

1 THE COURT: All right. You are under oath,  
2 ma'am. You may take the stand. You may proceed when  
3 you are ready.

4 OFFICER LISA WRIGHT,  
5 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. MITCHELL:

8 Q. Would you introduce yourself to us, please?

9 A. My name is Officer Lisa Wright.

10 Q. And where are you currently employed?

11 A. I work with the Houston Police Department. I'm  
12 currently in the homicide division.

13 Q. How long have you been with the homicide  
14 division?

15 A. For about two years now. I started in 2012.

16 Q. And are you doing anything else; going to  
17 school?

18 A. I actually just graduated from law school, from  
19 the University of Houston.

20 Q. Are you studying for the bar at this time?

21 A. Yes, I am.

22 Q. So, were you assigned to the homicide division  
23 with the Houston Police Department on March 25, 2012?

24 A. No. Back then I was actually still on patrol  
25 at that time.

1 Q. And what hours were you working?

2 A. I was working the night shift hours. I believe  
3 my shift was from 8:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

4 Q. And what sort of training and education did you  
5 have to have in order to become a police officer?

6 A. Basically, I started in 2008. And you do about  
7 one year of training; six months is in the academy where  
8 you go to classes. And you basically go to the academy  
9 every day. You get some classroom training about the  
10 Penal Code and the laws of Texas, and then get some  
11 exposure to some skills-related work. You get driver's  
12 training, firearms training, tactical skills. And once  
13 you graduate from the academy, they put you on the street  
14 for six months for, basically, field training. So, they  
15 partner you up with a more experienced officer who takes  
16 you out and trains you for six months.

17 Q. So, I'd like to turn your attention to  
18 March 25, 2012. Were you called out to 2960 West Sam  
19 Houston Parkway South?

20 A. Yes. I was dispatched to a robbery that night.

21 Q. Okay. Do you remember approximately what time  
22 it was?

23 A. I don't know the exact time. I have to refer  
24 to my notes, but I think it was around 2:00 a.m. in the  
25 morning.

1 Q. Were you the first person on the scene?

2 A. Yes, I was. I was the primary responder.

3 Q. And that location, is that in Harris County,  
4 Texas?

5 A. Yes, it is.

6 Q. When you arrived, what was this location?

7 A. This was a motel called the Red Roof Inn.

8 There's a bunch of motels in that general area, but it's  
9 the one that says "Red Roof."

10 Q. And what did you do when you first arrived on  
11 scene?

12 A. When I arrived on scene, I met with the two  
13 complainants who were the victims of the robbery. And I  
14 met with them, got their statements. They gave me a  
15 description of what happened. The suspects at the time  
16 were gone. They had taken off already. So, basically,  
17 what we do as first responders is we just take a basic  
18 account of what happened, the who, what, where, when.  
19 Take their information. And I believe there was one  
20 casing that I recovered from the scene, a bullet casing.

21 Q. Okay. Do you remember the names of the  
22 complainants that you spoke to that evening?

23 A. Do you mind if I refer to my report?

24 Q. That's fine.

25 A. The names that I was given was a Cruse

1 Williams, who was a male, and a Lauren Deberry, who was a  
2 female.

3 Q. Okay. Now, you stated that you located a  
4 casing. What is a casing?

5 A. Basically, anytime that you shoot a gun, there  
6 is part of the bullet that goes one place. And your  
7 casing is basically the shell that comes off the bullet  
8 and usually falls on the ground.

9 Q. What did you do once you found that casing?

10 A. I collected it. I put it in a little baggie.  
11 And then another patrol officer who came by the scene, who  
12 was going to be near the evidence room later that night,  
13 took custody of it and tagged it into the evidence room  
14 for me.

15 Q. Now, I'm showing you what's been premarked as  
16 State's Exhibit No. 1. Do you recognize that area?

17 A. Yes. This is basically a bird's eye view of  
18 the Red Roof Inn.

19 Q. And is it a fair and accurate depiction of that  
20 place?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. And you're familiar with that area?

23 A. Yes, ma'am. That's my beat where I patrolled.

24 Q. And then I'm showing you State's Exhibit No. 2.  
25 Do you recognize this?

1 A. Yes, I do. That's the shell casing.

2 Q. And is it in similar, or substantially similar  
3 condition as when you recovered it?

4 A. Yes, it is.

5 MS. MITCHELL: Your Honor, at this time,  
6 the State offers State's Exhibit 1.

7 THE COURT: All right. Any objection to 1?

8 MR. STILL: No objection, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: It's admitted.

10 (Whereupon State's Exhibit No. 1 is  
11 admitted into evidence.)

12 MS. MITCHELL: May I publish it to the  
13 jury, Your Honor?

14 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) I'm showing you State's  
16 Exhibit No. 1. What are we looking at here?

17 A. Like I said, this appears to be maybe Google  
18 Map. I'm not sure. But, basically, a bird's eye view of  
19 the Red Roof Inn. Obviously, a picture of the Red Roof  
20 Inn. On the right side of the screen is West Sam Houston  
21 Parkway South. So, if you imagine taking I-10 westbound  
22 towards Katy, and then you head south on West Sam Houston  
23 Parkway South, you go southbound, and then you exit  
24 Westheimer and you stay on the feeder, and, basically, you  
25 will be coming down this street, and it will be right on

1 the right-hand side just past Westheimer.

2 THE COURT: You can touch that screen --

3 THE WITNESS: Okay.

4 THE COURT: -- if you want to help  
5 demonstrate.

6 A. So, basically, this would be southbound on the  
7 feeder. And you just make a right into the main area of  
8 the parking lot. And right here would be the lobby area  
9 (indicating).

