

the first time he refers to the person as anything other than a man) The dispatcher then tells him that everyone is on the way and that when officers get there he needs to put the gun down. At this point it is almost as if Partaka has put the phone down and can be heard arguing with Hood. (5:44) Partaka comes back to the phone and says, "this motherfucker is trying to get up". Partaka then starts saying that he is going to shot them again. Hood can be heard talking about shoot me and it sounds like Partaka says that he will shoot her again. (It should be noted that Hood's tone is clearly recognizable as female and we had not worked with her for a period of time as Partaka had). At this point Partaka says you don't love me in response to something Hood said. Partaka then calls Hood a bitch again (6:02). Partaka then tells Hood that he will shot her again and Hodd responds, "Whatever". Around the 6:19 point the second shot can be heard and then Partaka comes back to the phone and advises the dispatcher that he has killed his ass. He advised the dispatcher that he came up to him. The dispatcher asks where he shot the person and Partaka responds, "in the head, right in the motherfucking head". The dispatcher then continues to talk with Partaka until deputies get there. Partaka continues to talk about the incident. Around the 12:44 point he tells the dispatcher that both of us were lying on the couch. Around 14:43 he talks about both of them laying on the couches again. During the time after the shooting you can hear another phone ringing in the background. Around 16:56 Partaka advises that the police is there. The phone remains open while he is called back to deputies and while deputies clear the residence. The last portion overlaps the body cam footage of the clearing of the residence by Uniform Patrol. The entire recording is 22:03 in length.

1441

I received the forensic report from Sgt. B. Letterman about the download of the phones of the suspect and the victim in this case. The information found is consistent with the statements of both J. Bell and J. Gladden as gathered in this case about the argument between Gladden and Hood and the fact that Bell took Hood over to the residence of Partaka.

1500

I starting reviewing the Video of the interview of Donald Partaka. It starts around 2030 on 10-11-17. He stated that he got home around 1530 and had been drinking some beer. He then talks about having to get up early. He says that he takes a nap and when he wakes up someone is on his other couch. when asked who they were Partaka responds that he does not know the person. (It should be noted that he does not make any mention of Hood being at his house). He then says that his house was locked and he does not know how they got in the house. He said he woke up and saw the person and grabbed his 22. Sgt. Guffey asks if he talk to the person and Partaka responds no, because the person is sleeping. Partaka then says how he told the person to get up and get out of his house. He said the person started rambling on so he shot the person in the knee. When asked why he shot the person Partaka responded, "he threatened he was in my house". He then talks about the person getting up and coming toward him and he said, "I dropped his ass". He again says that he has no idea who he was. He then says that he did not have a chance to call 911 after he shot the person the first time. When asked if he thought the person was going to hurt him he responds, "Hell Yeah". When asked what he did to make him think the person was going to hurt him Partaka responds, "He stood up and stared coming to me". He keeps saying that he had no idea who the person was. Sgt. Guffey then asks him if he thinks he is drunk and Partaka responds, "Oh yeah". Sgt. Guffey then leaves the room. (20:40) At 21:13 Sgt. Guffey returns back into the room. Partaka seems to be getting agitated. Sgt. Guffey asks if the suspect wants any water or to go to the restroom. He then asks for a cigarette and Sgt. Guffey advises him he will take care of getting him one for him to just have a seat. Sgt. Guffey then

