

1 the State offer State's Exhibits 46, 47, and 48 after  
2 tendering to opposing counsel.

3 MS. BELL: No objection, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: They are admitted.

5 (Whereupon State's Exhibit Nos. 46-48  
6 are admitted into evidence.)

7 MS. MITCHELL: Pass the witness, Your  
8 Honor.

9 THE COURT: Cross?

10 MS. BELL: No questions, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

12 You may step down, sir.

13 Call your next witness.

14 MS. MITCHELL: The State calls Sergeant  
15 Justin Wood.

16 THE BAILIFF: The witness needs to be sworn  
17 in, Judge.

18 (Whereupon the witness is sworn by the  
19 Court.)

20 THE COURT: You may proceed.

21 **SERGEANT JUSTIN WOOD,**

22 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

24 BY MS. MITCHELL:

25 Q. Would you please state your name for the

1 record?

2 A. Sergeant Wood.

3 Q. And where are you currently employed?

4 A. Houston Police Department.

5 Q. What division are you with, with the Houston  
6 Police Department?

7 A. Currently assigned to the gang division.

8 Q. How long have you been with the gang division?

9 A. Right at one year.

10 Q. Okay. Where were before then?

11 A. I was a sergeant over the Westside Divisional  
12 Gang Unit.

13 Q. How long were you with that unit?

14 A. Almost four years.

15 Q. And in your time there, did you ever have any  
16 sort of specialized training to help you identify gangs or  
17 gang members?

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

19 Q. What training is that?

20 A. I went through several hours, classroom hours,  
21 of not only gang conferences, but also being trained in  
22 the recognition of gang colors, the language that they  
23 use, the assault culture of gangs, as well as identifying  
24 gang graffiti, things of that nature.

25 Q. And in your time with each of the gang units,

1 do you ever interact with gang members?

2 A. Yes, ma'am, on a daily basis.

3 Q. Have you -- well, how do you interact with  
4 them?

5 A. During our activities within the Westside Gang  
6 Unit, we would patrol areas that were within our scope and  
7 look for gang graffiti areas that gangs would congregate,  
8 as well as looking at the criminal history of locations to  
9 see what type of criminal behavior, what's going on. An  
10 example, the Forum Park Crip area, the type of activity  
11 that was going on, being conducted criminally by the gang  
12 members over there, who was being arrested in the past,  
13 who had been charged, were they gang members, compiling  
14 all that information and going over there and having  
15 either consensual stops and conversations with people who  
16 are gang members, or conducting criminal investigations  
17 where we would contact suspects, check their gang  
18 affiliation, did they have tattoos, did they self-admit to  
19 being a gang member, were they wearing that type of  
20 clothing, were they associating with other gang members,  
21 and through that, documenting them as a criminal street  
22 gang members.

23 Q. And have you investigated few or many crimes  
24 involving gangs or gang members?

25 A. Very many.

1 Q. Do you know an individual by the name of  
2 Patrick Sowell's?

3 A. Yes, ma'am, I do.

4 Q. And how do you know him -- or know of him?

5 A. Patrick Sowell's was a member of the Forum Park  
6 Crip criminal street gang.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. Was involved in several criminal investigations  
9 during my tenure out of the Westside Gang Unit.

10 Q. And what is the Forum Park Crips?

11 A. Forum Park Crips were a very small, yet  
12 violent, criminal street gang that was predominantly in  
13 the Forum Park Apartment complex. There was a street  
14 called Forum Park. On either side of the street are  
15 several apartment complexes. It was a Crip set of  
16 criminal street gang members who congregated to that area,  
17 claimed that area as their own, and came up with the name  
18 of the Forum Park Crips. Although they were not a large  
19 criminal street gang, they were very, very influential in  
20 that area through the sale of narcotics, robberies, and  
21 even murders.

22 Q. Now, do you know approximately how many people  
23 are in the Forum Park Crips?

24 A. We have run across in excess of 25, but I don't  
25 know the exact number. Some come in and claim that area,

1 and they are friends with them, and then they leave, and  
2 we may run across them later. But there was at least a  
3 core of about 25 that we ran across.

4 Q. Do you know if the Forum Park Crips have some  
5 sort of organizational structure to them?

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. Have you been able to ascertain who is in what  
8 position in that -- in the Forum Park Crips?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. BELL: Objection, Your Honor. I  
11 believe it will call for speculation and will be a  
12 violation of the confrontational clause.