10 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) Okay. Just so the record is  
11 clear, you made a line on the right side of State's  
12 Exhibit 1, that roadway. And then, I guess, a left  
13 line -- a line that goes left kind of toward the top of  
14 the red roof?

15 A. Yes.

16 THE COURT: Do you know how to clear that  
17 screen? It's on the bottom left. Just touch down  
18 there.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 Q. (By Ms. Mitchell) Do you remember where exactly  
21 you found the shell casing?

22 A. I don't recall exactly where I found it, but I  
23 know it was in the grassy area. You can't really see it  
24 in this picture. The robbery occurred somewhere outside  
25 of the victim's room, which I believe was room 140, and

1 that's along the north side right here of the hotel  
2 (indicating). And, so, you can't -- like I said, you  
3 can't really see it from the picture, but there's a little  
4 grassy area between the parking lot and the sidewalk.

5 Q. So, once you met with the complainants, what  
6 did you do after that?

7 A. I met with the complainants, I got their  
8 information, recovered the casing. I checked with the --  
9 the employee, who was working there that night inside the  
10 lobby, to kind of go over whether or not he saw anything.  
11 And there was surveillance video footage of what happened.  
12 So, we reviewed the video. And I asked him to preserve  
13 the video to be collected at a later time because he was  
14 not able to basically copy the video at that time.

15 Q. Were you able to talk with any other witnesses  
16 on the scene?

17 A. I did. I talked to one witness who was staying  
18 in room 138.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MS. MITCHELL: Pass the witness, Your  
21 Honor.

22 THE COURT: Cross?

23 MR. STILL: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

25 BY MR. STILL:

1 Q. Officer Wright?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Is it officer, or do you have another title?

4 A. You can call me officer.

5 Q. Officer Wright, I just want to make sure we all  
6 understand your role here. You were the first responder  
7 to the scene; is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And did any other officers respond to the scene  
10 besides you?

11 A. At a later time there was Officer Kim and  
12 Officer Choe, who were both partners, and they collected  
13 the bullet casing, like I said.

14 Q. The .380, and that's decimal point 3-8-0, shell  
15 casing that you recovered; is that right?

16 A. Let me just double-check. Yes, silver bullet  
17 casing, RP .380 automatic, correct.

18 Q. .380 would be a calibered weapon; is that true?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. So, there's no arrest that's made that day; is  
21 that correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. For this robbery, of course, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. So, it's really important on your end of things



1 to preserve for any detective, or anyone else who's  
2 looking at the case down the road potential witnesses,  
3 correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. You mentioned that you spoke to the occupant of  
6 room number 138; is that correct?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. That lady's name is Kimberly Mace; is that  
9 correct?

10 A. Yes, that's correct.

11 Q. And Mace is M-a-c-e, correct?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And this robbery happened outside of room  
14 number 140; is that correct?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. So, you also spoke to the complainants in the  
17 case; that would be Ms. Lauren Deberry; is that right?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. And you also spoke to Mr. Cruse Williams,  
20 correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then you spoke to some people in the  
23 management office about the video; is that correct?

24 A. I believe it was just one individual working  
25 that night.

1 Q. That's Mr. Joel Gomez, correct?

2 A. I know I met with a Joel Gomez the next night  
3 because I went back the next night and he was the one  
4 working there. I can't recall whether or not -- I'm  
5 pretty sure it was the same individual working the night  
6 before.

7 Q. So, these individuals that you spoke to,  
8 specifically Ms. Mace, Ms. Deberry, and Mr. Williams, you  
9 recorded their contact information? You recorded their  
10 identifiers, correct?

11 A. I took down their name and their date of  
12 births, correct.

13 Q. And, of course, you indicated in your report  
14 what their information was, correct?

15 A. What their statements were, sure.

16 MR. STILL: May we have a moment, Your  
17 Honor? I apologize for the delay.

18 (Brief pause.)

19 Q. (By Mr. Still) Officer Wright, was there a  
20 general description given of these suspects who were  
21 responsible for the robbery according to the witnesses?

22 A. Yes, there was.

23 Q. Could you tell us what that description was?

24 A. Basically, there was, according -- under the  
25 paragraph that I have for Mr. Williams, Cruse Williams, we

1 have two black males. One of the suspects was wearing a  
2 white shirt and and a white baseball cap with the letter  
3 C. And the other suspect was also a black male, was  
4 wearing a blue shirt and holding a pistol. And he was the  
5 one that fired the weapon towards Mr. Williams.

6 Q. Is there any information about tattoos, or any  
7 other type of identifying information?

8 A. No, not at that time.

9 MR. STILL: I'll pass the witness, Your  
10 Honor.

11 THE COURT: Anything else?

12 MS. MITCHELL: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, ma'am.  
14 You may step down.

15 Call your next witness.

16 MS. MITCHELL: The State calls Officer Kim.

17 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. May I be excused?

18 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

19 Come forward.

20 THE BAILIFF: This witness has been  
21 previously sworn.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 You may start when you are ready.

24 **OFFICER TAE KIM,**

25 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

**DIRECT EXAMINATION**

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BY MS. MITCHELL:

Q. Would you please introduce yourself to us?

A. Officer Tae Kim with the Houston Police Department.

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

A. About five years.

Q. What is your current assignment?

A. The gang unit, crime reduction unit.

Q. Were you with that unit on March 25, 2012?

A. I was.

Q. I'd like to turn your attention to March 25, 2012. Were you called out to 2960 West Sam Houston Parkway South?

A. I was, yes.

Q. What did you do wherever you arrived on scene?

A. I assisted the primary officer, Lisa Wright. I asked her if she needed help. She needed some evidence tagged that she recovered at the scene.

Q. Did you do that?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. I'm showing you what's been premarked as State's Exhibit No. 2 and its contents. Do you recognize this?