

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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Appeal from Sumter County
Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Circuit Court Judge

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

DAUNTE MAURICE JOHNSON,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2022-000931

RECORD ON APPEAL

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THE FOLLOWING EXHIBTS ARE ON FILE WITH THIS COURT:

STATE’S EXHIBITS NOS. 37-38 (PHOTOGRAPHS OF KNIFE IN COUCH)
STATE’S EXHIBIT NO. 64 (PHOTOGRAPH OF BONES)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF SUMTER } COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

STATE,)

v.)

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
19-GS-43-0916

DAUNTE M. JOHNSON,)

DEFENDANT.)

June 20, 2022
Sumter, South Carolina

B E F O R E :

THE HONORABLE R. FERRELL COTHRAN, JR., JUDGE;
AND JURY

A P P E A R A N C E S:

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ELIZABETH H. NEYLE, ESQ.
EMILY CRAYTON, ESQ.
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FRANCES B. RAY, RPR
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1 THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Solicitor, you
2 may call your case.

3 MR. FINNEY: May it please the Court,
4 Your Honor. Good morning. The State calls docket
5 No. 2019-GS-43-0916, the State of South Carolina
6 v. Daunte Maurice Johnson, indictment returned
7 true billed by the Sumter County grand jury for
8 murder, two counts; possession of a weapon during
9 a violent crime, two counts. I'll hand up the
10 indictment, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. All right, ladies
12 and gentlemen of the jury, we're about to begin
13 the trial of the State v. Daunte Maurice Johnson.
14 Is there any member of the jury panel connected by
15 blood or marriage, close personal friends, or
16 social relations with Mr. Johnson? If so, please
17 stand.

18 (There was no response.)

19 THE COURT: I'm -- the victims in this
20 case are Sharee Bradley and ^{Minor 1} -- how do you
21 pronounce her name, Solicitor?

22 MR. FINNEY: Minor 1.

23 THE COURT: Minor 1 . Any member
24 of the jury panel connected by blood or marriage,
25 close personal friends, social relations, have

1 THE COURT: I would love to at least
2 see the results of it and have somebody put that
3 into the record.

4 MS. NEYLE: May I approach?

5 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

6 (Document tendered to the Court.)

7 THE COURT: I have before me two
8 orders, or two evaluations, done -- signed by
9 Dr. Frierson dated November the 30th, 2020. One
10 deals with his capacity, Mr. -- the defendant in
11 this case, Mr. Johnson's capacity to stand trial.
12 And the opinion of the doctor is he does have the
13 capacity to stand trial. The other deals with his
14 criminal responsibility and that finding of the
15 doctor that he had criminal -- criminal
16 responsibility for his actions on or about August
17 the 5th, 2019. Does -- does either side have any
18 evidence or anything that they want to add to this
19 record that in any way affects the doctor's
20 finding as far as his competency to stand trial
21 and his criminal responsibility?

22 MR. FINNEY: Nothing from the State.

23 MS. NEYLE: Nothing from Defense.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Then the Court so
25 finds that he is competent to stand trial and that

1 on or about the August the 5th of 2019 he had the
2 criminal responsibility to understand his actions,
3 the right -- the difference between right and
4 wrong, both morally and legally. Okay?

5 MS. NEYLE: Thank you. Judge, I'd
6 also renew Rule 5 and Brady. I inherited this
7 case a year ago from the Sumter County Public
8 Defender's Office who had a conflict and
9 conflicted out of their office to our office in
10 Florence, Judge, and we filed Rule 5 and Brady
11 motions, delivered them to Solicitor Finney. I
12 believe I have everything. I received a good bit
13 of discovery in the last couple of weeks; but I've
14 met with Solicitor Finney and I believe I have
15 everything, but I just wanted to renew those
16 motions on the record, Judge.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Solicitor, do
18 you have any response?

19 MR. FINNEY: I believe we've turned
20 everything over according to the rule, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Have you -- and
22 what date did he return -- turn them over to you
23 the last time you got anything?

24 MS. NEYLE: I believe I received some
25 documents last week. I know that I received the

1 SLED -- the last SLED report on June 10th.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MS. NEYLE: And I think I got
4 something last week.

5 THE COURT: Have you got anything in
6 the last few days, over the weekend, or preparing
7 for trial that you have not provided her that you
8 think she's entitled to?

9 MR. FINNEY: I don't believe she has
10 anything -- she has not been provided anything
11 new. What we have done over the last ten days is
12 taken the written statements -- excuse me, the
13 recorded statements, and compressed them to take
14 out gaps and things like that, so we will be
15 presenting smaller versions of the original tapes
16 that were turned over to her. And we'll be able
17 to provide her a copy of that probably within the
18 next hour or two, subject to your ruling that they
19 come in. If they come in, then, I mean, that's --
20 that's what we're trying to do is compress the
21 time down to get to the information that we think
22 is germane.

23 Also, we have photographs which we've
24 already turned over, several hundred photographs,
25 and we've taken about 35 photographs down and put

1 them on a disk that we intend to use as the
2 photographs that we want the Court to see today
3 and approve for their introduction to the jury.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And these disks and
5 these photographs are going to be in electronic
6 form or been copied to paper? Are they all
7 electronic?

8 MR. FINNEY: Well, the recordings are
9 digital, yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MR. FINNEY: And the photographs I
12 have on one disk, but I've numbered them State's 1
13 through 35.

14 MS. NEYLE: And may I ask, will those
15 photos, will they be published to the jury on a
16 video, on the video screen?

17 THE COURT: That's what I was trying
18 to find out. I've not been doing a good job
19 asking that question.

20 MR. FINNEY: Well, that's -- that's
21 what we intend to do. We think it's a little
22 easier to -- I have a investigator who can run the
23 computer and can pull up the photograph that I
24 need for the witness that I have on the stand.

25 THE COURT: But you don't have -- and

1 the problem is, if all of them are in, they're
2 going to be numbered 1 through 35, so how does the
3 court reporter -- if one doesn't come in, if
4 number 27 doesn't come in, how are we going to
5 keep it straight with the court reporter on the
6 record?

7 MR. FINNEY: That's what we're doing
8 right now, Judge. I was thinking we'd go through
9 the 35 photographs and get you to rule on them so
10 that they all have been approved.

11 THE COURT: Well, I first need to find
12 out whether she's got any objections 'cause I
13 don't know what her trial strategy is. If she
14 doesn't object, that's one thing. If she objects,
15 then I need to deal with those she objects to on a
16 individual basis. But how -- just from a
17 practical matter, how is the court reporter, if
18 you got a witness on the stand and you're asking
19 the witness about photograph number 5, there's --
20 normally we have a mark on it that says State's
21 Exhibit 5. If you're going to do it all
22 electronically, how does the court reporter -- how
23 are we going to mark it versus -- and many times
24 we have a paper copy that we mark and then you can
25 electronically put it on the screen to publish it

1 to make it easier to publish electronically to the
2 jury to try to hold one picture up. But I, I got
3 to have something in the record that's marked
4 exhibit by exhibit where we -- if this case gets
5 reviewed, at least the appellate body will be able
6 to say they're talking about exhibit 5 or exhibit
7 10.

8 MR. FINNEY: Well, my thought was that
9 Exhibit 5 would be marked on the disk as Exhibit 5
10 and we would only be showing that one picture.

11 THE COURT: How do you ma-- I
12 understand that and I ---

13 MR. FINNEY: We've named it that too.

14 THE COURT: I'm technology challenged,
15 but how does my court reporter mark the
16 photograph -- Frances, you know how to do that?

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Huh-uh.

18 MR. FINNEY: Judge, we'll provide
19 copies to the Court. That won't be a problem.

20 THE COURT: When you're talking about
21 a particular photograph and it's not a piece of
22 paper and you go to identify on the record if
23 it's -- we got to have them numbered in some
24 fashion where the appellate body will know what
25 we're talking about.

1 MR. FINNEY: I think I understand the
2 Court.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I would -- it's not
5 100 photos. I would ask that those 35 photos just
6 be printed. I mean, I don't...

7 MR. FINNEY: I can handle that, Judge.

8 THE COURT: That's the simplest way to
9 keep the record straight. If there's not but 35,
10 then she's right. If you can, you know, print
11 them that way we won't have as near a problem
12 with -- with the record, especially when the jury
13 is trying to go back there and figure out -- if
14 one particular photograph is important to them,
15 they can actually say this is 5 and whatever. So
16 if that's not a problem, that may be the simplest
17 way to do it.

18 MR. FINNEY: Well, I still would like
19 to -- I think it would save time if the Court
20 would review the 35 photographs right now and hear
21 any objections that are made. We can do ---

22 THE COURT: I'll be glad to. If you
23 show them to her, she can -- have you seen them?

24 MR. FINNEY: She's got every
25 photograph, Judge.

1 THE COURT: I understand. She doesn't
2 know what -- does she know what 35 you want to
3 show?

4 MR. FINNEY: No, sir, I don't think
5 so.

6 THE COURT: Okay. How does she know
7 to object unless we do it one-on-one?

8 MR. FINNEY: Well, she can object, but
9 you're the one that's gonna make the final
10 determination. That's why I want to show them to
11 you.

12 THE COURT: I understand that, but --
13 but if she's not going to object to any of them.
14 Because there's one -- I don't think what your
15 trial strategy is and I don't know what hers is.
16 And so assuming you have photographs that you're
17 offering because you have some proof to go along
18 with them and we don't get in a 403 situation,
19 you're just trying to inflame the jury, you got to
20 have some proof. Usually her objections are --
21 it's a 403 objection, are they duplicate, or
22 whatever. So if she hadn't seen them, she almost
23 needs to look at them and maybe with cocounsel and
24 try and figure out their trial strategy. I'll be
25 glad to look at them; but the bottom line is, she

1 needs to be able to study them or either you can
2 send her a copy of all. But I need to give her
3 some time to think about them before she objects
4 or not objects. Normally you just give the stack
5 to her and say which one of these do you object to
6 and you may -- it may be quicker just to copy
7 them, hand her the whole stack, she says I don't
8 object to any of these, and we've saved an hour.
9 Or, you can show them to her electronically, I
10 don't care. But it's usually she needs to have
11 some opportunity to look at them before I rule or
12 either attempt to rule. Okay? Is that going to
13 be a problem? Can y'all make them come on her
14 computer? I don't care how you do it. I'm just
15 trying to save some time and give her a chance to
16 review them and see if there is an issue.

17 MR. FINNEY: We can do the computer,
18 no problem; but if you want her to have 30 minutes
19 to look at them, then I -- I don't ---

20 THE COURT: Well, it may not take her
21 30 minutes, but put them up and let her look at
22 them and see. Just send them over there to her.
23 Put them on here and I can put them on the --
24 whatever.

25 MR. FINNEY: Well, that's what I've

1 been planning to do.

2 THE COURT: I know. I'll do it any
3 way you want to. But normally, if we were doing
4 one-by-one, it's -- she needs to be able to look
5 at -- if number 6 and number 7 are the exact same
6 thing she's not going to know number 7 is the same
7 thing unless she's looked at all of them.

8 MS. NEYLE: Would Your Honor like me
9 to look at them right now?

10 THE COURT: Is this the first motion
11 we got to deal with?

12 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Would it be
14 better -- well, let's start over. How many
15 motions I'm hearing? We got ---

16 MR. FINNEY: We got a hearing about
17 Jackson v. Denno on some statements.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MR. FINNEY: Four statements that the
20 defendant gave.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. FINNEY: And then you wanted -- I
23 wanted you to rule on the photographs and that's
24 all I have.

25 THE COURT: Well, why ---

1 MR. FINNEY: Oh, excuse me, there's
2 one other. The defendant has been incarcerated
3 since his arrest. He's made several phone calls
4 that have been recorded and monitored, and we were
5 going to ask the Court to approve the playing for
6 the jury of certain portions of his phone calls.

7 THE COURT: Have you provided her with
8 those phone ---

9 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: You have any ---

11 MR. FINNEY: Well, she's been provided
12 the entire phone call and the portions would be, I
13 believe, would be what the State intends to show
14 that he said on a particular day during a phone
15 call.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. FINNEY: So we have compressed it
18 because we didn't want to waste the jury's time
19 listening to a 15-minute phone call when there's a
20 two-minute segment on a particular day that he
21 spoke about issues relevant to this case.

22 THE COURT: Okay. What's your
23 position on that?

24 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I have copies of
25 statements. I have copies of jail calls. I just

1 don't know which ones he intends to introduce, so
2 I would just like to know.

3 THE COURT: Can you let her know that,
4 give her a copy?

5 MR. FINNEY: We have a summary of all
6 of the information we intend to talk about for the
7 date in question. We have four dates.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. FINNEY: The 5th, the 7th, the
10 8th, and the 21st ---

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. FINNEY: I'm sorry.

13 THE COURT: If you can provide her
14 with that and maybe -- as far as the photographs
15 are concerned, if -- maybe we ought to get into
16 the Jackson v. Denno and while you're questioning
17 police officer or whoever, and give her and her
18 cocounsel an opportunity to look at the
19 photographs. Or one of them can look at them
20 while they are paying attention. And then that
21 way, we save a bunch of time in dealing with the
22 photographs after the Jackson v. Denno. Would
23 that not work better?

24 MR. FINNEY: That's fine with me, Your
25 Honor.

1 MS. NEYLE: That's sufficient, Judge.

2 THE COURT: Okay. 'Cause the Jackson
3 v. Denno is probably gonna take the longest,
4 right? They usually do.

5 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir, maybe so.

6 THE COURT: So we -- we can have
7 testimony on that; and then if you can provide her
8 with the photographs, by the time we finish, she'd
9 have an opportunity to look at the photographs and
10 we could deal with them. Is that not going to
11 work, or y'all got a better idea?

12 MS. NEYLE: Well, I also have a number
13 of motions, Judge, and I just didn't know when you
14 wanted me ---

15 THE COURT: Okay. Well, tell me --
16 tell me about those.

17 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I also just wanted
18 to put on the record there was a plea offer
19 extended to Mr. Johnson for a plea to voluntary
20 manslaughter for Sharee Bradley and murder for
21 Minor 1 , a straight-up plea at the judge's
22 discretion. Mr. Johnson was given that plea
23 offer, and he indicated he does not wish to plead,
24 Judge.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Is that right,

1 Mr. Johnson?

2 THE DEFENDANT: That's correct.

3 THE COURT: That's correct what she
4 told me?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And that you un--
7 and they made you a plea offer. Your attorney
8 told you what that plea offer was, but it's your
9 decision. You understand that?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

11 THE COURT: She can only advise you to
12 what she thinks you should do or not do, but it's
13 totally your decision. You understand?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

15 THE COURT: And your decision is to
16 reject that?

17 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

19 MS. NEYLE: The other thing, Judge,
20 the State -- Mr. Johnson has also been charged
21 with possession of a stolen vehicle, and that's
22 arising from the alleged murder that occurred in
23 Saint Louis, Judge. Solicitor Finney has told me
24 he does not intend to -- to get into that stolen
25 vehicle charge or anything to dealing with Saint

1 Louis and the alleged murder unless -- unless the
2 door is open for that, Judge. But he told me --
3 he told me he did not intend to introduce that
4 evidence.

5 THE COURT: Is that right, Solicitor?

6 MR. FINNEY: That's correct, Your
7 Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MS. NEYLE: And, Judge, another
10 matter, in my Rule 5 I had received a recording of
11 an audio recording and it was entitled jail phone
12 call. Through some investigation I discovered
13 that it was not a jail phone call. It was
14 actually a phone call that was placed at the
15 Sumter Police Department, and it was made on an
16 investigator's work phone. It was recorded
17 without the consent of the parties, Judge, and
18 they were not advised of that recording. Judge,
19 once I discovered that, I -- I talked to Solicitor
20 Finney. I think this -- this audio recording
21 brings wiretapping issues that we need -- would
22 need to be dealt with in front of the Court of
23 Appeals pursuant to 17-30-- I believe it's 110,
24 Judge. But I've spoken with Solicitor Finney, and
25 he has indicated that he does not intend to play

1 that phone call whatsoever.

2 THE COURT: Is that correct,
3 Solicitor?

4 MR. FINNEY: That's correct, Your
5 Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MS. NEYLE: And, Judge, two -- I'm
8 sorry, another matter. Two weeks ago we met with
9 Your Honor regarding a -- an issue that came up
10 with, I think it was five pages of papers that
11 were taken from Mr. Johnson's cell, copied, and
12 given to the solicitor. Solicitor Finney made
13 copies of that and gave -- gave copies to Your
14 Honor and myself. I then went and met with my
15 client Mr. Johnson and discussed those pages one
16 by one. Through my discussions with him, he told
17 me that four of those pages were pages that he
18 wrote for his attorney and are protected by
19 attorney-client privilege. The last page is a
20 page that was not written for his attorney, and I
21 don't think is relevant to the case, Judge; and I
22 just wanted to put that on the record. I've
23 spoken with Mr. Johnson about it. I spoke with
24 his prior attorney, Ms. Kasha Timmons. When I
25 left meeting with Mr. Johnson, I went back to my

1 office and I looked at the file that was given to
2 me by the Sumter County Public Defender's Office.
3 Those pages in question were in that file, along
4 with a post-it by Ms. Timmons that she made a copy
5 of those documents and gave them to Mr. -- Mr.
6 Johnson. And so our argument regarding those
7 pages are the first four are protected by
8 attorney-client privilege and the last page is
9 not, but would be irrelevant to be dealt with at
10 trial.