13 THE COURT: It's overruled.

14 A. Through investigating the Forum Park Crips,  
15 unlike any other criminal street gang out in the westside  
16 area, they were the one street gang that was out there  
17 that had a clear, defined organizational chart, if you  
18 will. The gang was initially created by a person  
19 internally incarcerated by the name of Decovan Reed, known  
20 by the street name of D-Loc. He went to jail for engaging  
21 in criminal activity as a result of a homicide  
22 investigation. When he went to jail --

23 MS. BELL: Objection to the narrative.

24 THE COURT: It's sustained.

25 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) Okay. So, once he went to

1 jail, what happened?

2 A. Another gentleman stepped up, Coy Thompson, aka  
3 poppa C. Beneath Poppa C was Mr. Sowell, Patrick  
4 Sowell.

5 MS. BELL: Objection, Your Honor. Calls  
6 for speculation. A violation of the confrontational  
7 clause.

8 THE COURT: It's overruled.

9 A. Underneath Patrick Sowell was Will Horhn. And  
10 then there was a whole other layer of players below that.

11 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) Okay. So, we have Decovan  
12 Reed, Poppa C, or Coy Thompson?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then Patrick Sowell?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Okay. Where is Coy Thompson now?

17 A. Coy Thompson is in the cemetery.

18 Q. And, so, now we have Patrick Sowell and then  
19 who else?

20 A. Patrick Sowell, Will Horhn, and then you also  
21 had Joshua Horhn, you had Cedric Johnson. You had other  
22 players like Joseph Hall that were also in that mix.

23 Q. Okay. Were you able to compile this  
24 information and create a presentation?

25 A. Yes, ma'am, we did.

1 Q. And what types of information did you use in  
2 this presentation?

3 A. History of the gang, the members, those who had  
4 been documented as members of that gang, their criminal  
5 histories, the criminal activities associated with that --  
6 with the Forum Park Crips, the area that they targeted,  
7 mostly the Forum Park area, and subsequent details  
8 associated with that.

9 Q. Okay. I'm showing you what's been marked as  
10 State's Exhibit No. 49. Do you recognize this?

11 THE COURT: I have Exhibit 49 as a  
12 stipulation.

13 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) I'm showing you what's been  
14 marked as State's Exhibit No. 60. Do you recognize this?

15 A. Yes, ma'am. It's the printout of the  
16 PowerPoint presentation dated March 28, 2012, created by  
17 myself on the Forum Park Crips, a presentation to other  
18 police agencies.

19 Q. Okay. And this was compiled with information  
20 that you had gathered, correct?

21 A. That is correct.

22 Q. And you can identify people in the pictures  
23 contained within this presentation?

24 A. Yes, ma'am, I can.

25 MS. MITCHELL: Your Honor, at this time,

1 the State offers State's Exhibit No. 60 after  
2 tendering to opposing counsel.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 MS. BELL: And the defense objects to  
5 State's Exhibit No. 60. It's a presentation that's  
6 prepared. There is -- it is compiled of hearsay. It  
7 is a definite violation of the confrontational clause  
8 in that we can't question any of the people, or  
9 ascertain exactly where this information came from,  
10 where they got the information, and what their basis  
11 of knowledge was for said information. As a result,  
12 we object, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right. That will be  
14 overruled. I think it will help me in understanding  
15 his testimony.

16 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 60 is  
17 admitted into evidence.)

18 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) Sergeant Wood, so here I'm  
19 just going to go through this page by page. This is the  
20 background information that you already testified about,  
21 correct?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. And, then, in State's Exhibit No. 60, on page  
24 3, what is this?

25 A. It's a Google Map area of, essentially, the



1 Forum Park area, the area that's been dominated by the  
2 Forum Park Crips.

3 Q. And page 4?

4 A. Addresses on Forum Park, 10110 Forum Park, the  
5 Sugar Branch Townhomes; 10101 Forum Park; and 9898 Forum  
6 Park.

7 Q. Page 5, what is this?

8 A. This kind of gives an idea of some of the  
9 criminal activities that the Forum Park Crips were  
10 involved in through their prior arrests or criminal  
11 activity up until March of 2012.

12 Q. What is this?

13 A. It explains what their -- their primary method  
14 of generating revenue was through narcotics sales. They  
15 also conducted robberies, dope rips of other narcotics  
16 sales persons, and they controlled the Forum Park area  
17 through violence and intimidation.