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leaves the room again. Sgt. Guffey then returns with the cigarettes at 21:27. Sgt. Guffey asks Partaka about how the person got in his house and he said that he thought he locked it but he does not know. Sgt. Guffey then leaves again at 21:29. 21:30 water is given and Sgt. Guffey goes after a cup for his ashes. The cup is given at 21:31. 21:50 Sgt. Guffey comes back into to interview room with Inv. Dudzic. Sgt. Guffey asks if he thought that he was sober enough to talk and that he still understood his rights. He again says that he never seen the man before in his life. Partaka talks about him living back off the road and that he did not know who the person was. He then began speaking with Inv. Dudzic. Sgt. Guffey then asks Partaka if he was sure this was a man and he said, "oh yeah". Sgt. Guffey then informs him that the person who is deceased had painted toes and finger nails. Sgt. Guffey then asks if he picks up prostitutes and he says no. At 21:57 he talks about his friend was over there earlier. (It should be noted that this is the first mention of anyone being at his house on the date of this incident. When asked who his friend was he starts saying don't tell me. and then he talks about someone coming over earlier he describes her as blond with short hair. He is then informed that the person deceased at his residence is a female. He then asks are you serious. He said that he thought it was a guy. He said that he thought that some came into his house and that he thought that her boyfriend came after her while he was sleeping. He finally came up with the name Ashley and saying please tell me I did not do that did I. He then says that he thought it was an intruder. He then talks about them drinking whiskey together. He then put his head down and sobs while saying I can't believe I did that and I don't know what I was thinking. He then was asked about the person saying something and sounding like a girl. He said they did not sound like a girl. He then detailed the shooting saying that the person came after him and he shot them. He then details the events of the evening and he goes back to say that he woke up and thought it was a guy and he shot them in the knee first then the person got up and came after him. Lt. Guffey then leaves the room and Inv. Dudzic asks when he shot the person did he not recognize them and he said no I thought it was a guy. He said that she came over about 5 o'clock. Inv. Dudzic continues to speak with Partaka about the incident. He continues to go back to say he thought it was a guy. He did say that Hood said why did you shoot me. He continue to say he does not believe this shit. Inv. Dudzic continues to tell him that no one is lying to him. He continue to go back and say that he thought it was an intruder and that he could not believe he did that. Sgt. Guffey then asked how she got there and he said she walked or that Joe brought her he did not know. Guffey then tells him that Joe Bell said that he knocked on Partaka's door and that he answered it around 1730. Partak then said they were downing shots of crown. Partaka said that he can't believe what he did and Sgt. Guffey said he was interested in why and he said he had no clue. They continue to talk about the incident and he then says that he does not understand. He continues to say that he cannot believe that he did this.

This ended the first two hours of the interview.

10-30-17 1340

I checked with Inv. Bolick of the Coroner's Office about the autopsy report and she advised that it was not finished at this time.

1250

I reviewed the last 2 hours of the Interview session with Partaka in this case. Hour 3 starts off with Sgt. Guffey pressing Partaka about not knowing it was a female and just shooting her. Partaka stays with the fact that he did not know. Partaka did say that it did not make since but he did not know and that is why he called 911. He does admit to pulling the trigger that ended this persons life. He continues to talk and he says she does not look like a guy but, Partaka

continues to say that he did not know it was Ashley. He continues to talk with Sgt. Guffey and Inv. Dudzic and stays with the story that he did not know that it was not a guy. They leave the room at 2236 and while they are gone Partaka says to his self I killed Ashley. Inv. Dudzic looks in on the suspect at 2243, he does not say anything. Inv. Dudzic come back in at 2248 and then leaves without saying anything. Inv. Dudzic comes back in at 2250 and sits with the suspect and Partaka starts talking with Dudzic about this incident. Partaka keeps saying I can't believe I did this. He continues to talk about them drinking and she was on the couch. Partaka says he was protecting his self. He rambles for for sometime without Dudzic asking him any questions. He talks about not remembering, but just before he talks about her coming over because she was mad at her old man. He then again says he just can't believe it. He then talks about that Ashley meant a lot to him. He then goes back saying about the fact that he thought it was a guy. He then talks about calling 911 and telling them he had shot someone and thought he had killed them. He then goes back to talking about waking up and that he can't believe that it is real. Inv. Dudzic then leaves at 2304 and advises Partaka that the officer is going to transport him to the jail. Officer Smoak then transports the suspect. The suspect asks to go to the bathroom before being transported and this is granted (2305). This is the end of the interview. There is a 4th hour recorded but the camera was just left on and no interview takes place during this time.

11-1-17 1330

While reviewing the case file in this incident I discovered that the body cam footage for Dep. Smoak had not been downloaded. I requested that Sgt. Letterman download the video for me.

Supplement Dudzic R

INVESTIGATION REPORT:

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office

Case Number: 17100554
Incident Type: Death Investigation
Victim: Hood, Laura Ashley
Location: 219 Patterson Road, Campobello
Incident Date: October 11, 2017
Patrol Officer: J. Smoak
Investigator: R. T. Dudzic

On 10/11/2017, At approximately 2110 hrs, I was contacted by Sgt. J. Guffey of the Violent Crimes Unit of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, 8045 Howard Street, Spartanburg SC 29303. Sgt. J. Guffey advised a Homicide had occurred in the county and requested my assistance. I responded to the Criminal Investigation Division and met with Sgt. J. Guffey.

Sgt. Guffey was in the process of interviewing the subject, Mr. Partaka, about this crime, so I sat in on and observed the interview. At different times in the interview I did ask some Mr. Partaka some questions. Mr. Partaka told me at the point he shot the victim, Laura Ashley Hood in the knee, she asked him why did you shoot me? I asked Mr. Partaka did he not recognize Hood's voice when she asked him why he shot her. Mr. Partaka told me he did not recognize Hood's voice, because he was pretty much drunk. Mr. Partaka repeatedly made statements such as I can't believe I killed Ashley and I can't believe I did this.