11 THE COURT: All right. Solicitor,
12 what about that?

13 MR. FINNEY: Your Honor, we don't
14 intend to use them.

15 THE COURT: Okay. All right.
16 Anything else?

17 MS. NEYLE: Just as a housekeeping
18 matter, I just move to sequester witnesses.

19 THE COURT: Okay. You want to respond
20 to that, Mr. Solicitor?

21 MR. FINNEY: Judge, the only request I
22 would have is that it's kind of a big case 'cause
23 we have double homicide. I'd like to have my
24 Officer Melton and my Captain Rabon to assist me
25 in the courtroom. Both of them will testify, but

1 both of them helped me get the case organized and
2 we've got two different -- basically two different
3 cases because the little girl was deemed missing
4 on the 5th of August. She wasn't recovered in the
5 landfill until the 18th or 19th of October.

6 THE COURT: Okay. You got a position
7 on that?

8 MS. NEYLE: I believe he can only
9 choose one, Judge. I would just ask that his lead
10 investigator stay and sequester the remainder.

11 THE COURT: Well, and I -- do you have
12 a separate lead invest-- is it -- do you have one
13 lead investigation in one murder and another lead
14 investigation with the other murder?

15 MR. FINNEY: No, sir, not really, but
16 there were different duties had to be done and,
17 obviously, as far as put the case together. The
18 Captain was kind of in charge of ----

19 THE COURT: I understand, but you got
20 to decide whether you want to call him as a
21 witness or not. If they're not a witness, they
22 can stay.

23 MR. FINNEY: They are going to both be
24 witnesses.

25 THE COURT: I guess you may have to

1 choose. I guess one -- I mean, I don't know what
2 they're going to testify to.

3 MR. FINNEY: If the Court makes me
4 select, I'll keep Mr. Melton and call ---

5 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let -- we'll
6 see how things go. I think the -- it's just that
7 they're going to testify in front of the jury,
8 correct? We don't have any sequestration. That's
9 not an issue with Jackson v. Denno, is it? I
10 thought all that was taped. You want to sequester
11 the witnesses tomorrow at trial, right, not today,
12 correct?

13 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor, not
14 today.

15 THE COURT: Well, I'm inclined to only
16 pick one; but I may change my mind before the end
17 of the day but, okay, after I hear something.

18 MS. NEYLE: My last motion, Judge, --
19 and I'll sit down after this -- is that you just
20 ask that the State disclosed to me discovery
21 pursuant to Lyle, if they intend to introduce any
22 Lyle evidence, Judge.

23 THE COURT: Okay. What about that
24 Solicitor?

25 MR. FINNEY: No, sir, I don't think

1 I've got any prior bad acts that I'm intending to
2 get into. I do think, Your Honor, there is going
3 to be some discussion by witnesses about arguments
4 between the victim and the defendant prior to her
5 death. Within 48 hours there were several, two or
6 three serious arguments they're going to be
7 testified to; but nothing where charges were
8 brought or anything like that.

9 MS. NEYLE: I think as long as they
10 stay within that time period, I don't have
11 objection.

12 THE COURT: Okay, all right. Now
13 we're ready for the Jackson v. Denno?

14 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: Okay. You can call your
16 first witness.

17 MR. FINNEY: We call Captain Angie
18 Rabon.

19 THE CLERK: Place your left hand on
20 the Bible, raise your right hand. State your
21 name.

22 THE WITNESS: Angela Rabon.

23 WHEREUPON,

24 **ANGELA RABON,**
25 having been duly sworn by the clerk, testified

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1 as follows:

2 THE CLERK: Thank you. State your
3 full name for the record and spell your last name
4 please.

5 (Court's Exhibit No. 1 was marked
6 and made a part of the record.)

7 THE WITNESS: Angela Rabon, R-A, B as
8 in boy, O-N.

9 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

10 BY MR. FINNEY:

11 Q Captain Rabon, tell the Court where
12 you are employed.

13 A I'm employed for the Sumter Police
14 Department.

15 Q And how long have you been there?

16 A I've been there since early 1995, so a
17 good while.

18 Q Right. And are you -- what division
19 or office do you manage and run?

20 A I'm the captain over the investigative
21 services division.

22 Q And do you investigate serious crime?

23 A I do.

24 Q In this case, which would have
25 occurred August of 2019, were you a captain then?

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1 A I was.

2 Q Okay. And were you in charge of
3 investigations?

4 A I was.

5 Q All right. Would you tell the judge a
6 little bit of background about what led your
7 officers to go to --

8 MR. FINNEY: And Your Honor, just for
9 the record, this apartment complex we are talking
10 about is called Lantana, L-A-N-T-A-N-A, Lantana
11 Apartments.

12 BY MR. FINNEY:

13 Q Is that located in the city of Sumter?

14 A It is.

15 Q And was it formerly known by another
16 name that most people in the community know it by?

17 A Yes. Several people refer it to as
18 Gamecock Apartments.

19 Q All right. So it used to be called
20 Gamecock Apartments?

21 A That's right.

22 Q They renamed it to Lantana?

23 A Correct?

24 Q Why were your -- why were your
25 officers called to the scene that day?

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 A We were dispatched there in reference
2 to a deceased female. The apartment manager
3 stated that she was found in her apartment by her
4 son and that her boyfriend had just left.

5 Q All right. And was the boyfriend
6 sought for information?

7 A Yes, he was.

8 Q And was he arrested?

9 A In fact, while we were on the scene in
10 the beginning, he was pointing out to us at which
11 time he fled and was apprehended.

12 Q Was he taken into custody?

13 A He was.

14 Q What's his name?

15 A Daunte Johnson.

16 Q You see him in court today?

17 A I do.

18 Q All right. Mr. Johnson was taken
19 where, initially, that evening, when he was taken
20 into custody?

21 A When he was taken into custody, he was
22 transported to the Sumter Police Department.

23 Q All right. And is that located right
24 down the street here in the city of Sumter?

25 A Yes, Lafayette.

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q All right. And what was your
2 intentions once you got him there?

3 A Once he was there, he was going to be
4 interviewed as to his involvement. We were -- we
5 were all still -- it was like real-time trying to
6 figure out exactly what had happened to Sharee,
7 the victim in this case. She was wrapped in a
8 carpet so we didn't know that much initially, just
9 that she was deceased so.

10 Q What did you find out about her family
11 members?

12 A Yeah. So we learned that she had
13 three kids, three children: 1, ^{Max}, who was I
14 believe he was 12 at the time, I'm not sure, but I
15 think he was 12. He was present, and we learned
16 that two other children were not accounted for and
17 we were desperately trying to locate those two
18 children.

19 Q All right. Did you have occasion to
20 assign an officer to interview Mr. Johnson, and
21 what time would that interview have been started?

22 A Yeah. So, he was apprehended sometime
23 after 6 p.m., six something p.m. The interview,
24 Detective McFadden was the initial detective. He
25 was asked to respond to the scene. We also

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 requested for Detective Hansen to respond. So
2 Detective McFadden began that interview with
3 Johnson on the 5th.

4 Q All right. And then did Mr. -- did
5 Detective McFadden have to leave the interview?

6 A Yes. During -- after he'd been in
7 there for some time he was tasked with another
8 interview, so he left that interview to go
9 interview someone else.

10 Q And who -- who concluded the interview
11 with Johnson?

12 A So, that would have been Hansen and
13 now Sergeant Melton.

14 Q All right. And were you a part of
15 that process, the interview process? Were you
16 observing it?

17 A I was in and out of the interview
18 room, but I was not -- I was, like, real-time
19 trying to locate the children.

20 Q All right.

21 A So.

22 Q The first interview was on the day of
23 his arrest which would have been August 5th?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Have you seen a police department

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1 interview form that was executed on August 5th and
2 signed by Willie McFadden?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Let me show this to you and ask you,
5 have you -- is that the document you're referring
6 to?

7 A Yes.

8 Q All right.

9 A I have seen that.

10 Q And after that interview was
11 concluded, did you all learn more information than
12 you had at the beginning about what had happened
13 at the Lantana Apartments?

14 A Yeah, so, during that fifth interview
15 ---

16 Q "The fifth" meaning 5th of August?

17 A The 5th of August, I'm sorry. August
18 the 5th he told many facts to Melton and Hansen,
19 one of which was that he did kill them. And
20 during that, he was very -- I guess it was -- he
21 just, the same thing over and over as far as where
22 Minor 1 was. We were looking for Minor 1. We had
23 located Minor 3, her younger child. He was with
24 his father in Columbia. But he, from the
25 beginning would say that he put Minor 1 in the

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1 dumpster, so I know you're -- what was your
2 question? It was --

3 Q I was asking about on the 5th during
4 that interview, did you learn facts at the
5 conclusion of the interview through the -- through
6 the interview ---

7 A That's right.

8 Q At the conclusion of the interview did
9 you know facts that you didn't have ---

10 A Yes, several.

11 Q --- in the beginning?

12 A So, in the beginning, like I said, we
13 didn't even know what had happened to Sharee.
14 We -- based on blood at the scene, we -- we
15 actually thought that she may have been beaten by
16 a scooter that was present inside the apartment.
17 And during the interview with -- with Mr. Johnson,
18 he related that he stabbed Sharee. We were not
19 aware that she was even stabbed at that point,
20 just that she had some severe injuries and a lot
21 of blood covered. So, and then during that
22 interview while we're still looking for Minor 1, he
23 also said that he killed Minor 1 and stabbed her.
24 And at that point, you know, we wasn't even
25 thinking that the child was harmed or injured. We

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1 were hoping that she was with family and friends,
2 but he was -- he relayed that to us and that he
3 put her in the dumpster.

4 Q All right. After the interview on the
5 5th concluded, your investigation took some new
6 turns then?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q Were -- were you then looking for
9 forensic evidence at the scene that would
10 corroborate what he had told you in the interview?

11 A Right, that's correct.

12 Q And you had to take -- what did you do
13 at the scene to help corroborate what he had said?

14 A So, that -- that would have been the
15 next interview. That first night after he told us
16 that information, we began to search the Sumter
17 Transfer Station for the trash. We learned that
18 there are several tractor-trailers of trash that
19 were waiting to go to the Richland County
20 landfill. We had a hold on all those. We
21 systemically searched those on the 6th, did not
22 find her. And during the 7th we had him brought
23 down to the station for more communication to --
24 in an attempt to locate Minor 1. And he, again,
25 was adamant and even showed detectives that the --

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1 he put the little girl in the dumpster, Minor 1 in
2 the dumpster, and showed us which dumpster and
3 told us how he walked out of that apartment with
4 Minor 1 and put her in that dumpster. And so
5 the -- when he told us which door he exited, there
6 was one large drop of blood. It was just -- like,
7 everything happened in the living room and the one
8 drop of blood was at the back door leading to
9 where you would go to go to that dumpster which
10 that was that blood evidence we had SLED, please
11 analyze this, we feel that this could have
12 evidence of Minor 1, and it did.

13 Q All right.

14 A It came back to Minor 1.

15 Q So there was no statement from the
16 defendant on the 6th of August, but you did get
17 one on the 7th?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q And that was done in similar fashion
20 at the police department?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q And do you know who Buford Wilson is?

23 A I do.

24 Q All right. Who is he?

25 A He is a detective assigned to our

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 organized crime and vice unit.

2 Q All right. And did -- would you tell
3 us a little bit of background about how Mr. Buford
4 Wilson got to interview Mr. Daunte Johnson on the
5 7th?

6 A Yes.

7 Q So on the 7th after ---

8 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I would object due
9 to this officer not having personal knowledge of
10 these statements. She's testifying as to what
11 other people did.

12 THE COURT: Yeah. So tell me about
13 that, Solicitor.

14 MR. FINNEY: I don't understand, Your
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: She's objecting to not
17 personal knowledge. She's -- she's telling about
18 somebody else's knowledge.

19 MR. FINNEY: I'm -- I'm just giving
20 you the overview. I'm getting ready to call these
21 officers to talk about what they said. But there
22 were four interviews that I wanted the Captain to
23 kind of organize them and then we're going to
24 break them down by each officer that led the
25 interview.

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1 MS. NEYLE: And I think those officers
2 can testify as to what they did.

3 THE COURT: Okay. I mean, she --
4 she -- you know, you can just tell me -- whatever
5 you, these four officers, let me know where.

6 MR. FINNEY: All right.

7 THE COURT: Instead of her going into
8 the details. So you have four different officers
9 interviewing. Is he in custody?

10 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir, at the end of
11 the -- let me ask the question please of the
12 witness. I wanted to go back and ask one --

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 BY MR. FINNEY:

15 Q Okay. When did you decide to charge
16 Mr. Johnson with the death of Miss Sharee?

17 A On the evening of the 5th.

18 Q That was the first -- at the end of
19 the first interview?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Based on what?

22 A Based on his statements that
23 implicated him, and not only taking their life but
24 putting them -- putting Minor 1 in the dumpster.

25 Q All right. Can you tell the Court

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1 whether those interviews on the 5th, the interview
2 on the 5th, was recorded or videotaped?

3 A The interview on the 5th, Detective
4 McFadden who went in there, he initially recorded
5 the Miranda ---

6 MS. NEYLE: Objection, lack of
7 personal knowledge.

8 THE COURT: Yeah. Well, if you
9 weren't there, how do you know what he did?

10 MR. FINNEY: Okay.

11 THE COURT: Was she there?

12 BY MR. FINNEY:

13 Q Were you there for that ---

14 A I was not there for Detective
15 McFadden's; but on the 7th, I was involved in that
16 interview and I am aware of the waiver on that
17 one.

18 Q All right. Could we then --- so you
19 did charge him on the 5th?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What was the charge based on? What --
22 why did you charge him on the 5th?

23 A Based on the fact that Sharee was
24 found deceased and he was her boyfriend.

25 Witnesses saw him leave the apartment. And he

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1 implicated himself in the statement that he took
2 their life, killed them, stabbed them, and put
3 Minor 1 in the dumpster.

4 Q All right. Now going to the 7th, did
5 you have part of the task of, or being involved in
6 the process, of interviewing the defendant on the
7 7th?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Tell us about that.

10 A So on the 7th, which is after we had
11 conducted the extensive search of the trucks from
12 the transfer station, we had -- I had -- I
13 assigned Detective Buford to go transport Daunte
14 Johnson to the station for another interview. So
15 during that transport and once he arrived to the
16 station, he -- I noticed that they stayed outside,
17 and he was out there for some time. So I went
18 outside, and he was out there smoking and I saw
19 that he had obtained a rapport with Detective
20 Wilson. So at that time Detective Wilson
21 introduced me to him as the captain of
22 investigations. I stood out there with him and
23 talked with him. He was talking about his mother
24 and he was just engaging Detective Wilson about
25 some gang information. So, at that point I told

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1 him, again, I told him who I was and I told him I
2 needed to -- and I wanted to talk with him about
3 trying to find Minor 1, that we needed to find this
4 little girl. And he at that time said that he
5 understands that. And I said, but before I ask
6 you anything I want to explain to you your rights.
7 And after explaining his Miranda rights to him, he
8 said that he wants to help us find Minor 1, he will
9 help us find her, but he does not want to go into
10 what happened. And I told him that's fine, right
11 now my focus is to find Minor 1, if he could help
12 with that, that would be great.

13 Q What rights did you read to him
14 outside when you were in this conversation?

15 A I told him he had the right to remain
16 silent. Anything you say can be used against him
17 in a court of law. He has the right to talk to an
18 attorney before any questioning if you wish. He
19 has the right to stop answering any questions at
20 any time if you wish; and if he wanted an attorney
21 with him during questioning, we can make that
22 happen as well, he did not have to talk to us.
23 And I asked him if he understood those rights and
24 he indicated he did, and he just stated that he
25 only wanted to help us find her. He did not want

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1 to talk about what had happened.

2 Q After you gave him the rights, was
3 that written or verbal?

4 A Verbal.

5 Q Did you get anything signed?

6 A No.

7 Q All right.

8 A I didn't at that point.

9 Q You were all outside?

10 A That's correct

11 Q All right. What -- what happened
12 then?

13 A So then, after he smoked a few more
14 cigarettes he -- he was talking about he just felt
15 so sad and terrible, he couldn't eat. You know,
16 he just -- he just had a sick feeling in his
17 stomach. We went inside.

18 Q Inside where?

19 A To the police department to the
20 interview room. And at that point we were -- we
21 had -- we were gonna record that interview. So
22 when we walk in we're talking about, I need you
23 to, you know, just help us find this little girl,
24 that's the best thing to show you -- you're
25 remorseful, putting a good foot forward. At the

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1 end of that interview he agreed to Detective
2 Wilson that he would show us where he put her,
3 which garbage trash can that he put Minor 1.

4 Q How long would you say he was in your
5 presence between the time he left smoking and the
6 time he got in the car to go to show you which
7 trash can? How -- how long was he inside with you
8 during the inside process?