18 Q. Okay. And what is this?

19 A. This is a social media photograph that was  
20 obtained that identifies all of the key players, the  
21 leadership, if you will, of the Forum Park Crips.

22 Q. And is Patrick Sowell in this picture?

23 A. Yes. Patrick Sowell is positioned there  
24 (indicating). This was the current leader at the time,  
25 Poppa C. That was his right-hand man, Patrick Sowell.

1 Q. Just so the record is clear, Patrick Sowell  
2 you pointed out as the person who is second from the left  
3 in the white, looks like, tank top?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. And the person standing next to him, to his --  
6 to his left but to our right, who is that?

7 A. This is Will Horhn.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Joshua Horhn, Fred Whitfield -- I'm sorry --  
10 Robert Whitfield and Tevin Lewis.

11 Q. And do you know who the person in the blue  
12 shirt is down on the bottom row?

13 A. No, ma'am, I did not ever identify him.

14 Q. Okay. Touch the left of your screen.

15 A. (Witness complies.)

16 Q. And what is this we are looking at?

17 A. This is an organizational diagram, if you will,  
18 of the -- just what I spoke of earlier. You have Decovan  
19 Reed at the top, D-Loc; beneath him was Coy Thompson. Coy  
20 Thompson took over when D-Loc went to jail. Beneath him  
21 you have Champ, also known as --

22 Q. Who is champ?

23 A. Patrick Sowell went by the street name of  
24 Champ. He also went by the street name PJ. He was  
25 beneath him. When Coy Thompson was killed, Patrick

1 Sowell's took over the operations. Beneath him you had  
2 Will Horhn, Cedric Johnson, Joshua Horhn, all three of  
3 which are currently incarcerated. And then beneath them  
4 you had other players.

5 Q. And contained with State's Exhibit No. 60, who  
6 is this?

7 A. Just a brief synopsis of who Decovan Reed, aka  
8 d-Loc, was.

9 Q. Okay. And, again, within State's Exhibit  
10 No. 60, who is this a picture of?

11 A. Again, another synopsis of who Coy Thompson,  
12 aka Poppa C, was.

13 Q. Okay. What is this?

14 A. This is the synopsis of Patrick Sowell's, aka  
15 Camp. I noticed the hat he is wearing is 10110 Forum  
16 Park, Forum Park Townhomes.

17 Q. And at the time you compiled this presentation,  
18 was Coy Thompson still alive?

19 A. Yes, ma'am, he was.

20 Q. Who is this?

21 A. This is Will Horhn, synopsis of who he is and  
22 what charges he was facing.

23 THE COURT: What's that in his mouth?

24 THE WITNESS: A wad of money.

25 THE COURT: Oh.

1 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) And who is this person?

2 A. Cedric Johnson, aka One Time, currently in jail  
3 in Harris County for capital murder.

4 Q. And who is this person?

5 A. Joshua Horhn, the brother of Will Horhn, aka  
6 J-Loc, also currently in jail for capital murder.

7 Q. Who is this person?

8 A. Roger Henry, aka Popeye.

9 Q. Who is this?

10 A. Tevin Lewis, aka Youngster.

11 Q. And this person?

12 A. Robert Whitfield, aka Youngster, as well.

13 Q. This person?

14 A. Denzel McGee, also Forum Park Crips, currently  
15 in jail on murder charges.

16 Q. Who is this person?

17 A. Delvin Butler, Forum Park Crips. Henry  
18 Baltrip, aka Lil Henry.

19 Q. And what are we looking at in these pictures?

20 A. Again, these were pictures taken from a social  
21 media. It just documents some of the activities, as well  
22 as -- they were very proud of the Forum Park Crips.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Mr. Sowell, Patrick Sowell, is in the upper  
25 left-hand corner.

1 Q. I will zoom in on that. And what does he  
2 appear to be doing?

3 A. Eating a bowl of money as if it was cereal.  
4 Notice the FPC gang 10110 hat that he was wearing.

5 Q. Okay. So, he made a hat with his gang on it?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Okay. And then over here on the last page,  
8 this is a picture. What is this a picture of?

9 A. The letters FPC, Forum Park Crips, made out of  
10 money.

11 Q. So, all of these people contained in this  
12 presentation, they are Forum Park Crips?

13 A. That is correct.

14 MS. MITCHELL: Pass the witness, Your  
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: Cross?

17 MS. BELL: Briefly, Your Honor.

18 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

19 BY MS. BELL:

20 Q. Officer, can you go back to the picture  
21 entitled "Leadership"?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. You got that off, like, a social media site or  
24 something?

