- 7 the backseat of?
- 8 A. I don't recall. I don't recall.
- 9 Q. Do you remember an Officer Mata being --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. -- at the scene?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Sergeant Hanslik of homicide, did he arrive
- 14 there at approximately 1:45 p.m.?
- 15 A. I was relieved from the scene. I would have
- 16 to -- he did arrive at that time if that's what's in the
- 17 report.
- 18 Q. Did you fill him in on what you knew at that
- 19 point in time?
- 20 A. Let me recall my memory. It was a very long
- 21 time ago, but I did tell him over the phone what was
- 22 going on at the scene. Go ahead.
- 23 Q. Did you tell him what was going on at the scene
- 24 as best you knew it?
- 25 A. Yes.

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MS. SPENCE: Pass the witness.
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2
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Spence.
3
                 Mr. Gonzalez.
4
                 MR. GONZALEZ: I'll pass the witness, Your
5
   Honor.
6
                 THE COURT: All right. May this witness be
7
   excused?
8
                 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, Your Honor.
9
                 THE COURT: Any objection?
10
                 MS. THOMAS: No objection, Judge.
11
                 THE COURT: Thank you, Sergeant. You are
12
   excused.
13
                 Call your next witness, please.
14
                 MS. SPENCE: Officer Mata.
                 Your Honor, can we approach?
15
16
                 THE COURT: Yes.
17
                 (Bench conference.)
18
                 MS. SPENCE: This is where we're going to
19
   have to do this. This is where we're going to have to
20
   do the kind of a weird interpretation and have Hanslik,
21
   Mata and me reading this thing. So, basically, I'm
22
   going to put him on the stand and so the jury knows who
23
   the heck he is. And he'll testify what he did, and then
24
   I will, I guess, pass him. And then we'll put Hanslik
25
   on to complete what went on. And then I'm going to ask
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1
   that he come back in to read his part because it's
   three-part conversations.
2
3
                 MR. GONZALEZ: And what I'd like to do
   outside the presence of the jury, ask Hanslik some
4
   questions regarding whether it was all done voluntarily.
5
   He's going to say, yes, she wanted to cooperate.
6
7
   won't have to do the Jackson v. Denno Hearing.
8
                 THE COURT: So, should I send them out now?
9
                 MR. GONZALEZ: Might as well do it now.
10
                 MS. SPENCE: Yeah, I'm going to have to
   show him his portion of the stuff.
11
12
                 MR. GONZALEZ: Is that okay with you?
13
                 THE COURT: Absolutely.
14
                 (End of bench conference.)
15
                 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, please
16
   step back to the jury room. We'll be back with you
17
   shortly.
18
                 THE BAILIFF:
                               Rise for the jury.
19
                 (Jury exits courtroom.)
20
                 THE COURT: Be seated, please.
21
                 We are on the record outside the presence
22
   of the jury.
23
                 MR. GONZALEZ: Do you want to do it from
24
   there, or can we stand here?
25
                             Wherever you would like to do
                 THE COURT:
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it, Mr. Gonzalez. Come on up, ma'am. Raise your right
1
   hand to be sworn.
2
3
                 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, Judge.
                 (Defendant sworn.)
4
                 THE COURT: Mr. Gonzalez, you may proceed.
5
                 MR. GONZALEZ: Yes, Your Honor. Just for
6
7
   the purposes of this particular situation, we have, Your
   Honor --
9
                     ELIDA HERRERA-GARCIA,
10
   having been first duly sworn, testified through an
11
   interpreter as follows:
12
                 MR. GONZALEZ: Could you state your name,
13
   please?
14
                 THE DEFENDANT: Flida Marisol
   Herrera-Garcia.
15
16
                 MR. GONZALEZ: And, Ms. Herrera, the reason
   I'm asking you some questions is because of the
17
   interviews that you gave to the police officers.
18
19
   there is a, I believe it was four police officers, maybe
20
          But, nonetheless, you gave five interviews.
21
   those interviews you were not under arrest, and you
   willingly and voluntarily cooperated with the police
22
   officers; is that correct?
23
                 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.
24
25
                 MR. GONZALEZ: You were never coerced or
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