9 A Maybe 20 minutes.

10 Q All right. And during that 20 minutes
11 did you all question him?

12 A We questioned him about where she was,
13 if she was there, we need to find her. It was --
14 he would have -- kind of go into other facts and
15 then he would say he doesn't want to talk about
16 that, for his family. And it was, you know, I,
17 again, reiterated we don't have to talk about
18 that, I just want to know where she is. And he
19 agreed to show Detective Wilson. He didn't want
20 me to go. He didn't want me to ride with him.

21 Q All right.

22 A So ---

23 Q So you didn't ride?

24 A No.

25 Q As far as you know that he and the

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1 detective rode out. Did they return ---

2 A That's correct.

3 Q --- to law enforcement?

4 A They did.

5 Q Police department?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q When they returned, how long had they
8 been gone? Give me an estimate. Are we talking
9 hours or minutes?

10 A It was not hours. It was not a hour.
11 They would have driven from Lafayette ---

12 Q Yes.

13 A --- to the scene.

14 Q Yes.

15 A Drove through and just communication
16 about which garbage can.

17 Q Right.

18 A And then back. So it couldn't have
19 been long.

20 Q When he returned back, was there
21 another continuation of the interview?

22 A It was. And I learned from Detective
23 Wilson at that time when they came back that he
24 was wanting to talk about more things, was just
25 talking about information, just steady talking.

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1 And so he had told him to wait till we get back.
2 If he's going to talk about more, then we need to
3 do another rights form.

4 Q And was another rights form done?

5 A It was.

6 Q Is that the document in front of you?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Who witnessed it?

9 A I did.

10 Q And what -- do you have a time ---

11 A I didn't sign this, but I did witness.

12 Q All right. Who -- who did sign it?

13 A Buford Wilson.

14 Q And do you see a signature of the
15 defendant on there?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Do you also see five different
18 initials where he initialed understanding the
19 rights that you had given him?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Do you have a time on there? Or is it
22 just a date?

23 A It is 1:00 p.m. when he completed
24 this.

25 Q All right. And that would be on the

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1 7th?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q All right. After he talked to
4 Detective Wilson on the 7th and that interview was
5 concluded, did you bring him back in on the 8th?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And did you have anything to do with
8 that interview?

9 A I did.

10 Q And did you see -- are you looking at
11 a document now which purports to be his Miranda
12 form on August the 8th?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q What officer led that interview?

15 A Detective Wilson.

16 Q That's the same Buford Wilson?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q Were you a part of that interview?

19 A I -- I came in at the end some point
20 during that interview, but I did witness that
21 interview.

22 Q Is that interview recorded?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. Not video, but audio recorded?

25 A That's correct.

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1 Q Okay. Tell the judge just why there
2 was no interview machine, tape recorder, the first
3 day?

4 A The first day ---

5 Q On the 5th.

6 A At the -- on the 5th it was -- it was
7 not a normal practice to always at that time to
8 record interviews. When this incident happened it
9 was like a lot of moving parts going on trying --
10 trying to locate the children, Minor 1
11 specifically, once we could not locate her. It
12 was a lot of things going on. Normally our
13 practice over all the years I've been at the
14 Sumter Police Department, we -- we always try to
15 have at least two people in the interview or at
16 least a witness to an interview so that there is a
17 witness to what goes on inside of the interview
18 room and that no one is by themselves. So on the
19 first night, I mean -- I know Detective McFadden
20 will testify to that. I know why he did that
21 brief recording when he was in that room. He was
22 in there alone by himself and then he left out to
23 do another assignment so.

24 Q All right. And as far as the
25 interview on the 5th when -- when McFadden left

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1 taking his phone with him, ---

2 A Right.

3 Q --- Hansen came in?

4 A Yes. During -- while McFadden was
5 there ---

6 Q And was there a witness with Hansen
7 when the defendant was talking to Hansen?

8 A From my understanding Hansen was
9 reiterating his timeline going over what he had
10 already been through ---

11 Q Right.

12 A --- as we waited for his fellow
13 detective which would have been Detective Melton.

14 Q All right, so, eventually before that
15 interview concluded you had Hansen and Melton ---

16 A That's correct.

17 Q --- in there together? All right.
18 Just for the record, after we talked about the
19 interview on the 8th, was there another interview
20 on the 21st of August?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And was that interview recorded?

23 A Yes, it was.

24 Q And was -- were his Miranda rights
25 given to him on that occasion?

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1 A It was.

2 Q Did he sign them?

3 A He did.

4 Q Did he initial the rights as you asked
5 him to do?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And who -- who authenticated his
8 signature? Who witnessed his signature?

9 A It was Buford Wilson and Detective
10 Skinner.

11 Q Okay, very good. Those recordings
12 that you have -- that you have from those
13 interviews, the tape recordings have been put on a
14 digital disk?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q And have you and your staff compressed
17 some of the -- to take the 33 minutes, so to
18 speak, on the tape and compressed it down to
19 statements that he made during those interviews?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Were all those statements made by the
22 defendant?

23 A There's some it was mutual statements
24 conversing.

25 Q It was conversation between ---

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1 A Yes, that's right.

2 Q --- between the officer and but the --
3 the parts that are on the tape that you can hear
4 on these tapes, you can hear questions and
5 answers?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Are all the answers by the defendant?

8 A Yes.

9 Q All right. At any time did you
10 threaten him or coerce him?

11 A No, not at all.

12 Q During the time that you were in the
13 room with him, was he offered cigarettes, food,
14 water ---

15 A Cigarettes, ---

16 Q --- things like that?

17 A --- water, yes, food.

18 Q Did he ever ask for a lawyer?

19 A No, he did not.

20 Q All right.

21 MR. FINNEY: Beg the Court's
22 indulgence. Your Honor, I think that's all I have
23 for this witness. I have other witnesses, but
24 I'll pass it to the other side. Your Honor, just
25 for the record so it'll be clear, can we go ahead

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1 and mark those as Court exhibits, the Miranda
2 forms?

3 THE COURT: Are you offering them into
4 evidence as Court's exhibit at this time?

5 MR. FINNEY: I am.

6 THE COURT: Okay. You can mark them.

7 MR. FINNEY: There are four exhibits,
8 Your Honor.

9 (Court's Exhibit Nos. 2 through 5
10 were marked and made a part of the
11 record.)

12 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

13 BY MS. NEYLE:

14 Q Captain Rabon, you said it was not
15 normal practice to record interviews?

16 A Right. It's -- it's not like there
17 was a protocol that says you will record
18 interviews.

19 Q Was there a protocol to write a report
20 after an interview was taken?

21 A Meaning like? You mean an incident
22 report like a police report or?

23 Q After a statement was given, is it
24 protocol to write a report that summed up that,
25 that interview?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And a memorandum of an
3 interview was written for the August 5th
4 interview, correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Okay. Was there a memorandum written
7 for the statement on the 7th?

8 A Those were recorded. The 7th was
9 recorded as well as the 8th and also the 21st.
10 The only statement that he provided that was not
11 recorded was the 5th.

12 Q Was the portion of the statement on
13 the 5th, that was audio recorded, correct?

14 A That was.

15 Q And that portion of audio recording
16 from the 5th, was taken by who?

17 A Detective McFadden.

18 Q Okay. And how was that recorded?

19 A I believe he said he did it with his
20 cellphone.

21 Q But it did not encompass the entire
22 interview, did it?

23 A That's correct. He took his cellphone
24 when he was tasked with another assignment.

25 Q And you took part of which interviews

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 of Mr. Johnson?

2 A I met him -- I observed part of the
3 5th. I took part and was the interviewer on the
4 7th and at the end of the 8th, and I believe I
5 spoke with him just briefly on the 21st.

6 Q And there are no video recordings,
7 correct?

8 A No video.

9 Q The Sumter Police Department, their --
10 the officers have body cameras, correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Do you recall the officer that
13 transported Mr. Johnson to the Sumter Police
14 Department on the 5th?

15 A Yes, detective ---

16 Q Who is that?

17 A I'm sorry. Well, he's now a
18 detective, but at that time he was Officer Michael
19 Austin.

20 Q And he had a body camera, correct?

21 A He did.

22 Q Before you interviewed him on the 7th,
23 you said that you spoke with him and he was taking
24 a smoke break?

25 A He probably being transported from the

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 jail by Detective Buford Wilson. He asked if he
2 could just smoke. We oftentimes let defendants
3 smoke. So he asked to smoke before he came into
4 the building and we allowed that to happen.

5 Q And you said during that time you read
6 Miranda to him?

7 A Yes. I told him Miranda basically.

8 Q And you just told Solicitor Finney
9 what you said during that Miranda, correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. You left out the portion of
12 Miranda that said anything you say can and will be
13 used against you in the court of the law, correct?

14 A I'm not sure. If I did, that's not
15 what I did.

16 Q I'm sorry?

17 A I'm not sure if I did or not so.

18 Q So you're not sure if you said that to
19 Mr. Johnson on the 7th?

20 A When I -- when I told Mr. Johnson his
21 Miranda I said the Miranda, all of it, so.

22 Q Did you read it from a form?

23 A No.

24 Q Or from memory?

25 A From memory.

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q For the statement on the 7th that you
2 were a part of, how long was that statement?

3 A I was with him for 20 minutes, about
4 20 minutes prior to, and then I spoke with him
5 again when they came back from. So that second
6 part of that 7th interview was -- I believe the
7 total was maybe 30 something minutes, 30 minutes
8 maybe.

9 Q At any point did he ask to end
10 questioning?

11 A No, he didn't.

12 Q Did he ask for -- to go to the
13 bathroom?

14 A On part -- the second part of the 7th
15 he asked to go smoke again.

16 Q He -- at any point did he indicate on
17 the 7th that he wanted to end questioning?

18 A No. On the 7th while he was outside
19 he indicated that he was tired. He said he wanted
20 to go to sleep, and he asked Detective Buford if
21 he would come get him on the 8th, which was the
22 following day. He just said can you come get me
23 tomorrow.

24 Q And how long was the interview on the
25 8th?

A. RABON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 A I would have to look to be exact, but
2 the 8th -- I think the total recording was 3 hours
3 maybe 18 minutes, something like that. It was
4 recorded.

5 Q It was audio recorded?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And you participated in the
8 interview on the 21st?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q And how long is that recording?

11 A I believe that was an hour. And on
12 that particular day he had a CO to reach out to
13 Detective Wilson. He wanted to, again, talk with
14 Detective Wilson that day.

15 MS. NEYLE: Beg the Court's
16 indulgence.

17 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. NEYLE: I have no further
19 questions for the Captain.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further,
21 Solicitor?

22 MR. FINNEY: Not for this witness,
23 Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

25 MR. FINNEY: Willie McFadden.

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 THE CLERK: Place your left hand on
2 the Bible, raise your right hand. State your
3 name.

4 MR. FINNEY: Willie McFadden.
5 WHEREUPON,

6 WILLIE MCFADDEN,
7 having been duly sworn by the clerk, testified
8 as follows:

9 THE CLERK: Thank you much. Step
10 around please. State your name for the record and
11 spell your last name please.

12 THE WITNESS: Willie McFadden,
13 M-C-F-A-D-D-E-N.

14 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

15 BY MR. FINNEY:

16 Q Officer McFadden, what rank do you
17 hold?

18 A Detective.

19 Q And how long have you been a
20 detective?

21 A Since 2016.

22 Q And is that with the Sumter Police
23 Department?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q And what are your duties there? Over

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 the last three years what have you been doing
2 there?

3 A Working in investigation service
4 division.

5 Q All right. Do you also investigate
6 other serious crimes when you're tasked to do so?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Do you remember investigating the case
9 of the death of Sharee Bradley and the missing
10 child, Minor 1?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q All right. Did you actually respond
13 to the scene of the Lantana Apartments on
14 August 5th?

15 A I did.

16 Q Did you have anything to do with the
17 arrest of Mr. Daunte Johnson?

18 A No, sir, not the arrest.

19 Q All right. He was already in arrest
20 when you got to the scene?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Did you have to process a scene there,
23 either the Lantana scene or the Susie Rembert
24 scene?

25 A I did process the Susie Rembert scene.

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q All right. And that was the house
2 where Mr. Daunte Johnson was arrested at?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q And how far is that house, Susie
5 Rembert Street, from Lantana?

6 A Not far at all. Right across the
7 street.

8 Q A block?

9 A A block at the most.

10 Q Okay. Did you have occasion to meet
11 with Mr. Johnson at the police station on August
12 the 5th?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q And did you -- is this your first
15 meeting with him?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Did you transport him?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q He was already there?

20 A That's right.

21 Q What were you tasked to do at that
22 time when you met with him?

23 A I started to interview him.

24 Q All right. What did you -- how did
25 you start the interview?

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 A I start off reading his Miranda right
2 form on a sheet.

3 Q All right. On a Sumter Police
4 Department sheet?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Is -- I'm going to show you what's
7 been marked as Court Exhibit 5. I'm sorry, that's
8 the wrong one. I didn't pick up the right one. I
9 saw the 5 and I thought it was the 5th. Court
10 Exhibit 2, is that the form you used to -- to show
11 Mr. Johnson?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q And what the date -- what was the date
14 and time?

15 A It was 7:10 p.m., August 5th, 2019, at
16 the Sumter Police Department.

17 Q And did you read the form to him?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Can you read it for the judge the way
20 you read it for him for today -- that day?

21 A I advised him that this was a Sumter
22 Police Department interview form. "Before we ask
23 you any questions you must understand your rights.
24 You have the right to remain silent. Anything you
25 say can be used against you in court. You have

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 the right to talk to a lawyer for advice before we
2 ask you any questions and to have him/her with you
3 during questioning. If you cannot afford a
4 lawyer, one will be appointed for you before any
5 questioning if you wish. You can decide to answer
6 any questions now without a lawyer present. You
7 still have the right to stop answering at any time
8 until you talk to a lawyer." I went down to the
9 waiver of rights where it says, "Before
10 questioning I was furnished the above statements
11 of my rights at 7:10 p.m. on August 5th, 2019, at
12 the Sumter Police Department by Officer Detective
13 W. McFadden of the Sumter Police Department." And
14 at the bottom it says, "I have read or had read to
15 me the statements of my rights. I understand what
16 my rights are. I am willing to answer questions
17 at this time without a lawyer present. No
18 promises or threats have been made to me, and no
19 pressure has been used against me."

20 Q All right. And is that document that
21 you have in your hand a original form that you
22 used and Daunte Johnson signed?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And you signed it?

25 A Yes, sir.

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q And it was done about 7:10 in the
2 evening?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q All right. How long did you stay in
5 the room with him?

6 A Approximately all together about maybe
7 35 minutes.

8 Q All right. And during that time did
9 you have a phone that you had activated to record
10 the conversation?

11 A I did.

12 Q All right. Have you heard that
13 conversation? You turned that tape over to us?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q All right.

16 MR. FINNEY: Your Honor, if you would
17 like to hear it, I think I can get it on the
18 computer to be heard at this time.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. FINNEY: While they get that
21 together, Your Honor.

22 BY MR. FINNEY:

23 Q Detective McFadden, tell us a little
24 bit about the room you were in. How many people
25 were in the room with you? It was 7:00 in the

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 evening. Did Mr. Daunte Johnson have any requests
2 while he was with you?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q All right. How big is the room you
5 were in?

6 A Umm....

7 Q Is it as big as the jury box?

8 A No, not as that big. Maybe about one,
9 two -- maybe about the third seat, like a square,
10 with a table and some chairs in it.

11 Q All right. Were you and Mr. Johnson
12 the only people in there?

13 A That is correct.

14 Q All right. And did you tell him who
15 you were and what you were doing?

16 A That is correct.

17 Q How was the interview? How was the
18 conversation between you all?

19 A It was like a normal conversation.

20 Q All right. And you say you spent 20
21 or 30 minutes in there ---

22 A About 30, approximately 35 minutes.

23 Q --- when you left to go do some other
24 work on a case?

25 A Yes, sir.

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q Did you take the phone with you?

2 A That is correct.

3 Q Do you know who replaced you in the
4 room when you went out?

5 A That was Sergeant Detective John
6 Melton.

7 Q Melton?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q All right. The document that you have
10 in front of you, does that stay in the room or did
11 you hand it to Melton or did you take it and put
12 it in a case file? What -- how do you -- once you
13 got him to sign it, what'd you do with the
14 document?

15 A I believe I put it with the case file
16 after that. I'm not sure. I don't remember.

17 Q All right.

18 A Normally, normally I try to put it
19 with the -- create a folder and start a case file
20 with it.

21 Q Is this the only interaction you had
22 with Mr. Daunte Johnson that week?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q On the 5th?

25 A Yes, sir.

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q All right.

2 (Court Exhibit No. 2 was played.)

3 BY MR. FINNEY:

4 Q Detective, what did he -- what did he
5 say to you when you asked him to sign it?

6 A He said he didn't want to sign it.

7 Q All right. And did you explain to him
8 why you needed him to sign it?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q All right. So you gave him the paper
11 and you gave him something to write with?

12 A That is correct.

13 Q And he wouldn't sign his name or put
14 his initials where you asked him to put his
15 initials?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q All right. Go ahead and start.

18 (Playing of Court's Exhibit No. 2 began.)

19 THE COURT: Solicitor, has this
20 conversation been transcribed? Do you have it in
21 writing, typed up anywhere? I just -- I'm picking
22 up about every 20th word. I have no clue what
23 they're saying.