25 A. No, ma'am. That came through the interviewing

1 of criminal street gang members, talking with Mr. Sowell  
2 himself.

3 Q. I was talking about the picture.

4 A. Yes, ma'am. Oh, I'm sorry. The picture  
5 itself, yes, came from --

6 Q. When it was on social media, it wasn't entitled  
7 "leadership," was it?

8 A. Absolutely not.

9 Q. It was a picture you found. It had a lot of  
10 people that you were interested in, so you entitled this  
11 slide "leadership," correct? Let me rephrase that because  
12 I said it wrong. It had a lot of people in the picture  
13 you believe to be affiliated, that's why it's entitled  
14 "leadership." But that's not the way --

15 THE COURT: Pull the mic up, Ms. Bell. For  
16 some reason I'm not hearing you that well. Thank  
17 you, ma'am.

18 A. The photograph on social media was not titled  
19 "leadership." No, it was not. The people that were  
20 included in that photograph were identified and confirmed  
21 by members of the Forum Park Crips as their leadership.

22 Q. (By Ms. Bell) Okay. And nobody asked who the  
23 guy that is unnamed is?

24 A. He was -- I asked several people who he was.  
25 No one would tell me, or identify him.

1 Q. The timeline has Coy Thompson's last arrest as  
2 of 2-10-2012, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And at the time this was complied, Patrick had  
5 already been arrested for this current case, correct?

6 A. No, I don't think he had been arrested in  
7 February, 2010.

8 Q. Had his case already transpired?

9 A. Yes, I think so. I wasn't involved in the  
10 initial robbery case that was on trial yesterday. So, I'm  
11 not privy to the details of that as far as when it  
12 occurred. I do know that we were involved when he was  
13 arrested for the warrant on this case.

14 Q. So, up until the time of Mr. Thompson's death,  
15 he was the leader of Forum Park Crips based upon the  
16 information that you were told?

17 A. Yes, both self-admitted by Mr. Thompson during  
18 an interview with him after a traffic stop, as well as  
19 other members identifying him as well.

20 Q. Do you know the date of his death?

21 A. Not right off the top of my head. It was, I  
22 want to say, June of 2012.

23 Q. Okay. And do you know when Mr. Sowell went  
24 into custody finally for the case that we're currently on  
25 trial for?

1           A.       He went into custody before that.

2           Q.       Okay.

3           A.       Because he was out on bond, and we arrested him  
4 again for another robbery a few days after Poppa C's  
5 death, and it was the night before his funeral.

6           Q.       Okay. So, he was arrested and had been in  
7 custody the day before Poppa C was buried, but all up  
8 until the day before, he was the leader?

9           A.       Yeah, he -- they had a vigil for Poppa C right  
10 after his death. It was clear at that vigil that Patrick  
11 Sowell was the man in charge. He was essentially running  
12 the vigil. Everybody was coming to him. As we stopped  
13 people leaving that vigil, they identified him as the  
14 person in charge, and that he was calling the shots for  
15 the gang at that time.

16          Q.       For all of about three days before he went into  
17 custody finally forever on this one, this case?

18          A.       He didn't go into custody forever,  
19 unfortunately. He got out on several bonds.

20          Q.       Oh, no, I'm talking about the date of the  
21 death.

22          A.       Yeah, from the date of his death until  
23 currently, he's still identified and still looked up to as  
24 the leader of the Forum Park Crips by the members of that  
25 criminal street gang.



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

2 THE COURT: Did you want to ask another  
3 question? All right. Anything else?

4 MS. MITCHELL: No, sir.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. You may step down,  
6 sir. Thank you very much.

7 Next witness.

8 MS. MITCHELL: The State calls Officer  
9 Jenkins -- I'm sorry, not Jenkins. I can't even  
10 think today. Wilson.

11 THE COURT: It's okay.

12 THE BAILIFF: Judge, she was already sworn.

13 THE COURT: That's right. Go ahead and  
14 take the stand.

15 You may proceed when you are ready.

16 **SERGEANT STEPHANIE WILSON,**

17 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

19 BY MS. MITCHELL:

20 Q. Would you please state your name for the  
21 record?

22 A. Sergeant Stephanie Wilson.

23 Q. And, Sergeant Wilson, you stated in your  
24 testimony previously that you were able to interview  
25 Mr. Sowell, correct?