

1 Zavala.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 THE BAILIFF: He has not been sworn,
4 Judge.

5 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

6 Good afternoon, Deputy. Raise your
7 right hand, please.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: All right. Feel free to
11 adjust the chair and microphone over here, and just
12 answer as directly as you can. And also, the rule
13 has been invoked. You know about that?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: All right. You may
16 proceed.

17 MS. DEANGELO: Thank you, Judge.

18 **JESUS ZAVALA,**
19 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

20 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

21 BY MS. DEANGELO:

22 Q Would you introduce yourself to the jury?

23 A Officer Jesus Zavala.

24 Q What do you do for a living?

25 A I work for the Houston Police Department.

1 Q And are you a certified peace officer in the
2 State of Texas?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q How long have you been a police officer?

5 A Approximately 18 years.

6 Q What sort of training and experience have
7 you had in order to be a police officer?

8 A Well, I went to the police academy where we
9 learned the basic police work, how to do
10 investigations, patrol calls, patrol procedures,
11 things like that.

12 Q And what division are you assigned to?

13 A HPD central patrol.

14 Q And is that the same division that you were
15 assigned to back on January 15th of 2011?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q What shift were you working that day?

18 A The second shift, from 2:00 p.m. to
19 10:00 p.m.

20 Q Okay. What area of town were you
21 patrolling?

22 A The near north side, in between south 610,
23 just west of 59.

24 Q Does that include the fifth ward?

25 A It's just west of there, ma'am. Close

1 enough to it.

2 Q And on January 15th of 2011, did you get a
3 call to assist the Harris County Sheriff's Office in
4 a death investigation?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q And what were you asked to do?

7 A Our dispatcher advised that Harris County
8 had -- was conducting an investigation and that the
9 vehicle possibly driven by the suspect in a homicide
10 was in our area.

11 Q Okay. And what particular location were you
12 called to?

13 A Off of Melbourne and Terry, and we went to
14 the area and saw a vehicle matching the description
15 given to us by the dispatcher.

16 Q What time did the call come in for you to go
17 out and look for this vehicle?

18 A Just before 5:00 o'clock, I believe. Yeah,
19 4:58 p.m.

20 Q And around what time did you locate the
21 vehicle?

22 A Let's see. I have to refer to my notes.
23 I'm sorry. It was a little after 5:00, ma'am. I'm
24 sorry, I didn't document the time exactly.

25 Q Okay. What kind of vehicle was it?

1 A It was a red Camaro, 2010 year model.

2 Q When you located the red Camaro, did you see
3 anybody inside the vehicle?

4 A No, ma'am, not inside of it.

5 Q Okay. Was the vehicle running when you saw
6 it?

7 A No.

8 Q Did you look inside the vehicle?

9 A Just through -- through the glass.

10 Q Okay. Did you notice any keys in the
11 vehicle?

12 A Not that I can recall, no.

13 Q Okay. Was there anybody milling about or in
14 the general vicinity of the vehicle?

15 A When -- when I first got there, there was
16 several young black males just standing around the
17 vehicle. It was like they were talking and just
18 hanging out around it.

19 Q Did they appear to be touching the vehicle
20 or doing anything with the vehicle?

21 A No, not really. They were just like
22 standing on the sidewalk. One of them may have been
23 sitting on it, but it -- it wasn't like they were
24 like all up inside the car. They were just standing
25 there.

1 Q And at some point did this group of young
2 black men leave that area?

3 A Yeah, we -- our instructions were just to
4 maintain a visual on the car and -- until we got
5 further word from the Harris County investigators.
6 Later on in the afternoon, it was myself and another
7 unit, they were watching the vehicle. The other
8 officer saw a gray Cadillac pull up, and -- and the
9 guys that were standing around the car, they got in
10 the car and then they drove off.

11 Q When you say they got in the car and drove
12 off, they got in the Cadillac and drove off?

13 A Yes, in the gray Cadillac.

14 Q Okay. So they didn't actually appear to be
15 involved with the Camaro?

16 A No.

17 Q When you saw the Camaro, what condition did
18 it appear to be in.

19 A Pretty good condition.

20 Q Did it appear to have been involved in any
21 kind of accident?

22 A No, ma'am.

23 Q About how long did you have to keep watch on
24 the vehicle?

25 A We were there for a few hours.

1 Q Okay. And was it your job to then tow the
2 vehicle, or did you wait for another unit to come and
3 take care of the vehicle?

4 A No. Once -- once we got word from Harris
5 County homicide, they asked us to go and -- and knock
6 on the door of the house that the vehicle was parked
7 in front of. Myself and my supervisor, a couple
8 other officers, we went in, we knocked, nobody
9 answered. So I called Harris County's homicide back
10 and they said they would send a unit to pick up the
11 car.

12 Q And did the sheriff's department indeed send
13 a unit to pick up the Camaro?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q And once the Camaro was taken away from the
16 scene, did you have any further involvement in the
17 case?

18 A No, ma'am. That was it.

19 MS. DEANGELO: We'll pass the witness,
20 Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: All right. Any questions?

22 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

23 BY MR. VILLIAREAL:

24 Q I take it, sir, that you did not enter the
25 car?

1 A No, sir.

2 Q And you did not do an inventory of the
3 inside of that vehicle?

4 MR. VILLARREAL: I have no further
5 questions, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. May this
7 witness be excused?

8 MS. DEANGELO: Yes, Your Honor.

9 MR. VILLARREAL: Yes, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: All right, sir. Thank you,
11 Officer Zavala.

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: What says the State?

14 MS. DEANGELO: We would ask to take a
15 few minutes to locate our next witness.

16 THE COURT: All right. Take a
17 15-minute break. Members of the jury, remember the
18 instructions. Don't discuss the case or do any
19 independent investigation of whatever nature.

20 Just go with the bailiff.

21 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

22 (Jury exits courtroom.)

23 (Recess taken.)

24 THE COURT: Both sides ready.

25 (No response.)