24 MR. FINNEY: We've been trying to get
25 the transmission, the tape recorder clear. We

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 used a couple of different ---

2 THE COURT: Can any of y'all
3 understand it? Is it just me? I just ---

4 MS. NEYLE: It's hard to understand.

5 MR. FINNEY: I don't have this one
6 typed, Judge.

7 THE COURT: Okay. The form you put
8 into evidence, let me see it, the right form.

9 (Document tendered to the Court.)

10 THE COURT: You can continue on. I'm
11 unsure how much -- unless y'all can tell me what
12 they're saying, I'm not getting anything out of
13 this, if it's helping me, but whatever. Is he
14 saying something that I'm supposed to be able to
15 understand?

16 MR. FINNEY: I think -- let me ask a
17 couple of questions.

18 BY MR. FINNEY:

19 Q Detective, when you got there, did
20 you know everything that was going on at the
21 scene?

22 A No, sir.

23 Q So you were just kind of trying to get
24 as much as you could from this gentleman?

25 A That's correct. Trying to find out

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 details of what happened.

2 Q During the tape recorded
3 conversation -- have you listened to the tape
4 recorded conversation?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q Did he give you any facts that led you
7 to believe that he had committed a crime in that
8 you heard?

9 A He was -- he started off by stating
10 like different things throughout what he was doing
11 throughout the day, which I was learning going in
12 and out of the room, talking to other detectives,
13 some inconsistencies in his story.

14 Q All right. But did -- did he ever
15 actually confess to you on the tape?

16 A No, sir.

17 Q All right. At the time that you were
18 pulled out of the interview with Mr. Johnson to go
19 interview somebody else, some other officers came
20 in?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q All right. And they continued to
23 interview that you had started?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q All right. At the time that you left

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 the room, had Mr. Johnson asked you to stop the
2 interview?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q Had he asked you to get him a lawyer?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q Had he shown you any discomfort in the
7 questioning that you were asking in terms of what
8 you were trying to find out?

9 A Not at all.

10 Q All right. And then you left and
11 another officer came in?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q I believe it was Officer Hansen that
14 came in after you?

15 A Hansen came in during the same time I
16 was interviewing.

17 Q All right. Do you hear Hansen on this
18 tape?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q At the end?

21 A Towards the end, yes, sir.

22 Q All right. And so did he,
23 Mr. Johnson, during the time you were with him,
24 did he understand why he was there?

25 A That's correct.

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q Did he understand, according to you,
2 his rights?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And did he talk freely?

5 A Correct.

6 Q About where he was born, his age, his
7 girlfriend, relationship, whatever?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q All right.

10 THE COURT: Did he say anything in his
11 interview that you intend to introduce to this
12 jury?

13 MR. FINNEY: I'm just trying to -- no,
14 sir, not to this gentleman.

15 THE COURT: Okay. So this is not a
16 statement you're trying to get into evidence?

17 MR. FINNEY: There is a statement that
18 came as a result of a three-hour interview. He
19 was with him the first 30 minutes. He left; but
20 he did the interview, did the Miranda, and then
21 the other officers came in and kept the interview
22 going.

23 THE COURT: Okay. So your only
24 purpose for calling him was this rights form, the
25 fact he ---

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1 MR. FINNEY: That's correct.

2 THE COURT: ---read him his rights?

3 MR. FINNEY: That's correct.

4 THE COURT: That's the only other
5 information that he can -- that he's planning on
6 giving me or the jury?

7 MR. FINNEY: That's correct.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Y'all -- so I
9 understand now. Since I didn't -- can't
10 understand anything that was said, except his
11 testimony I understand. You can go ahead and ask
12 him any other questions you want to, but I don't
13 know if it's going to do us any benefit to play --
14 well, let me ask you something. Is his cellphone
15 the only thing recorded August 5th?

16 MR. FINNEY: On August 5th.

17 THE COURT: So when he leaves, his
18 cellphone goes with him?

19 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: So it's nothing except his
21 cellphone and the rights and whatever he told him
22 that you don't plan on introducing anyway, right?
23 He didn't say anything on this cellphone you plan
24 the jury to hear?

25 MR. FINNEY: That's correct.

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1 THE COURT: Okay. So I don't
2 necessarily need to listen to the rest of it, do
3 I?

4 MR. FINNEY: I don't think so.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Y'all want to -- I
6 mean, if you disagree with that or you want to ask
7 some questions about that, that's fine.

8 MS. NEYLE: I don't object to the rest
9 of it not being played.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Now you want
11 to ----

12 MR. FINNEY: I think ---

13 THE COURT: You can ask him anything
14 else you want to or either ----

15 MR. FINNEY: I don't have anything
16 else for this witness.

17 THE COURT: --- you can call the next
18 witness or she can cross-examine him.

19 MS. NEYLE: Thank you.

20 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

21 BY MS. NEYLE:

22 Q Detective McFadden, you -- you read
23 this form to Mr. Johnson, correct?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Okay. And these lines next to each

W. MCFADDEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 sentence, are those supposed to be where the
2 defendant initials?

3 A That's what I -- yes. That normally
4 where I get their initials to his statement they
5 understand every right.

6 Q And Mr. Johnson did not initial any of
7 those, correct?

8 A No, ma'am, he didn't initial them.

9 Q And you noted he refused to sign this
10 interview form as well?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q When he refused to sign the interview
13 form, did you -- did you stop questioning at that
14 point?

15 A No. I asked -- I asked him why didn't
16 he, you know, why didn't he want to sign it. He
17 said he don't know.

18 Q You didn't end -- end the interview?

19 A Yes. And then he -- he stated he
20 understood them. I asked him again. I said, do
21 you understand your rights; and he said, yes, he
22 understood.

23 Q And did you prepare a report in this
24 case?

25 A No. No, ma'am.

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1 Q I have no further questions.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further,
3 Solicitor?

4 MR. FINNEY: Just a couple of things.

5 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

6 BY MR. FINNEY:

7 Q During the time you were with him you
8 indicated you had to leave the room to go talk to
9 some of your other officers at the scene?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q And when you did that, were you
12 getting new information?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q All right. Did you say to the Court
15 just now that you had developed some
16 inconsistencies in what you were hearing from the
17 scene as -- as compared to what Mr. Johnson was
18 telling you?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q Can you remember some of those?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Tell -- tell the Court.

23 A Like, he was -- he stated he stayed at
24 I believe Winona's house during a night prior; but
25 then, again, come to find out, he stated he stayed

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1 at Patsy's house the night prior. Then just when
2 I just started to get into it with, you know, try
3 to find out more information, he just, you know,
4 wouldn't -- it seem like he would just, just
5 saying stuff.

6 Q All right. But some of the
7 information you got from him didn't match what
8 officers were telling you they were finding out in
9 the community?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q All right. Thank you, sir. Nothing
12 further.

13 THE COURT: You can step down.,

14 MR. FINNEY: Thank you, sir.

15 I call Mr. Hansen to the stand,
16 Detective Hansen.

17 THE CLERK: Place your left hand on
18 the Bible, raise your right hand. State your
19 name.

20 WHEREUPON,

21 **JEFFREY HANSEN,**
22 having been duly sworn by the clerk, testified
23 as follows:

24 THE CLERK: Thank you much. Step up.
25 State your name for the record and spell your

J. HANSEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 last name please.

2 THE WITNESS: Jeffrey Hansen. Last
3 name is H-A-N-S-E-N.

4 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

5 BY MR. FINNEY:

6 Q Detective, how long have you been with
7 Sumter Police Department?

8 A I've been employed there since May of
9 2014.

10 Q All right, sir. And in 2019 did you
11 have occasion to be part of the interviewing team
12 on Mr. Daunte Johnson at the Sumter Police
13 Department?

14 A Yes, sir. In 2019 I became a
15 detective and was involved in this case.

16 Q All right. Did you have occasion to
17 be in the interview room with Willie McFadden when
18 he was interviewing Mr. Johnson?

19 A Yes, sir. On August 5th I had already
20 gotten home from the day's work. I received a
21 phone call from my supervisor asking if I could
22 come up to the station and help interview in
23 reference to what we believe to be a murder.

24 Q All right. And did you go to the
25 scene at all?

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1 A No, sir, I did not.

2 Q All right. Did you get any
3 information that evening between 7:00 and 10:00
4 that evening, August 5th, from the scene? Were
5 you talking to officers at the scene?

6 A I was, yes, sir.

7 Q All right. They were telling you on
8 things that they had found and seen and that kind
9 of thing?

10 A That is correct.

11 Q People they had talked to?

12 A I'm sorry, sir?

13 Q They had also told you about people
14 they were talking to?

15 A That is correct, yes, sir.

16 Q When you came in, at what point was
17 the interview at? What do you remember when you
18 came in the room?

19 A The interview had just started. I
20 stepped in. Detective McFadden had already gone
21 through the waiver of rights. I stepped in. I
22 remained silent at first. I was trying to get a
23 feel of the interview and see what was going on,
24 what was being said, and what we were trying to
25 find out. And then after some time we stepped

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1 out. Detective McFadden was tasked to do another
2 interview. He advised me, you know, what was said
3 prior to me getting in. I stepped back in that
4 interview, continued it until Detective Melton
5 came in and assisted me at that point.

6 Q As a detective that night ---

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q --- do you wear body cameras?

9 A No, sir, not during normal operation.

10 Q All right. And did you know whether
11 the interview after McFadden left was being
12 recorded? Did you know?

13 A I didn't know it was being recorded
14 from the beginning. I had no knowledge that he
15 had started that.

16 Q All right. And did you have any
17 reason to -- to start a recording? Were you
18 tasked to start a recording?

19 A No, sir.

20 Q All right. Did you have paper,
21 pencil?

22 A I did, yes, sir.

23 Q Were you making notes?

24 A I was during the interview.

25 Q All right. What was the tenor of the

J. HANSEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 conversation between you and Mr. Johnson?

2 A So, as -- if by that you would have
3 heard the portion while I was in there with
4 Detective McFadden, he began with a timeline
5 trying to determine where Mr. Johnson had been
6 some nights prior, what he'd done throughout the
7 day. We were still trying to figure out -- there
8 was a lot we didn't know at the time. We weren't
9 sure if it just happened, when it happened, so we
10 were trying to just get a base and learn about
11 Mr. Johnson's activities leading up to this point.
12 We started -- I know, like Detective McFadden
13 said, that he initially said he stayed at Winona
14 Daney's house at [REDACTED] Susie Rembert Road where he
15 was ultimately captured at that time. Later he
16 changed it that he stayed at Patsy's house during
17 the day. On -- this happened on a Wednesday,
18 August 5th. Monday night he said he'd stayed at
19 Patsy's house that night. He got up the next day
20 on the 4th, which would have been that Tuesday.
21 During that he said he ate grits and -- and had
22 breakfast with Sharee at her apartment. He had
23 gone through the apartment complex, had spoken to
24 some people: Mr. Davis, Ms. Benny, the apartment
25 manager about the jobs, that he hung out there.

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1 He said he hung out at Winona house during that
2 time. He said that he knew Sharee was at her
3 apartment during the day of the 4th. Like he
4 said, we had stepped out during that time to get
5 some more information trying to find out what had
6 happened on scene and what we could use during our
7 interview to help get some information.

8 We found out that there had been an
9 argument, a dispute between Mr. Johnson and Sharee
10 Bradley on the night of the 4th where during our
11 interview Mr. Johnson said that, you know, he had
12 called Sharee some -- bitches and whores, and that
13 the cause of it was that she had found some stuff
14 on his phone and talking to women, of that nature.
15 He said that during the argument that she did
16 splash a Free drink on him during that time. As
17 we kept going through the interview, I kept going
18 over the timeline during that portion while I was
19 in there after McFadden, Detective McFadden left
20 and before Detective Melton had come in. I ---

21 Q So there was a period where you were
22 by yourself with Mr. Johnson ---

23 A That is correct.

24 Q --- for a period of time?

25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q Do you know -- estimate how long?

2 A I believe it could have been around an
3 hour. He had stepped out. I was basically just
4 trying to get through the timeline, keep things
5 going just to get a baseline before Detective
6 Melton came in to assist and hopefully had some
7 more information from the outside coming in that
8 would help aid in the interview. Once Detective
9 Melton got in there -- I'm sorry, actually before
10 Detective Melton got in there, I had stepped out
11 to talk to Lieutenant Lyons who was on scene. He
12 was able to provide me with some information about
13 there was a scooter inside the apartment that had
14 blood on the wheel, and they were believing that
15 that could have been used to kill Sharee just to
16 due to the amount of blood and the matter that was
17 on it. I went in. I asked Mr. Johnson about
18 that. He said that he didn't kill her, the
19 scooter wasn't used any part of that. He said he
20 actually had just gotten the scooter, basketball,
21 and a TV stand off the side of the road and
22 brought them there the night before as a gift for
23 Sharee's children. It was around that time that
24 Detective Melton got there and stepped into the
25 interview, and we started going over timeline

J. HANSEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 again. I advised him of what was told to me
2 trying to get him caught up to speed on what we've
3 learned so far; and Detective Melton brought his
4 own, you know, information in that he had gotten
5 from -- from the outside and what we were seeking
6 to find.

7 From there we started asking about
8 Minor 1. During my interview we knew that Sharee
9 was -- was dead and deceased in there. We weren't
10 sure where Minor 1 was. They were able to account
11 for her two other children: ^{Minor 2}, who was actually
12 at the house during the time and at the apartments
13 when the officer arrived and then her other child
14 who was found to be in Columbia with her other
15 child's father. But we weren't able to account
16 for Minor 1. We did ask him about Minor 1. He said
17 that he didn't know anything about Minor 1.

18 When Detective Melton got in there, I
19 remember we started asking him about the driver's
20 license and social security cards that Daunte
21 Johnson had in his pockets. The driver's license
22 and social security information for Sharee and
23 then Minor 1 were in his pockets whenever he was
24 located after he ran from the police and they got
25 him. We brought that up, started asking him about

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1 that. We asked him why he would have that on him,
2 you know, didn't make sense some of what he was
3 telling us. And around that time he took a deep
4 breath. He looked and said that Sharee was
5 already dead when he got there, but he knew what
6 was going on. His job -- his job to, you know,
7 remove the body. He started going into a version
8 that Dupre Adams or Dupray Adams, sorry, is Minor 1
9 Adams' father, had contacted him some weeks ago
10 about wanting Sharee dead. He said that Dupray
11 had told him that she was the only, you know,
12 child's mother that had put him on child support
13 and that because of that he wanted her dead.
14 Daunte said that there was an arrangement that
15 Dupray would kill Sharee and that his job was to
16 load the body into a car that Dupray would
17 provide, take to a location and set it on fire,
18 and as a result he would receive \$5,000 for that.
19 When we began questioning him concerning that
20 version of events and telling him that Dupray was
21 outside the police department freaking out because
22 his daughter was missing and that, you know, we
23 still had not accounted for Minor 1, we just
24 confronted him with that and, you know, his story
25 changed for this time.

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1 During that second version of events
2 during the confessional portion of this, he said
3 that Cermoun James, another one of Sharee
4 Bradley's child's fathers, ^{Minor 2}'s father, had
5 contacted him about killing Sharee and also
6 killing Minor 1. Daunte said that Cermoun had
7 wanted Sharee dead because some of the issues they
8 were having and that he wanted Minor 1 dead because
9 he didn't like Minor 1's father Dupray Adam and
10 that he wanted to get back at him by killing the
11 daughter. He said that, you know, that was
12 supposed to result in a \$20,000 payment; but it
13 was during that time that he said that he was the
14 one that killed Sharee and Minor 1. As it was
15 stated earlier, we didn't know how Sharee was
16 killed. When officers arrived, they located a
17 body that was wrapped in a rug; and it took some
18 time during the processing to, you know, get all
19 that taken care of to where we could go in and
20 examine to find out the manner and cause of death.
21 When he told us he stabbed her, that's something
22 that we didn't know before. We had thought the
23 scooter at that point just because of the blood
24 and the proximity and it was still on the crime
25 scene. Once we found out about the knife, it was

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1 consistent with his statement and the physical
2 evidence that was on scene.

3 Q What about the conversation? Did it
4 turn to the location or what had happened to the
5 baby Minor 1?

6 A Yeah. So when we asked him about the
7 stabbing and the actual murder portion or the act
8 that was committed, he went to say that he stabbed
9 her. He said he stabbed her multiple times. He
10 at some point said she was begging for it. He
11 knew -- or she knew that Cermoun wanted her dead
12 or she had found out Cermoun wanted her dead and
13 she was okay with it. That was his version. He
14 said after stabbing Sharee an unknown amount of
15 times that he went and killed Minor 1, stabbed her.
16 With Minor 1, he said that he wrapped her in a
17 black and pink rug and took her out to a dumpster
18 at the apartment complex. Detective Melton was
19 there for that portion of the interview. We
20 continued to try to seek out information. He kept
21 going around in circles. We would ask questions.
22 He would give us, you know, a version, but we
23 weren't finding anymore new information out at
24 that time. Once we found out that he had killed
25 Minor 1, he said he killed Minor 1 and Sharee and he

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1 had taken Minor 1 to a dumpster, we shifted our
2 focus and moved towards trying to locate Minor 1.
3 Five-year-old shouldn't be in a dumpster in any
4 event, so, we moved to that portion. But before
5 that we did try to get a written statement from
6 Daunte Johnson. Detective Melton had brought in
7 his computer, began to type a statement. And
8 during that portion he said that he didn't want to
9 do a written statement. And because we were going
10 in circles and because that there was a 5-year-old
11 that we wanted to -- to find, due to the nature of
12 everything and him not wanting to do a written
13 statement, we ended the interview. He was taken
14 to the Sumter jail and we pushed our efforts in
15 another direction.