Upon finishing the interview with Mr. Partaka, he was transported to the Spartanburg County Detention Center, by Uniform Patrol Deputy Berry.

At approximately 2305 hrs, Sgt. Guffey and I were at the Spartanburg County Detention Center. It was considered to be an important part of this investigation to obtain a DNA sample from Partaka. Sgt. Guffey read and explained to Partaka the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office "Permission to Search Persons" form. Mr. Partaka acknowledged understanding the form and signed the form consenting to submit a DNA sample. The DNA sample was obtained from Partaka from Spartanburg County Forensic Sgt. Lawson. I observed as Forensic Sgt. Lawson photographed Mr. Partaka in his clothing to document it possible evidence. Forensic Sgt. Lawson seized Mr. Partaka's clothing as evidence, placing the clothing in evidence bags.

At approximately, 0050 Hrs. on 10/12/2017, I observed Spartanburg County Magistrate Donnie B. Blackley, issue Murder and Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime arrest warrants on Partaka.

On 10/11/2017, at approximately 2110 hrs, I was present at the Spartanburg County Morgue to attend the autopsy of the decedent Hood, performed by Dr. Wren.

While sitting on the interview of Mr. Partaka, I recorded my time in the interview, which I placed onto a CD, and turned into the Property & Evidence Room of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office 8045 Howard Street, SC 29303. I also furnished Case Agent Inv. M., Gaddy with two additional copies of this interview.

This concludes my involvement in this investigation.

STATEMENT OF: Joseph D Bell Exhibit E AGE: 40 DATE: 10/12/17
 ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
 PHONE # [REDACTED]

I Sgt. JW Gaffey am writing this statement as told to me by Joseph Bell.
 On 10/11/17 at about 440pm Ashley Hood called me and asked if I would come pick her up from her job at Village Green Golf Course. I came to pick her up. She said that her and Jamie Gladden her boyfriend got into a argument. She asked me to go my house. I told her I had company coming over. She asked me about going to Don's house. I called Don from my phone. Ashley talked to Don and Don said come on over. I then took Ashley to Don's house. I knocked on Don's door. Don came to the door and let Ashley in. Neither Don nor Ashley seemed to be drunk. I then left and went home. Late I called Jamie and told him to pick Ashley up at Don's house cause she said she did not want to go home. Later Sgt Gaffey called me for information. Me, Don, Ashley, and Jamie have been friends for several years. We have hung

I have read this statement consisting of 2 pages(s), and I swear that the statement that I have just given is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God. I also swear this statement was given freely and voluntarily and I have received a copy of my statement. This statement was completed at 1310 P M. on the 12th day of October 20 17

WITNESS: [Signature] [Signature P. Bell]
 Signature of person giving voluntary statement

SWORN to before me this 12th day of October, 20 17
[Signature] (Seal)
 Notary Public of South Carolina
 My Commission expires: 3/31/27

E 2 of 2

CASE# 17/00554

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

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STATEMENT OF: Joseph D Bell

AGE:

DATE:

ADDRESS:

PHONE #

DOB:

SSN:

Out together socially several times. I have never seen Don and Ashley in an argument.

EDS

I have read this statement consisting of 2 pages(s), and I swear that the statement that I have just given is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God. I also swear this statement was given freely and voluntarily and I have received a copy of my statement.

This statement was completed at 1310 P M. on the 12th day of October 20 17.

WITNESS:

[Handwritten witness signature]

X Joseph D Bell
Signature of person giving voluntary statement

SWORN to before me this

12th

day of October

20 17

[Handwritten notary seal/signature] (Seal)
Notary Public of South Carolina

My Commission expires:

3/31/27

~~Exhibit F~~

1 for my family, and I'm sorry for my brother as well.
 2 That's all I really have to say, Your Honor.
 3 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.
 4 MR. BEASLEY: Can we bring up Doctor Maddox?
 5 DOCTOR MADDOX: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
 6 THE COURT: Good afternoon.
 7 DOCTOR MADDOX: Your Honor, I evaluated Mr. Partaka at
 8 the detention center. I saw him March 15th of 2018.
 9 And I, I did want to say, out of respect to Mr. Balsa,
 10 I think that was -- I think he misread my report that --
 11 Mr. Partaka's report to me has been consistent. It was that
 12 he saw a shadow by the door. Not outside the door.
 13 So, I reread my report again. I'm not -- I don't think
 14 I missed anything, but, if I did, I apologize to Mr. Balsa.
 15 But he, he was very clear that he woke up and saw a shadow
 16 by the door, but he meant within the house. So, his story
 17 has been somewhat consistent with me as well.
 18 Anyway, Your Honor, just for the record, I evaluated
 19 him today as well. I did diagnose him with an alcohol
 20 dementia. So, I saw him today and also prior to this
 21 hearing to make sure that he was still competent, and he, he
 22 actually looked better, he looked better today than he did
 23 when I saw him in March of 2018 at the detention center.
 24 At the time I saw him he had given me a very
 25 longstanding history of alcohol abuse since the age of 15.