16 Q Were -- by the time you concluded your
17 interview on the 5th with Mr. Johnson, did you
18 have any information about Winona Daney's house,
19 any items located there, any statements made by
20 witnesses there?

21 A Yes. During the interview we found
22 out that there was a knife that Mr. Johnson had
23 borrowed, Daunte Johnson had borrowed from Coty
24 Daney some days before. That knife was taken back
25 to the house at some point during the day after

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1 the murder was committed.

2 Q The day of the body being discovered?

3 A Yes, sir, during that timeframe from
4 when the incident happened to his -- his arrest.
5 And that knife had been taken back there, and I
6 believe it was shortly after or during that time
7 the officers went back out there to secure that
8 scene and -- and focus on retrieving that.

9 Q All right. Did you have any
10 information from officers on the scene that had
11 talked to ^{Minor 2}, Sharee's son, who found her body?

12 A No, sir. I didn't talk to anybody
13 that had relayed anything for me. When I stepped
14 in -- when I came into the interview, like I said,
15 I was at home. I was asked to come in; I stepped
16 in. I didn't know a whole lot about what was
17 going on. That's why during the initial portion I
18 kind of sat there, listened to -- to kind of
19 gather and see what was going on, what we needed
20 to find out. And even then during the times that
21 I had spoken to the officers on scene during the
22 interview, ^{Minor 2}'s portion or his statement or
23 anything he said was never relayed to me. It was
24 just only information about ^{Minor 2} was that we knew
25 where he was and he was safe. That's all I knew

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1 about that.

2 Q When the interview was over on the
3 5th, did you and Melton prepare a written
4 memoranda?

5 A Yes, sir. Following this interview
6 and after we had gone out to -- again, we shifted
7 focus to go out to the dumpsters in the site and
8 the wood and transfer station in hopes of finding
9 Minor 1 before the -- the process took over and --
10 and led to Columbia. But, yes, following that, we
11 did prepare a memorandum.

12 Q Do you remember when it was actually
13 prepared?

14 A It would have been the following
15 morning time.

16 Q Which would have been the 6th?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q The 6th of August?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q All right. And have you seen that
21 memorandum?

22 A I have.

23 Q And is it detailed, the testimony
24 you've given to the Court today?

25 A Yes, sir.

J. HANSEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Q All right.

2 MR. FINNEY: Beg the Court's
3 indulgence.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. FINNEY: Nothing further, Your
6 Honor.

7 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

8 BY MS. NEYLE:

9 Q Good afternoon, Detective.

10 A Good afternoon.

11 Q At -- at that point in August of 2019,
12 how long had you been an investigator?

13 A I was promoted on July 5th, 2019. I
14 know it was exactly one month from that time.

15 Q And you said you were -- you were with
16 Daunte in that interview room by yourself for
17 about an hour?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q In your memorandum you stated that as
20 Detective Melton was typing a statement, Daunte
21 had begun to ramble?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And what do you mean by that?

24 A It was kind of hard to hear about what
25 was being said. I guess you would call it a

J. HANSEN - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 mumble, ramble, going on incomprehensible.

2 Q You said he was making statements out
3 of context?

4 A Yes, ma'am. There were some things
5 that were said, like, during our interview and
6 while he was confessing to the portion about the
7 stabblings that he said that, you know, during that
8 night he had sex with her which was kind of just
9 out of place that, you know, wasn't something we
10 were asking, you know, it was just brought up.

11 Q And you didn't during -- right before
12 you started your interview with Mr. Johnson you
13 didn't advise him of his Miranda rights, did you?

14 A No, ma'am, I did not.

15 Q I have no further questions.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MR. FINNEY: Nothing further.

18 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 MR. FINNEY: Detective Melton.

21 THE CLERK: State your name.

22 THE WITNESS: John Melton.

23 WHEREUPON,

24 **JOHN MELTON,**

25 having been duly sworn by the clerk, testified

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 as follows:

2 THE CLERK: Step around. Watch your
3 step coming up the ramp. State your name for the
4 record, spell your last name.

5 THE WITNESS: John Melton,
6 M-E-L-T-O-N.

7 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

8 BY MR. FINNEY:

9 Q Detective Melton, how long have you
10 been a detective, sir?

11 A 2010, I believe, August.

12 Q All right, sir. And all that time was
13 with the Sumter Police Department?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And do you work major crimes as part
16 of your duties?

17 A Yes, sir, I do.

18 Q And did you work the case involving
19 Minor 1 and Sharee's death?

20 A I did.

21 Q All right. Tell us what your first
22 recollection -- did you respond to the scene of
23 the body of Ms. Sharee at the apartment?

24 A I did. I kind of need to explain that
25 very briefly. I responded after other folks were

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 already there and under way.

2 Q All right. And did you interview any
3 witnesses or talk to any people there, you know,
4 like ^{Misc 2} or the apartment manager?

5 A I did. I very briefly spoke with
6 Cermoun James and ^{Misc 2}, very briefly.

7 Q Cermoun is ^{Misc 2}'s dad?

8 A Yes.

9 Q All right. All right.

10 A Very briefly.

11 Q Okay. And how long was it that you
12 were at the scene, roughly?

13 A Maybe 20 minutes I'm guessing.

14 Q All right. And then what did you do?

15 A I left from the scene and went to the
16 police department.

17 Q All right. And did you have occasion
18 to interview with Detective Hansen Mr. Daunte
19 Johnson?

20 A I did.

21 Q All right. And what -- was that part
22 of the interview process recorded?

23 A It was not.

24 Q Did you have -- did you -- were you
25 issued or wearing a body cam that night?

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 A I was issued a body camera, but I was
2 not wearing it.

3 Q All right. Where was it, if you know?

4 A Honestly, I have no idea.

5 Q All right. When you were interviewing
6 Mr. Johnson, were you aware that he had or had not
7 been given his Miranda rights?

8 A The interview was already under way so
9 I literally stepped in in progress, worked my way
10 in, and began to assist with the interview.

11 Q How long would you say you spent with
12 Mr. Johnson that night, yourself, from the time
13 you walked in the door until the time he was taken
14 to the jail?

15 A I'm gonna guess maybe an
16 hour-and-a-half. It's hard to recall. Everything
17 was rapidly moving and there's so much going on.

18 Q Detective Hansen has said that on a
19 couple of occasions I think he had to get up,
20 leave the room and go check with people on the
21 scene. Did you do the same?

22 A I did get up and leave the room on a
23 couple of occasions to check with people because
24 it was rapidly evolving, so we were trying to find
25 out facts that we could ask about, try to assess

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 what was or was not true.

2 Q All right. Were you able to speak
3 with Mr. Johnson in a friendly manner? Y'all had
4 a good conversation during this hour-and-a-half?
5 I mean, I know you were the police officer, he was
6 the suspect so, other than that, did he talk?

7 A He did talk.

8 Q Were you belligerent with him? Was he
9 belligerent with you?

10 A No.

11 Q All right. And during this time did
12 he ask for anything that he didn't get?

13 A No.

14 Q Did he ask for a lawyer?

15 A No.

16 Q Did he ask to stop talking with you?

17 A No.

18 Q All right. Tell us a little bit about
19 your recollections of the interview and let me ask
20 you this, did you participate in the preparation
21 of the memorandum of the interview?

22 A I did.

23 Q All right. Is this a summary of what
24 occurred in the interview room while you were
25 there?

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 A Yes, it is.

2 Q And was some of this summary from
3 Detective Hansen and -- and the period of time
4 when you weren't there?

5 A That's correct, yes.

6 Q All right. How -- how many pages is
7 the memoranda of the interview?

8 A Three I believe.

9 Q All right. And I'm gonna show it to
10 you and ask you if you can recognize it.

11 A I do recognize it.

12 Q All right, sir. And all of the
13 statements that you have recorded here in this
14 document were based on conversations, interviews
15 with Daunte Johnson in the police station?

16 A From my portion, yes, sir.

17 Q All right. Let me also ask you to
18 look at what has been prepared as a written
19 statement. Can you tell the Court a little bit
20 about that document?

21 A Yes, I can. This is a -- so, when we
22 were interviewing, this is an actual typed written
23 statement.

24 Q Who typed it?

25 A I did. I typed it in the room with

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 Mr. Johnson and Detective Hansen. Once we got to
2 a point, I thought, let's put this on paper. I
3 generally do that with cases. I brought my
4 computer, started typing it. Right in the middle
5 of typing it, he said, I'm not doing a written
6 statement. At that point we stopped.

7 Q All right. And is that statement,
8 "I'm not doing a written statement," on that
9 written document?

10 A It is, yes, sir.

11 Q All right. And you would have had him
12 sign that document if he would -- would have
13 signed it?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And would you have witnessed it?

16 A Yes, I would have if he would have
17 signed it.

18 Q All right.

19 MR. FINNEY: I'd like to make these
20 two documents Court exhibits, the memorandum of
21 understanding from August the 5th and the written
22 statement that was not signed by Mr. Johnson on
23 August the 5th.

24 THE COURT: What says the Defense?

25 MS. NEYLE: I would object to the

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 memorandum being introduced, Judge. I think this
2 is like an incident report. It's not admissible
3 and it ---

4 MR. FINNEY: It's a Court exhibit, not
5 for the jury.

6 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Thank you. Then,
7 no, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 (Court's Exhibit Nos. 6 and 7 were
10 marked for identification and made a part of the
11 record.)

12 BY MR. FINNEY:

13 Q Detective Melton, can you give the
14 Court some testimony on the interview process,
15 what you learned at -- from information coming
16 into your -- from the scene, and the interview
17 that you were given that shows that Mr. Johnson
18 gave you information that was either corroborated
19 or inconsistent with what you were learning?

20 A Yes, I can. So, on that night I
21 stepped in Detective Hansen was in the middle of
22 interview. The point where I stepped in, I
23 remember Detective Hansen had called the scene and
24 was speaking about a scooter. We were being
25 informed from the scene that the scooter

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 potentially might, or had the potential to be the
2 weapon that was used. I took that opportunity
3 when Detective Hansen stepped out to step in the
4 interview with him. We started going through
5 briefly what him and Detective Hansen had already
6 laid and established, somewhat of a timeline of
7 events of where Mr. Johnson had been and things of
8 this nature. And in doing this, we learned at
9 that time that Daunte actually had claimed that he
10 had brought the scooter along with, I believe it
11 was a TV stand and basketball, to the children.
12 They -- at that time I had no idea there's even a
13 basketball goal or basketball or anything to do
14 with basketball in the area of the scooter. We
15 kept on speaking with him, learned that he had
16 fled to Winona Daney's house. One of the things I
17 had brought with me into the interview was that
18 realizing he had the social security cards and/or
19 ID of Sharee Bradley and Minor 1 and I
20 believe some of the other children. Anyway, so we
21 began to ask him about what, why would you have
22 them? I do remember him sitting up and taking a
23 deep breath later; but, you know, it was the point
24 where we let him know like, look, this is real,
25 we're here, you've had their cards, can you

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 explain why you got them. He said that -- he came
2 up with versions of events that were kind of
3 around in a circle, but the first version that he
4 went with was that Dupray Adams had actually
5 approached him. He was going to essentially be
6 the cleanup man.

7 Q "He" being Daunte Johnson?

8 A Daunte, yes, 'sir. He was going to get
9 a sum of money which he said was \$5,000. The
10 second version was Cermoun James. The second
11 version came about because I remember Dupray, you
12 know, we let him know like Dupray is upset, this
13 kind of doesn't really add up, what's going on.
14 The second version came out after that. Dupray
15 then sort of somewhat almost leaves the picture
16 because now we're going to talk about Cermoun,
17 which was that Cermoun was gonna give him \$20,000
18 but that he was actually going to participate more
19 in the crime. Didn't really add up, didn't make
20 sense. So we just kind of said, look, this ain't
21 really making sense, ain't really adding up. I do
22 remember when he sat up in the chair he leaned
23 forward. I remember him saying, you know,
24 something along the lines of, you know, you're
25 right, I killed them, something like that. I

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 remember the smirk on his face when he said it.
2 It was like, it was odd. It was like a smirk that
3 would make you -- the hair on the back of your
4 neck raise. We did, during this interview, the
5 obvious goal still and I can still remember
6 thinking where is this baby because we were
7 getting information back from the scene that the
8 baby couldn't be located. We were trying to
9 figure out where she was. He ended up telling us
10 that he put her in a dumpster during these
11 versions of events. I communicated that outside
12 the room to folks that were working. We kept on
13 with the interview. Sometime after that I went
14 in, got my computer, started typing the statement
15 that you introduced as a Court's exhibit. Mr.
16 Johnson began, as I was typing he started not
17 really backing up, but sort of like Detective
18 Hansen was talking about, he sort of said some
19 things that were just out of context which had
20 happened in the interview a couple of times but
21 not like this. Like, I remember the comment. It
22 was -- it was weird; it was out of place. We were
23 talking about one thing -- I don't remember what
24 that was -- and he said, you know, we had sex. It
25 was -- it was odd to say the least. But as I

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 started typing the statement, I remember him
2 saying I don't want to do a written statement, and
3 that was it.

4 Q Did you ever get confirmation from Mr.
5 Daunte Johnson as to the manner of the deaths of
6 Sharee and Minor 1?

7 A Yes, we did. So, we were interviewing
8 thinking it was a scooter from information we were
9 getting at the scene. He had said that he had
10 stabbed them. When he said he stabbed them, I
11 remember one of the most eerie things that he said
12 was, that it was loud. He said that Sharee knew
13 it was coming, that basically in the final moment
14 she wanted him to finish her essentially, to kill
15 her. We had no idea at that time that it was
16 stabbing. We were interviewing about a scooter.
17 That's what we got.

18 Q All right. In the days that followed
19 August the 5th, did you interview him again?
20 Mr. Johnson?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q All right. The other officers were
23 involved in subsequent interviews?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q All right. Based on the interview of

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 August 5th, did you all charge him with the murder
2 of Sharee for that -- from that interview that
3 night?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q And he was taken to jail?

6 A He was.

7 Q All right. You still didn't have
8 the -- you had the statement about Minor 1 being in
9 the dumpster. You didn't have any confirmation of
10 that?

11 A At that time we did not have
12 confirmation. We just -- he said he put her in a
13 dumpster.

14 Q What was the first confirmation that
15 you learned about involving Minor 1 from the crime
16 scene?

17 A When Daunte Johnson told us what he
18 did with her, that he put her in the dumpster.

19 Q That was the statement. What
20 confirmation did you learn later on that that
21 statement he gave you was true?

22 A Drop of blood at the back door. We
23 had found one on the threshold going out the back
24 door.

25 Q And that drop of blood was sent to

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 SLED?

2 A It was.

3 Q How long did it take for you to get
4 back results from SLED?

5 A I couldn't tell you that without
6 looking ---

7 Q All right.

8 A --- at the actual documents.

9 Q Well, was it a week or less or more?

10 A I remember we asked them to expedite
11 it, ---

12 Q All right.

13 A --- but I can't tell you the exact
14 time frame.

15 Q To your knowledge was that drop of
16 blood Minor 1's?

17 A It was.

18 Q To your knowledge were other drops of
19 blood of Minor 1's found in the living room area of
20 that apartment?

21 A Yes.

22 MR. FINNEY: Beg the Court's
23 indulgence.

24 BY MR. FINNEY:

25 Q As far as the Court's exhibit, the

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 typed statement that you were typing, did you type
2 it as he was saying things to you about ---

3 A Yes.

4 Q --- what had happened?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And did he --- you were typing his
7 words or you was using your words?

8 A I was typing what he was saying.

9 Q All right. When he refused to sign
10 the written statement that you prepared, why did
11 the interview stop?

12 A At that point we wanted to go into
13 locating Minor 1. He had begun to sort of circle
14 around. No need for us to sit there any longer.
15 I still had a little bit of hope deep inside that
16 just maybe, you know, but the goal was to locate
17 her; and we completely shifted gears, moved on
18 with the case, and we started trying to recover
19 her.

20 Q Did he ask for an attorney?

21 A No.

22 Q To stop the interview?

23 A No.

24 Q Did he tell you that he was no longer
25 wanting to talk?

J. MELTON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 A No.

2 Q Did you leave him when you -- when he
3 was going to the jail, did you leave him -- did
4 you return to the scene to start looking for
5 Minor 1?

6 A I actually went and grabbed Coty Daney
7 because somebody needed to take his statement and
8 moved along with that end of the case.

9 Q That's another witness in this case?

10 A It is.

11 Q All right. And did you successfully
12 get Coty Daney to give a statement that evening?

13 A I did.

14 Q Did you find inconsistencies or
15 consistencies that led you to believe that what
16 Mr. Daunte Johnson had told you about stabbing the
17 two ladies was true?

18 A Yes.

19 MR. FINNEY: Nothing further.

20 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions for
21 Detective ---

22 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

23 MR. FINNEY: I've got one more
24 witness. Do you want to take a break, or do you
25 want to keep going?

B. WILSON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Take a break.

2 THE COURT: All right, we'll take a
3 break.

4 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken from the
5 proceedings.)

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 MR. FINNEY: Detective Buford Wilson.

8 THE COURT: All right. Come around
9 please; sir.

10 THE CLERK: Place your left hand on
11 the Bible, raise your right hand. State your
12 name.

13 THE WITNESS: Buford Wilson.

14 WHEREUPON,

15 **BUFORD WILSON,**

16 having been duly sworn by the clerk, testified
17 as follows:

18 THE CLERK: Thank you much, sir. Step
19 around please. State your name for the record and
20 spell your last name please.

21 THE WITNESS: Buford. Last name
22 Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N.

23 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

24 BY MR. FINNEY:

25 Q Detective, how long have you been

B. WILSON - JACKSON V. DENNO

1 working for Sumter Police Department?

2 A Started in, I think, 2006.

3 Q All right, sir. And were you a
4 detective in 2019 when you worked on this case?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q And did you -- were you assigned the
7 cases involving violent crime?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q And what were you assigned to in 2019?

10 A I worked narcotics cases.

11 Q All right. Do you know why you
12 happened to get involved with this case?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Tell us.

15 A I received my assignment from my
16 captain, Captain Rabon.

17 Q All right.

18 A 'Cause everyone was extremely busy to
19 go pick Mr. Johnson up from Sumter County
20 Detention Center.

21 Q So you never responded to the scene of
22 the murder?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q And you never met Mr. Johnson before
25 you asked to go and pick him up to transport him

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1 downtown?

2 A No, sir.

3 Q Do you remember when that was that you
4 first met him?

5 A If you recall the date out for me,
6 then I...

7 Q All right, sir. I'm going to give you
8 three interview forms that have been marked Court
9 Exhibits 3, 4 and 5 and ask if you'd look at them
10 refreshing your memory.

11 A Okay. Yes, sir.

12 Q What -- what does that interview form
13 number 3, what's the date on it?

14 A That's 8/7/19.

15 Q All right. Would you have met him
16 that day, the 7th?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Of August 2019?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Do you have a time on that form?

21 A Yes, sir, 1 p.m.

22 Q And did you -- do you remember meeting
23 him and having him fill out that form about
24 1 p.m.?

25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q Is your signature on it?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Is Mr. Daunte Johnson's signature on
4 it?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q All right. So August the 7th when you
7 all were talking, this was the first time you all
8 had met. Did you talk for a long time that day?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q And you were questioning --
11 questioning him about the events that occurred
12 around the death of Ms. Sharee Bradley?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q Tell me what you were doing.

15 A When I first met Mr. Johnson, it was
16 part of my assignment to retrieve and pick him up
17 from the detention center.

18 Q All right. And once you picked him up
19 from the detention center, where were you supposed
20 to take him?

21 A We were returning back to the Sumter
22 Police Department.

23 Q All right. And did you do that?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q What happened once you got to the

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1 Sumter Police Department?

2 A Once we arrived at the Sumter Police
3 Department, Mr. Johnson wanted to smoke a
4 cigarette.

5 Q All right.

6 A So we parked and we stood outside in
7 front of the sally ports.

8 Q All right. And he had just come from
9 the jail?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q So he was restrained in a jumpsuit?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And y'all were smoking?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Did he have cigarettes and you had
16 cigarettes?

17 A I had cigarettes. We -- I usually in
18 my -- I usually keep some type of cigarettes ---

19 Q All right.

20 A --- so that's something that's offered
21 as a courtesy ---

22 Q All right.

23 A --- if anyone wants to smoke.

24 Q So you were outside smoking?

25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q And do you remember anybody else
2 coming up to talk with you all while you were
3 there smoking?

4 A Yes, sir. I observed my captain,
5 Captain Rabon, entering the building past on about
6 where we were, and I decided I would introduce
7 Mr. Johnson to Captain Rabon.

8 Q All right. At that time had you
9 started in the interview or were you just still in
10 the transport mode?

11 A Just still in the transport just
12 speaking in general to ---

13 Q All right.

14 A --- Mr. Johnson.

15 Q Did something happen that changed at
16 once the captain got there? In other words, did
17 you get to go inside the interview room and
18 interview with Mr. Johnson?

19 A Yes, sir, I -- yes, sir.

20 Q All right. How long were you in there
21 with him?

22 A I really can't give a time frame on
23 how long I was in there, ---

24 Q All right.

25 A --- but I know it was quite a while.

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1 Q During the time that the Captain came
2 in the building, you introduced the Captain to
3 Mr. Johnson. Did she do anything in concerning
4 his legal rights while in your presence?

5 A Yes, sir. At the point of
6 introduction of Captain Rabon and Mr. Johnson
7 while I was standing outside, in general she was
8 concerned about his welfare and, hey, how are you,
9 how you doing, whatever. She also advised him,
10 hey, you know, of -- of his waiver rights. And
11 Mr. Johnson was -- he was already just, you know,
12 talking and he was calm and he spoke and he
13 understood. And from there is when we entered up
14 going inside interview room.

15 Q All right. You, Mr. Johnson, and the
16 Captain went in the interview room?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Did the three of you start the
19 interview process about what had happened, why he
20 was in jail, why his friend Sharee was dead?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q What happened?

23 A So the initial meeting or the
24 introduction with the Captain and Mr. Johnson,
25 when the Captain introduced him to his Miranda,

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1 his rights, Mr. Johnson stated that, hey, you
2 know, I don't want to speak about anything else,
3 all -- all I want to do is assist you guys finding
4 the baby.

5 Q Okay.

6 A As a matter of fact, he said the girl,
7 so.

8 Q The girl?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q Okay. And that was the understanding
11 going in the room?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q When y'all got in the room, did you
14 all talk about finding Minor 1?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q All right. And I believe I heard you
17 say you stayed in there about 20 minutes.

18 A Yes, sir. I was in there for quite
19 some -- I was with Mr. Johnson the entire time.

20 Q To your knowledge is all that
21 recorded?

22 A I want to say there -- yes, sir, it
23 was some recording. I'm looking at the dates here
24 'cause I spent all these days with him.

25 Q Yes, sir.

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1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Three different days you -- you spent
3 with him?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q The 7th?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q What was the next day?

8 A The 8th?

9 Q The 8th you spent with him in an
10 interview process?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q And then you had another one also?

13 A At his request on the 21st.

14 Q All right. To your knowledge were all
15 those recorded?

16 A Yes, sir, just -- yes, sir, the 21st.
17 I want to say that -- I'm getting these two dates
18 mixed up right here, but I know 21st.

19 Q All right. The 7th and 8th you're not
20 sure about?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q All right. So once you went in the
23 room and you talked to him, Captain was there,
24 y'all were talking about trying to find Minor 1,
25 did somebody come up with the idea of taking him

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1 to show what dumpster he put the ba-- Minor 1 in?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q You know who brought that up?

4 A While myself and the Captain was
5 speaking with him, Mr. Johnson said he would show
6 us where he placed the baby.

7 Q All right. And who drove him to the
8 apartment complex?

9 A I did.

10 Q And was it just the two of you?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q You had other officers in the car?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q All right. And when you got to the
15 apartment complex, did he pick out the place where
16 he said he put the Minor 1?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q All right. And did you all stop and
19 investigate that, or did you bring him right on
20 back to the police station?

21 A Yes, sir. We -- you know, I spoke to
22 him. I spoke to him and asked him, hey, you know,
23 and he pointed out where and which way he went and
24 the dumpster he dumped -- he tossed her in.

25 Q Right.

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1 A We then made a U-turn in the common
2 areas and we returned back to Sumter Police
3 Department.

4 Q All right.

5 A But at that point -- excuse me, sir.
6 If I can elaborate, Your Honor, continue. At that
7 point when we begin to really speak and he pointed
8 out, you know, everything and started talking in
9 depth outside the scope of what he had agreed
10 upon, I just said, hey, hold up, let's just -- how
11 about let's return back to the police department
12 and let's, you know, get your rights and stuff
13 read.

14 Q All right. So you drove him back?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Put him in the interview room?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q And you did a waiver of rights form?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Is that the form that's marked No. 3,
21 Court's Exhibit No. 3?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q And that's done on the 7th?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q At 1:00 in the afternoon?

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1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q You signed it?

3 A Right here, yes, sir.

4 Q And did he sign it?

5 A He signed also right there.

6 Q And did he put his initials on each
7 point of the rights that you read to him?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q All right. From that point on about
10 1:00 when he signed his rights, do you know how
11 long he stayed in the room with you after that?

12 A I can't really approximate, to give
13 you approximate time frame. I know I spent a lot
14 of time with Mr. Johnson.

15 Q Tell the judge why you spent so much
16 time with Mr. Johnson.

17 A Mr. Johnson and I, we, we, we kind of
18 talked. I thought we had formed some type of
19 rapport or bond with our conversations 'cause we
20 talked about several -- just stuff that was
21 hanging in my vehicle. You know, we talked about
22 tattoos. We, we just, in general just talked. I
23 was concerned about -- 'cause I asked about how he
24 was doing, how did he sleep when he first got in
25 my vehicle, you know, what was going on with as

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1 far as his feelings. He said he was sick and he
2 just didn't sleep. So we really, really kind
3 of -- and I, I referenced to his, hey, let's chop
4 it up, let's talk. And him and I -- we talked.

5 Q Okay. And so the conversation would
6 go, go on and on and on, but you talked about
7 Minor 1?

8 A Not in the vehicle.

9 Q All right. But I'm talking about back
10 at the Center once the rights had been read to
11 him?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q All right. And you talked about
14 Minor 1 and trying to find Minor 1?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q All right. Did you talk much about
17 Sharee and what had happened to Sharee?

18 A Not really. We didn't really talk
19 about -- we were just -- we talked about the baby
20 girl Minor 1.

21 Q And this was on the 7th. Two days
22 after Sharee had been found, you still hadn't
23 found the baby?

24 A No, sir.

25 Q All right. Did he make comments to

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1 you during this interview process that led you to
2 believe that he was responsible for Minor 1's
3 death?

4 A Yes, sir. When he began to talk
5 about -- he knew what dumpster he tossed him in
6 and, you know, when it came up about, well, you
7 know, what else happened. We did get into detail
8 and he said, oh, all he was doing was just
9 cleaning up and he had tossed the baby girl in the
10 garbage dumpster and returned back to the
11 apartment.

12 Q All right. And you have -- to your
13 knowledge is this process in -- after 1:00, is it
14 on a tape recorder?

15 A Yes, sir. I -- I want to say this
16 right here is recorded and I'm looking at the one
17 on the 20th and the 21st -- 20th, 21st.

18 Q 21st?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q All right. You had occasion to talk
21 with him after the interview was over. Do you
22 remember how the interview ended on the 7th? The
23 first time you met with him after you came back
24 from the dumpster, he signed the form, he talked
25 to you, y'all -- you said chopped it up. Did he

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1 end the interview or did you end the interview?

2 A He was kind of tired and he was, say
3 hey, you know what, take me back and...

4 Q Talked again. Did he ask for a
5 lawyer?

6 A No, sir.

7 Q Did he ask to stop talking for any
8 other reason beside he was tired?

9 A That's pretty much it.

10 Q All right. You -- did you drive him
11 back to the jail?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q All right. How did you happen to get
14 back with him again the next day on the 8th?

15 A At his request he had a correction
16 officer reach out, say hey, you know, can you ask
17 Buford to pick you up.

18 Q He asked for you specifically?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q You went back and picked him up on the
21 8th?

22 A I think so.

23 Q Look at Court's Exhibit 4.

24 A Okay. Yes. I picked him up on this
25 day, yes, sir.

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1 Q Can you look at this form and tell me
2 whether there is a inconsistency in the dates
3 between where he signed and where you signed?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Tell us about that.

6 A So it was the 8th and he signed and
7 dated on the 8th, and I signed -- I signed it and
8 I put the 19th on here which was ---

9 Q All right. Was that your mistake?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q So what date did you put down there?

12 A 19th right here.

13 Q 8/19/19?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Okay.

16 A He put 8/8/19. I put 8/19/19.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And that was your mistake as far as
20 the date?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q He -- he put the correct date on
23 there?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q You -- you witnessed his signature?

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1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q And he initialed all the points of the
3 rights that you had read?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Do you know what time that started?

6 A I have 10 a.m.

7 Q 10 a.m.?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q And do you know how long you stayed
10 with him that day, or the 8th?

11 A It was -- it was quite some -- it was
12 a while.

13 Q All right. And, again, was it more
14 your talking or you're listening? How did it go
15 on the 8th?

16 A Both of us engaged each other. We
17 both talked.

18 Q Were you talking about general
19 subjects and getting a kind of a relationship with
20 each other, or were you talking about the case
21 itself?

22 A We talked about the case itself, and
23 we talked about each other's just -- in general,
24 we talked about pretty much everything.

25 Q All right. At the conclusion of the

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1 interview on the 8th, did he ever tell you he
2 wanted to stop?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q How did the interview end on the 8th?

5 A Pretty much when we were done, he --
6 we just decided we would just conclude here and I
7 end up taking -- took-en him back, excuse me, to
8 the -- to the jail.

9 Q All right.

10 MR. FINNEY: Beg the Court's
11 indulgence.

12 BY MR. FINNEY:

13 Q Question again, when you said to me
14 just now that you all kind of were talking to each
15 other and you said -- I think you used the word
16 chopped it up?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q What were you talking about? What
19 does that mean?

20 A In -- in general we just -- we talked
21 about everything. And Mr. Johnson is very
22 observant also 'cause, I mean, in my vehicle
23 there's a bunch of lanyards hanging with different
24 ID's on them. Also, there was my, you know,
25 crucifix and a couple of other things so we kind

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1 of talked about what was in my vehicle and when he
2 brought -- brought up ID also. We talked about my
3 tattoos. We talked about his tattoos. Just
4 building up some type of rapport.

5 Q So "chopping it up" is a term of ---

6 A Just getting acquainted, just --

7 Q Okay.

8 A --- yes, sir.

9 Q Conversation?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q All right. And do you have a
12 recollection of an interview with Mr. Johnson
13 where you -- he asked you whether or not you
14 believed he did kill the lady?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q You remember when that was?

17 A I want to say -- I'm looking at the
18 one on the 8th here.

19 Q You think it's the 8th?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q At that point when you -- when he
22 confronted you and said after all this
23 conversation on the 7th and the 8th and he asked
24 you that question, what did you tell him?

25 A I told him yes.

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1 Q Okay. And what did he say next?

2 A He kind of backed up a little bit on
3 me there, and I -- I just explained to him. I
4 said, yes, what would you think of me as far as my
5 interpreting if I were to tell you something wrong
6 after we had got to know each other some what.

7 Q All right.

8 A So he kind of backed up on it.

9 Q Did he ask to end the interview at
10 that point?

11 A Well, he started backing up. Then we
12 kind of came to conclusion.

13 Q All right. Do you know -- you also
14 did an interview several days later on the 21st?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q What was the rationale behind going
17 back, I think, maybe 14th? It's from the 8th to
18 the 21st.

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q That's -- several days went by. What
21 was the reason you went back and talked to him on
22 the 21st?

23 A He wanted to -- he wanted to see me.

24 Q He sent a message?

25 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q All right. And you, again, went out
2 and picked him up?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Brought him downtown?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Filled out the rights form?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q That's Court Exhibit No. 5. Did he
9 sign it?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q What date is on that?

12 A 8/21/19.

13 Q And what time?

14 A 10:46 a.m.

15 Q All right. Did you sign it as a
16 witness?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Along with somebody else?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q You know who that is?

21 A It looks like Skinner on there.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Yes, sir, Skipper.

24 Q And when you all talked that day, do
25 you remember how long that interview was?

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1 A It was some time. We spent some time
2 there, but...

3 Q More than a few minutes?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q All right. And was that the interview
6 recorded? Statements he made, statements you made

7 ---

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q --- were recorded?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q All right. As far as you know, on all
12 three occasions did he understand the rights that
13 you read to him?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Did he have any difficulty
16 understanding what you were saying to him, what
17 you were trying to talk about?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q Did you have any difficulty
20 understanding him?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q And when he put the right date on the
23 form number -- Court Exhibit No. 4 -- did you know
24 that you had made a mistake and he had done it
25 right?

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1 A Yes, sir, he was on point there. Yes,
2 sir.

3 Q And as far as you know, every -- all
4 the statements that you have that are recorded
5 were given during the interview process where he
6 was freely and voluntarily talking to you?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Nothing further.

9 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions.

10 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

11 Anything else, Solicitor?

12 MR. FINNEY: No. No other witnesses,
13 Your Honor, I believe.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Neyle, you got
15 anything? You got any witnesses?

16 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

18 MR. FINNEY: So at this point, Your
19 Honor, we have recorded statements that the State
20 would like to play parts of for the jury to hear
21 interview process that went on with these
22 witnesses, and we would ask that you find that he
23 was fully advised of his rights and that he knew
24 what he was doing and that he did it freely and
25 voluntarily.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So what date --
2 these statements that you want to play, it's my
3 understanding -- well, you got that recording on
4 the 5th that I can't understand, but it's no
5 statement so it's the 8th and the 21st?