1 He's had periods of sobriety, but he's lost relationships.
 2 He actually was married to the same woman twice, and, and
 3 he, he was only married to the one person, but the same
 4 person on two different spans. Did have a child from
 5 another, from another relationship.
 6 He's worked his whole life. He was in the Navy. He
 7 had done well early on, and, of course, as alcohol's ravaged
 8 his brain, he's had a steady decline. At the time of this
 9 offense he was working as a groundskeeper.
 10 He -- when I evaluated him, he was very cooperative,
 11 pleasant, but it was very clear that he had cognitive
 12 deficits. He had trouble. He couldn't come up with names,
 13 and you saw today kind of a little bit similar in his plea.
 14 When he gets a little bit stressed, he has some difficulty
 15 following conversations, but he's able to be redirected.
 16 And, once he's given context, he, he can recall and, and
 17 provide a history.
 18 So, even though he has the dementia, it's my opinion
 19 he's competent. He knows what he's doing. He can follow
 20 and he's been able to assist in his defense.
 21 He's had a long history of alcohol abuse. When I saw
 22 him, I gave him some neurological testing, and also some
 23 neurological psychology screening tests, and he did very
 24 badly, Your Honor. He's conversationally intact, but, when
 25 you test his brain and you put him under time constraints,

LOW? ATTORNEY

1 it falls apart.
 2 One of the tests I had him do is called the Trails, and
 3 it's really easy. It -- it's a test with numbers and
 4 letters, and you have the person figure out the pattern.
 5 And, and this test, you go from a number to a letter, a
 6 number to a letter.
 7 He couldn't even do a very simple Trails test, which is
 8 a sign of frontal lobe dysfunction. I kept giving him more
 9 tests, and he did very poorly on them even though he gave
 10 good effort.
 11 So, because of that, out of an abundance of caution, I
 12 referred him to a neuropsychologist. If you look at the
 13 DSM-5 now when we diagnose dementia, we're suppose to have
 14 neuropsychological testing or a -- or some kind of a scan of
 15 their brain. You have to do more than just your clinical
 16 opinion because dementia is much more than a clinical
 17 diagnosis, and Doctor Brawley tested him.
 18 Her test includes to -- a test to make sure he's not
 19 malingering, and, and the test that she gives, it's called
 20 the Test of Malingered Memory and basically, what it is, you
 21 look at 50 faces. And then, after a short amount of time,
 22 you have to circle which face you saw, and then, after a
 23 longer period of time, you circle the face again, and he did
 24 very well on that test. People with dementia should pass
 25 that test and he did. He got 46 out of the 50 faces right.

~~Exhibit F~~

1 So, he -- there was no evidence that he was trying to
 2 play dumb or trying to act like he was more impaired than he
 3 was, and he tested -- he, he came out with dementia, Your
 4 Honor. He's impaired in almost all areas of his brain.
 5 And so he's conversationally intact, but the point of
 6 all this is he did -- he does not have a criminal
 7 responsibility defense. He was intoxicated. So, even
 8 though I listened to the tape as well, and had concerns
 9 because it appears that he's talking, that it was very
 10 graphic, but it's also my opinion, Your Honor, that --
 11 knowing that -- the dementia he has, and also the fact that
 12 he was intoxicated at the time, it's my opinion he couldn't
 13 have come up with a story that quickly.
 14 Whatever he said at the time on that tape is what he
 15 believed in my opinion. I don't think he had the capacity.
 16 The part of his brain that's in charge of thought
 17 processing, it's impaired.
 18 So, I think the tape probably speaks for itself in what
 19 he was thinking. I don't see him having that capacity to
 20 come at that time, and, and come up with this defense at the
 21 time of the, the call, and that's what I thought was
 22 significant.
 23 Other thing, Your Honor, I have some concerns about his
 24 physical health. I'm gonna relay those to the Department of
 25 Corrections with your permission, and I have the permission