6 MR. FINNEY: 8th, the 7th. The 7th
7 and the 8th.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. FINNEY: I'm not sure we're going
10 to use the 21st, Your Honor, but I just want the
11 foundation to be laid that he ---

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. FINNEY: He knew what he was doing
14 each and every time he talked to the police
15 officers.

16 THE COURT: Okay. What's your
17 position?

18 MS. NEYLE: What portions of the 7th
19 and the 8th does the State contend to play?

20 THE COURT: Well, at this point I need
21 to determine whether it's vol -- that all of them
22 are voluntary and then we get into, you know, they
23 can ---

24 MS. NEYLE: Yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: They can present whatever

1 they want to in their case. Now you have a right
2 to play other portions of it if it's admissible.
3 And I'm assuming it's — the question before me is
4 whether it's freely and voluntarily given, was he
5 under duress or ---

6 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.
7 Regarding the August 7th statement, Captain Rabon
8 testified that they first were talking outside.
9 He was smoking cigarettes. She read him Miranda.
10 When she testified, she left out a portion of
11 Miranda. She told him the Miranda. She didn't
12 read it from a form. And the portion that she
13 left out was, "Anything you say can and will be
14 used against you in a court of law." By leaving
15 that portion of Miranda out, I don't think that is
16 sufficient to advise Mr. Johnson of his Miranda,
17 and I think that portion should be suppressed,
18 Judge. Can be stated ---

19 THE COURT: You ---

20 MS. NEYLE: Can't be saying that ---

21 THE COURT: --- claim that was the
22 7th?

23 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay. And let me see the
25 documents that y'all introduced please.

1 MS. NEYLE: There were two kinds of
2 Miranda that was read to him or told to him on the
3 7th, and what I'm asking to be suppressed is that
4 first portion where she didn't complete Miranda.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead. The form
6 I have before me is on the 7th started at 1:00
7 a.m. It was signed and he initialed it. Your
8 client initialed it.

9 MR. FINNEY: And that was after he
10 returned from the dumpster trip. The first part
11 of that day, probably 10:00 in the morning when he
12 was brought to the scene -- to the law enforcement
13 center, he was outside smoking when the Captain
14 came up.

15 THE COURT: Right.

16 MR. FINNEY: That's the first part
17 where she said she advised him herself ---

18 THE COURT: Right.

19 MR. FINNEY: --- verbally.

20 THE COURT: Right. And is there any
21 portion of that statement you intend to introduce?
22 She -- because she's claiming based on her
23 testimony she didn't say that anything you say can
24 and will be used against you. Well, you know,
25 when she testified she went through what she said.

1 I mean, she testified she didn't read from the
2 card; she did it from memory.

3 MR. FINNEY: Right.

4 THE COURT: And that she didn't say
5 anything when she testified here today that she
6 informed him to anything he said could be used
7 against him.

8 MR. FINNEY: Well, Your Honor, we
9 con-- we contend that she did clarify herself to
10 say on the stand today that she did read the
11 rights correctly to him that day, but she might
12 have mis-took the question when she answered the
13 question from counsel about whether you left out a
14 part; that we think there was a confusion about
15 her answer on that. She doesn't contend that she
16 didn't tell him the full right statement on the
17 7th. But let me ask ---

18 THE COURT: No, but that's your
19 testimony. I don't remember her saying that.

20 MR. FINNEY: Well, let me ---

21 THE COURT: When she -- when she got
22 on the stand and went over the rights that she
23 told him, she didn't say that part.

24 MR. FINNEY: All right.

25 THE COURT: She got up and

1 cross-examined her about that part. Now I didn't
2 never hear her say come back -- because the
3 question was whether she read from the card or did
4 it by memory. Now she -- she may have done it
5 correctly on the 7th, but I don't recall her
6 saying that from the witness stand here today.
7 Now if I may be wrong, but she didn't even -- she
8 questioned about it, but I didn't hear her correct
9 that. But my question, if you're not going to
10 offer that, that's moot anyway. If you're going
11 to offer portions of the statement before the 1:00
12 interview, I just need to know that and what part
13 are you offering.

14 MR. FINNEY: We don't have anything on
15 that portion. Everything that we need for the 7th
16 would be after he signed that, that form.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Well, that
18 clears that up then, so we won't have that issue.
19 Anything else?

20 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And basically, from
22 the testimony that's before me today, I can find
23 nothing in the record that his statement wasn't
24 freely and voluntarily given; that, in fact, he'd
25 been advised of his Miranda warnings. He -- a

1 number of times before these statements were given
2 and that he signed at least those, even though he
3 wouldn't sign the first time on the 5th, but we
4 can't understand that anyway. So I -- I think
5 they're admissible. They're freely and
6 voluntarily given and that he wasn't threatened in
7 any way or under any duress and he -- as a matter
8 of fact, he instigated a lot of the conversation
9 with law enforcement versus, you know, them
10 keeping him 'cause they let him smoke and they let
11 him take breaks and they did everything else so I
12 don't -- I just don't see how it's not voluntarily
13 given.

14 Okay, now, the pictures, have y'all
15 worked, had a chance ---

16 MR. FINNEY: Pictures and phone calls
17 from the jail. Phone calls from the jail also
18 need to be.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Do y'all question
20 the authenticity of the phone calls from the jail?
21 I mean, most of the time you had a -- I mean, the
22 only problem is I've had cases where there was
23 hours and hours and hours of phone calls but.

24 MR. FINNEY: We've done the same
25 thing, Judge.

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MR. FINNEY: We've compressed
3 everything down; and we have Ms. Lumpkin from the
4 jail to come and testify about the protocol,
5 recording, everything that ---

6 THE COURT: You got officer report.
7 It's admissible. You got to authenticate that
8 they're, in fact, phone calls from the jail and
9 that, you know, I've had, you know, she would just
10 sign on the telephone that they're going to be
11 recorded or whatever. So assuming you establish
12 that, unless y'all have something else, that will
13 probably come in.

14 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor, just as
15 long as the proper foundation is laid.

16 THE COURT: All right. Okay.

17 MR. FINNEY: All right. So now we're
18 back to the photographs.

19 THE COURT: Right. Have y'all had a
20 chance to look at the photographs?

21 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor. One of
22 the issues that I have with the photographs is No.
23 17, Judge.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Which I have no
25 idea what 17 is.

1 MS. NEYLE: I was just going to ask,
2 Judge, is there -- would you like me to bring you
3 my laptop or can they pull them up?

4 THE COURT: Well, I -- has it got to
5 be on -- you can't put it on this screen? If
6 you're going to show it to the jury, you out to be
7 able to show it to me.

8 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: If you can put it on the
10 screen, I'll look at them. Is No. 17 the only
11 one?

12 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor. There are
13 a couple that are -- that are cumulative. They're
14 the exact same photos. But 17 is one that we have
15 issue with.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And your issue is
17 what with it, while they're putting it up?

18 MS. NEYLE: Judge, this is a photo of
19 the wall inside the apartment of Sharee Bradley,
20 and on that wall there -- there's a small
21 bloodstain next to a sign, and that sign on the
22 wall says "A Mother's heart is a special place
23 where children have a home." Judge, when the jury
24 looks at this photo, the eye doesn't go to the
25 bloodstain or the cast-off blood, Judge; it goes

1 to the sign, Judge. And regarding this case
2 having the death of a daughter, I mean, a mother
3 and her daughter, Judge, I think that this photo
4 is particularly is prejudicial. I think there are
5 other photos the State can introduce that would
6 show any kind of article they have regarding the
7 blood. But looking at this photo, my eye doesn't
8 go to any blood, it goes straight to the sign.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MS. NEYLE: And I have -- I have a
11 copy of it if you'd like to see it.

12 THE COURT: Either way, or maybe they
13 can get it up on the computer. What is your --
14 what is your position on that, Mr. Solicitor?

15 MR. FINNEY: My position is that this
16 is -- it's clear indication of what we hope that
17 the crime scene investigation can call cast-off
18 blood. This is not blood that dropped on the
19 floor. This is actually blood that came from a
20 weapon being used in the killing and how
21 voluminous it was in terms of its location away
22 from the body, it's up on the wall. We have
23 pictures of the ceiling where there are droplets
24 on the ceiling. We also have this -- this wall.
25 We have identified where the blood was on which

1 wall, so we just wanted to give the jury some
2 indication of how far away this blood was cast as
3 it was being -- as the crime was being committed.
4 And if -- we didn't pick the picture, the picture
5 picked us, because that's where the blood is. The
6 blood, we didn't take a picture of the picture to
7 inflame the emotions of the jury. The blood is on
8 the picture and it's also on the wall next to the
9 picture, and it's also on the ceiling above the
10 wall.

11 THE COURT: Okay. I can't -- can
12 y'all pull up just 17 'cause I got a little tiny
13 picture I can't see anything. Can you pull 17 and
14 make it show on the screen? And so, I see a -- I
15 see a blood spatter on the picture to the right of
16 the picture and ---

17 MR. FINNEY: And above to the left.

18 THE COURT: --- above the picture.

19 MS. NEYLE: Judge, law enforcement
20 took hundreds of pictures, and there are other
21 pictures of -- of walls that have some bloodstain.
22 I think those can be used, but I think this --
23 this picture with this ---

24 THE COURT: So what about -- you have
25 any other pictures that -- about the -- showing

1 blood spatter and the transfer? I assume your
2 expert is going to say this is transfer blood.

3 MR. FINNEY: Well, we call it a
4 cast-off, cast-off.

5 THE COURT: Right. So it's
6 transferred from the weapon and not from the body.

7 MR. FINNEY: That's correct.

8 THE COURT: I assume your expert is
9 going to say.

10 MR. FINNEY: That's correct.

11 THE COURT: And so, I guess they're
12 going to show some kind of pattern around the room
13 or the location of where the assault occurred on a
14 particular wall?

15 MR. FINNEY: Yes, sir. We're gonna
16 have some -- what we -- what we're gonna have
17 overall is two different origins of the blood.
18 We're gonna have some photographs showing where
19 Sharee's blood was and some where the baby's blood
20 was.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Is this -- is this
22 Sharee's blood or the baby blood?

23 MR. FINNEY: Sharee's blood.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. FINNEY: I mean, I've got pictures

1 of the blood on the wall, on the ceiling, and also
2 on, like, the baseboard at the bottom showing it
3 came from a distance; and the expert is going
4 testify that it fell in an arc and that's how it
5 got down there on the bottom. These are not ---

6 THE COURT: I, I understand. And I
7 understand -- I'm in a situation of weighing 403
8 whether evidence because this picture is here, if
9 it's -- if you can show the same issues with
10 transfer blood, why jeopardize this record unless
11 this is the only blood that you can show that on.
12 It's kind of -- I hate to create appellate issue
13 if it's not real important so you -- and you know
14 better than I do, and I'm almost gonna have to
15 rule on it when the person testifies. I mean,
16 it's hard for me to be able to pull this out right
17 now and rule on it unless when the person
18 testifies. It may be very critical to this case
19 or it may not be. If it's not be, you know, and I
20 got to do that 403 analysis. It depends on how
21 critical it is and how substantive it is as to
22 whether the probative value outweighs the
23 prejudicial. And if it's -- so at this point,
24 unless I look at all of them and listen to the
25 testimony, I can't tell you. Now, we may can deal

1 with that one picture at trial or you may can
2 decide you can show the same thing without that
3 picture and not create something with that sign.
4 And if you want to think about it overnight. I
5 assume that won't be your first witness tomorrow.

6 MR. FINNEY: No, it will not.

7 THE COURT: But, you know, sometimes
8 I've had crime scene experts and even pathologists
9 come in and testify. And a picture, it, you know,
10 may show a real probative issue that outweighs the
11 prejudicial. But if you have other ways to show
12 the same evidence and probative issue to the jury
13 without the prejudicial aspect, then I'm not gonna
14 let it in. But I won't know that till -- now if
15 it's the only transfer blood in that room and the
16 position of the body and the weapon and everything
17 else becomes a major issue, then that's important.
18 But if it's not, you know, there's other ways to
19 do that, and weighing those two analyses under
20 Croft and other things, I may not let it in.

21 MR. FINNEY: All right. I'll be glad
22 to go and look back because right now the disk we
23 have in the machine is just the 35 pictures I'm
24 proposing to put in.

25 THE COURT: I understand.

1 MR. FINNEY: And so ---

2 THE COURT: But whoever is going to
3 testify about that blood on the wall and the
4 importance of that blood in this whole crime scene
5 and transfer, usually sets up the angle and a lot
6 of other -- other issues. You know, sometimes the
7 angle and the transfer deals with the height of
8 whether the victim's on the ground when it
9 happened, whether the victim was standing, whether
10 he was sitting, and how tall the defendant was.
11 So sometimes that becomes critical in a case; I
12 don't know whether it is in this case. And so
13 determining the probative value versus
14 prejudicial, that all plays in.

15 MR. FINNEY: Well, I can assure you it
16 will not be something that we need to get to
17 before lunch tomorrow.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I will --
19 look at it tonight and we'll talk about it
20 tomorrow actually before it comes in 'cause I may
21 can rule ahead of time which makes y'all's job a
22 little bit easier, but sometimes I can't till I
23 hear it. Okay? Anything else?

24 MS. NEYLE: Judge, just, pictures 26
25 and 39 are the same. 27 and 40 is the same. 28

1 and 41 are the same.

2 THE COURT: What about that,
3 Solicitor? Are they the same or closeups of it?

4 MS. NEYLE: I think they're exactly
5 the same.

6 THE COURT: They're exactly the same?

7 MR. FINNEY: Can I have those numbers
8 again?

9 MS. NEYLE: 26 and 39.

10 MR. FINNEY: Okay.

11 MS. NEYLE: 27 and 40 are the same.

12 And then 28 and 41.

13 THE COURT: 26. Give them to me.

14 MS. NEYLE: 26 and 39.

15 THE COURT: 39.

16 MS. NEYLE: 27 and 40, and 28 and 41.

17 They're the same.

18 THE COURT: Okay, thank you.

19 MS. NEYLE: And, Judge, I think it's
20 more than 35. I think we counted 45.

21 MR. FINNEY: I don't ---

22 THE COURT: It had to be if you got
23 41. Okay. All right, y'all look at that tonight,
24 and we'll deal with that tomorrow when they
25 actually come in if you -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

1 MR. FINNEY: Okay.

2 THE COURT: I mean, sometimes I'll let
3 a pick whether it's a distant shot and a closeup.
4 If they're the exact same shot ---

5 MR. FINNEY: I wouldn't ask the Court
6 to ---

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. FINNEY: I don't want to do that.
9 It may be a technical error on our part. We'll
10 check it tonight.

11 THE COURT: That will be fine. We'll
12 check it and deal with it tomorrow.

13 MR. FINNEY: Now let me say to the
14 Court because there were some autopsy photographs
15 that I submitted -- I think it was four of them --
16 they are not on this disk. We'll make copies of
17 them tonight. We can show them to you in the
18 morning. There's four of them that I believe are
19 less gruesome, so to speak, than the crime scene
20 photos because they show the severity of the
21 injury and the location of the injury, and I
22 wanted those -- I want the jury to be able to see,
23 which I think I've narrowed it down to four
24 because I think the pathologist will say these are
25 the four that -- that caused her death. She had

1 14 injuries. I'm not trying to get to every cut
2 on her body. I'm trying to get the ones that took
3 her life.

4 MS. NEYLE: And there were four
5 autopsy photos on the disk and we went from that.

6 MR. FINNEY: You saw it?

7 MS. NEYLE: Yes.

8 MR. FINNEY: Okay.

9 MS. NEYLE: We did.

10 MR. FINNEY: So they're in there.

11 MS. NEYLE: And, I mean, I think the
12 pathologist can testify as to the injuries. I
13 think the pictures are prejudicial. I would ask
14 that you consider excluding them.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I'll -- I'll
16 deal with that one when the pathologist testifies.

17 MS. NEYLE: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: I'm sure, you know, all
19 the pictures are prejudicial or they wouldn't be
20 offered. Okay.

21 MS. NEYLE: And there are two other
22 photos, Judge, 37 and 38. They show a knife
23 that's been put in a couch at the Susie Rembert
24 residence, Judge. It's not my understanding the
25 State says this is -- believes this is the murder

1 weapon. I just don't think they're relevant to
2 the actual case.

3 THE COURT: What about that,
4 Solicitor?

5 MR. FINNEY: When Mr. Johnson was
6 arrested coming out of the -- he was forced out of
7 the house on Susie Rembert. He had gone in the
8 kitchen and gotten another knife; it was not the
9 murder weapon. He armed himself in an attempt not
10 to be able to leave the house, we believe. We
11 have a occupant of the house, Coty Daney, who saw
12 him go and get the knife and make a statement to
13 the effect is, I'm not, I'm not going out like
14 this, something like that. And we think that that
15 photograph, when Mr. Daney testifies, will be
16 important to show what was going on inside the
17 house.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I'll rule on
19 that when I hear the testimony then. Okay.

20 MR. FINNEY: Thank you, Judge.

21 MS. NEYLE: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: All right, thank you. All
23 right, anything else?

24 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: All right. I'll see y'all

1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
2 COUNTY OF SUMTER) COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

3
4 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,) TRANSCRIPT
5 PLAINTIFF,) OF
6 VS.) RECORD
7 DAUNTE MAURICE JOHNSON,)
8 DEFENDANT.) 2019-GS-43-916

9
10 June 21st - 24th, 2022

11
12 B E F O R E:

13 THE HONORABLE R. FERRELL COTHRAN, JUDGE; and a jury.
14

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Transcribed by PAMELA E. GREEN, from
Digital Courtroom Recorder Project

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the presence of the jury.)

THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, all jurors are seated.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

You may swear them in.

THE BAILIFF: May it please the Court, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

(WHEREUPON, the jury panel was placed under oath at this time.)

THE BAILIFF: You may be seated.

Are there anyone who did not took the oath?

(WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

THE BAILIFF: The oath have been given, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm gonna make some brief statements to explain to you your job and responsibility throughout this trial. This is not a charge on the law. I will charge you, at the end of this case, the law that you would apply to this case.

The defendant in this case has been charged with two counts of murder and two counts of possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime. That is what the indictment reflects. The indictment is not evidence in this

1 trial is gonna work.

2 Sometime throughout the trial certain points of law
3 come up that I have to address with the attorneys either
4 here at the bench and sometimes I have to send you out cause
5 I have to deal with points of law on certain evidence that
6 may or may not be admissible for you to hear. So, it's not
7 a scenario that we're trying to keep any secrets from you.
8 It's just simply, under our rules, you know, certain
9 evidence, whether it's admissible or not, you have a right
10 to consider it in your deliberation, I have to make that
11 call.

12 So, if you will pay close attention to the attorneys.
13 They'll make an opening statement and we'll get started.

14 Mr. Solicitor.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Please the Court, Your Honor.

16 Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Chip Finney and I have
17 been honored to be the elected solicitor in this circuit,
18 which is Sumter, Lee, Williamsburg, and Clarendon Counties,
19 for the past 12 years. And during those 12 years I've been
20 in this courtroom an awful lot.

21 And today is a day that I've been waiting for for a
22 long time because I have family members that are with me
23 today. I have police officers that are with me today. I
24 have community members that are with me today and we have
25 been waiting to bring the light to this case. This case has

1 got a lot of darkness in it.

2 First of all, I want to thank you for serving. I know,
3 when you came in here yesterday, you didn't really know what
4 kind of case we were gonna be calling and we appreciate your
5 willingness to serve.

6 Lawyers, I always tell people in my community, the
7 worst thing a lawyer can have is people who come to court
8 and they make up an excuse. They want to get out of serving
9 on a jury.

10 Yes, we're gonna keep you all week probably.

11 Yes, it's gonna be some tough testimony to consider.

12 But this is the way that this community and this
13 society stays together because if we don't care about
14 mothers, and if we don't care about five year old little
15 girls, then who are we and what are we doing?

16 This case, I'm gonna ask you to listen to the evidence.
17 I'm gonna ask you to consider the testimony of witnesses who
18 were nearby and heard things and saw things. We're gonna
19 ask you to use your common sense. It's gonna make a lot of
20 sense, when you get to the end of this case, to what
21 happened to those two ladies and what happened was caused by
22 Mr. Daunte Johnson.

23 The law says that murder is the unlawful killing of
24 another human being with malice aforethought. Malice is
25 what I have to prove. Malice is gonna be proved by the fact

1 that Daunte Johnson got himself armed with a large folding
2 knife. Malice is gonna be proved by the demeaning insults
3 that he told Na -- Sharee Bradley hours before her death.
4 Malice is gonna be proven by the cleaning up of the crime
5 scene after Sharee and Minor1 had been killed. Malice is
6 gonna be proved by taking Minor1, wrapping her in a blanket,
7 and taking her to a dumpster outside the apartment complex.
8 Malice is gonna be proven by him cleaning the murder weapon
9 probably more than one time.

10 Malice is gonna be proved over and over even by the
11 fact that, when he was arrested a few minutes after being
12 cited at the apartment complex on Monday, August the 5th,
13 the day we discovered Sharee's body, he had in his pocket
14 her ID card, her social security card, her children's social
15 security cards.

16 Now, Daunte Johnson had known Sharee for some time
17 before this event. They had gone together before. Sharee
18 wasn't living at Lantana Apartments but two months.

19 The first witness you're gonna hear this morning is the
20 apartment manager, the apartment manager, Ms. Renee. She
21 moved in two months before she was killed, and, during the
22 first month, you're gonna hear there was no problem at the
23 apartment complex. But you're gonna also hear that right
24 before August the 5th, in that month before August the
25 5th, Daunte Johnson shows back up in her life and there was

1 trouble as soon as he showed up.

2 You're gonna hear testimony that there were arguments
3 between Sharee and Daunte. Daunte will tell you, on a, on a
4 message he gave to the police, a statement, that they argued
5 almost every other day. To make matters worse, not only did
6 he kill Sharee and clean up the scene and clean his weapon
7 and hide from the police, he killed Minor 1 , took her
8 and put her in a dumpster. That's the evidence of malice.

9 There is one bright shining star in this case and that
10 is the actions of the Sumter County -- Sumter City Police
11 Department through their leader, Chief Russell Roark.
12 Because through Russell Roark's leadership and the officers
13 that work for him, a search of the landfill in Richland
14 County was begun and they worked with volunteers from all
15 over the State of South Carolina.

16 People came down here and worked in the, in the pit of
17 that waste management recycling dump until they found Minor 1
18 . If it had not been for the National Center of
19 Missing and Exploited Children helping Chief Roark and his
20 people put together, it would of been, and it was, a needle
21 in a haystack kind of operation. But you will hear that
22 they got it done and it took about 25 days to but they found
23 her.

24 The law is a wonderful thing. I've been a lawyer for
25 over 40 years. I've sat where Ms. Elizabeth Neyle is

1 sitting this morning representing the people who're charged
2 with crimes, and, for the last 12 years, I've sat over here
3 representing families who've had all kinds of unspeakable
4 things happen to them.

5 The law provides that you can get a fair trial. That's
6 why you-all are here. The law provides that we'll have a
7 good judge who will give rulings and keep the lawyers
8 straight to follow the rules. The law even provides Daunte
9 Johnson with a lawyer. The law provides that the defendant
10 doesn't have to say a thing for the next five days of --
11 during this trial.

12 The burden is on me and my team. I've got
13 investigators. I've got a -- Captain Rayburn here. I've
14 got Detective Melton here. I've got an investigator here.
15 Our team have to prove this case to you beyond a reasonable
16 doubt because, when we get to the end, you are going to be
17 firmly convinced that Daunte Johnson took the lives of those
18 two ladies and the law also says one other thing. It says
19 that, when he's found guilty, he will be punished and the
20 punishment is because the Nelson family and the Bradley
21 family and the Adams family and the James family, they need
22 to know that these lives were not lost in vain.

23 Listen closely to the evidence. Each day you will hear
24 more and more and more and more. You will know that Daunte
25 Johnson was a man with a quick temper. He was a man that

1 had a need for control. You will find that he was a taker.
2 You will find that the truth didn't bother him. He didn't
3 have to have the truth.

4 And you will find that, at the end, he will find that
5 he has to meet the justice of judgment, guilty of murder for
6 Minor 1 and guilty of murder for Sharee Bradley.

7 Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Ms. Neyle.

9 MS. NEYLE: May it please the Court.

10 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. NEYLE: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, as I
12 stand before you today I have nothing but sadness for what
13 happened back on August 5th, 2019. We are here today, you
14 are here as a jury because a young woman and her child are
15 no longer on this earth and this case is tragic.

16 We are also here today because the State has charged my
17 client, Daunte Johnson, with the death -- the deaths of that
18 woman and her child. But, ladies and gentlemen, as he sits
19 before you, he is an innocent man.

20 The State has charged him with these crimes and the
21 State, over the course of this trial, must prove that he
22 committed these crimes beyond a reasonable doubt. Daunte,
23 cloaked in that innocence, does not have to prove anything.

24 This week will not be pleasant. As I said, this case
25 is tragic. But there is more to this case and that's why

1 we're here.

2 Daunte wants you to hear the truth, and at the end of
3 this trial, as you consider the evidence, what you have
4 heard, what you have seen, you will find the State has not
5 proved their burden beyond a reasonable doubt and you will
6 find Daunte Johnson not guilty.

7 Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Solicitor, you may call your first
9 witness.

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 Renee Bell-James please.

12 THE COURT: If you'd come around please, ma'am, and
13 place your left-hand on the Bible and raise your right.

14 THE BAILIFF: Place your left hand on the Bible. Raise
15 your right-hand. State your name.

16 THE WITNESS: Doretha Renee Bell---

17 THE BAILIFF: Do you---

18 THE WITNESS: ---James.

19 DORETHA BELL-JAMES, being first
20 duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 THE BAILIFF: Thank you. You may be seated. Come
22 around, ma'am. Watch your step coming up the ramp. State
23 your name for the record and spell your last name please.

24 THE WITNESS: Doretha Renee Bell-James. J-A-M-E-S.

25 DIRECT EXAMINATION

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

2 Q. Good morning, Ms. Bell-James.

3 A. Good morning.

4 Q. Have some water.

5 A. Thank you.

6 Q. Tell us where you are occu -- your occupation.

7 A. I work for Southern Development Management Company,
8 Carolina Crossings Apartments formerly Lantana Apartments.

9 Q. All right. So how long have you done that kind of
10 work?

11 A. Six years.

12 Q. Are you what we call a property manager?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And does your corporation that you work for have more
15 than one location?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Where are the two locations?

18 A. I have one in Manning, South Carolina and here, Sumter.

19 Q. And the apartment complex in Sumter back in 2019, what
20 was it called?

21 A. Lantana Apartments.

22 Q. And when did the name change to something new?

23 A. Probably the first part of 2020.

24 Q. All right. And how many units does the Lantana
25 Apartment Complex have?

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. 69.

2 Q. 69.

3 When you were managing the apartment in August of
4 2019 -- well, let's go back a little further.

5 Do you remember having a new tenant move in by the name
6 of Sharee Bradley?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And can you tell us when Ms. Bradley moved into the
9 apartment complex?

10 A. May 20th of 2019.

11 Q. May 20th, 2019.

12 And who did she move into the apartment with?

13 A. Her and her three kids.

14 Q. Three kids.

15 And do you remember which apartment she moved into?

16 A. Unit Number [REDACTED].

17 Q. Now, your office in the apartment complex at Lantana,
18 how far away from Ms. Sharee Bradley's apartment is that?

19 A. Maybe like four door down.

20 Q. Four doors.

21 Same building?

22 A. Building --.

23 Q. Four doors down?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you remember when she moved in with her kids?

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. were, were you close to her?

3 In other words, did you see her every week or --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- most of the time?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. All right.

8 A. Either walking to work or going to the mailbox.

9 Q. Okay. And did there become an occasion later on, after
10 May had passed, after June had passed, that you found that
11 there was a Mr. Daunte Johnson visiting her, staying with
12 her, whatever?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. All right. When did that happen?

15 When did that come to your attention?

16 A. Like maybe the end of July.

17 Q. Okay. The end of July would of been a little bit of
18 time?

19 A. Yeah, it was like, like after the third week of July --

20 Q. All right.

21 A. -- cause I was on vacation that first two weeks.

22 Q. All right. And what was the situation as far as you
23 knew about -- how did you come to know about Mr. Daunte
24 being there?

25 A. I was getting complaints about them arguing.

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And when you say them, who are you talking
2 about?

3 A. Sharee and Daunte.

4 Q. All right. Arguing at the apartment?

5 A. Outside.

6 Q. All right. Outside.

7 And did you talk to Sharee about it?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. And what was your instructions to her?

10 A. Either they stop it or I was gonna put her out or place
11 him on trespassing notice.

12 Q. All right. And placing him on trespass notice means
13 what?

14 A. He couldn't come to the property.

15 Q. All right. I understand.

16 And what did Sharee -- did, did she understand those
17 instructions you gave her?

18 A. She did but was a little bit upset.

19 Q. All right. Did things get any better between them?

20 A. No.

21 Q. All right. Did you have more complaints?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. Now, let's move forward to -- do you
24 remember finding out about Sharee being deceased?

25 A. Yes.

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. Tell the jury what day that was.
2 A. That was on a Monday.
3 Q. All right.
4 A. I think it was the 5th.
5 Q. The 5th---
6 A. Uh-huh.
7 Q. ---of what month?
8 A. August.
9 Q. August.
10 And what, what year?
11 A. 2019.
12 Q. All right. August 5th, 2019.
13 Lantana Apartments, I need to ask you this.
14 where is it located?
15 A. [REDACTED] Carolina Avenue.
16 Q. All right.
17 A. Sumter.
18 Q. And if I could, I'm gonna show you a map, State's
19 Exhibit No. 46, ask if you can identify -- do you know
20 what's in that map?
21 A. The apartment complex maybe.
22 Q. Do you see it?
23 A. Is it like in here?
24 Q. All right. That looks like the apartment complex?
25 A. Yes.

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. All right. And can you tell the ladies and gentlemen
2 of the jury like from where you -- if that's the apartment
3 complex in the middle there, can you tell us something
4 nearby that they might know about like a restaurant or --?
- 5 A. Shoney's is behind it. Captain D's would be behind it
6 back there.
- 7 Q. This way?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Shoney's and Captain D's?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And the apartment complex in the middle?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. All right. When you heard about -- how did you find
14 out that there was something wrong with Sharee that day in
15 August?
- 16 A. Her son came and got me.
- 17 Q. Do you know her son's name?
- 18 A. I called him ^{Minor 2}
- 19 Q. ^{Minor 2}
- 20 Do you know about how old ^{Minor 2} was that day?
- 21 A. Maybe like 10 or 12.
- 22 Q. All right.
- 23 A. I'm not really sure.
- 24 Q. A young man?
- 25 A. Yes.

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And when he came to you, was he by himself?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What did he say to you?

4 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

5 THE COURT: Sustained.

6 Q. I'll rephrase the question.

7 After talking with ^{Minor 2}, did you notice something about
8 him?

9 Was he acting normal?

10 A. He wasn't acting very normal.

11 Q. All right. Can you tell the ladies and gentlemen of
12 the jury about what time of day it was on August the 5th
13 that you first saw ^{Minor 2}?

14 A. It was after 5:00.

15 Q. After 5:00?

16 A. After 5:00.

17 Q. Had you already closed up your office?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. All right. And what were you doing when you first saw
20 ^{Minor 2}?

21 A. Getting in my car to leave.

22 Q. All right. And what did you do?

23 After talking with ^{Minor 2}, what did you do?

24 A. Drove down to the front of Sharee's apartment.

25 Q. All right. And what did you do then?

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Got out and went and knocked on the door and announced
2 myself and called out for her but she didn't answer.

3 Q. All right. Did you see anything at that time at the
4 door?

5 A. Not at the door until he told me that she wasn't
6 upstairs.

7 Q. Okay. You talking about ^{Minor 2}?

8 A. Yeah, cause I was yelling for her upstairs.

9 Q. All right. But she wasn't upstairs?

10 A. No.

11 Q. All right. Did you happen to notice anything in the
12 living room that brought your attention -- brought to your
13 attention?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What was it?

16 A. Her rolled up in a carpet.

17 Q. All right. What did you do then?

18 A. I kind of backed away and asked for him to back away
19 and called 9-1-1.

20 Q. All right. And did you call 9-1-1?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. All right. And have you -- did you speak with the
23 9-1-1 operator?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. All right. And have you heard that tape?

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. At this time I'd like to play the 9-1 (sic)
3 tape of, of you talking to 9-1-1.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. All right.

6 THE COURT: Okay. What says defense?

7 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, may we approach briefly?

8 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
9 hearing of the jury at this time.)

10 Q. When you listened to the 9-1-1 tape, it was on a disk
11 like this?

12 A. No.

13 Q. It -- you, you heard it on a recording?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. All right. I would move this disk in -- this
16 recording -- 9-1-1 recording is on this disk.

17 THE COURT: Any objection?

18 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection. You can
20 just get her to mark it.

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

22 (WHEREUPON, the 9-1-1 recording was marked as State's
23 Exhibit No. 48 and received into evidence at this time.)

24 (WHEREUPON, the 9-1-1 recording was played for the jury
25 at this time.)

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. How long did it take the officers to arrive
2 after that conversation ended?

3 A. Not long.

4 Q. All right. And when -- well, did one officer or many
5 officers arrive?

6 A. Many.

7 Q. Many.

8 All right. You stayed around for quite some time?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you end up having to go and give a statement to the
11 police?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right. Did you ever have occasion to tell the
14 officers that Ms. Sharee had three children?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you had ^{Minor 2}?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you-all do a search for the other two children?

19 A. We did.

20 Q. And did you find them?

21 A. I was told that the---

22 Q. Let's say---

23 A. ---old -- the---

24 Q. Let's -- let me -- you can't say what somebody told
25 you.

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Okay.
- 2 Q. But did you learn about the other two children?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. All right. What did you learn?
- 5 A. I learned that they weren't in the house.
- 6 Q. All right. And had somebody looked in the house?
- 7 Did the police look in the house?
- 8 A. They did and ^{Minor 2} did, looked for his sister and---
- 9 Q. All right.
- 10 A. ---brother.
- 11 Q. All right. Very good.
- 12 Now, let me stop there and go back earlier in the day.
- 13 This was a Monday.
- 14 Tell the ladies and gentlemen what's your schedule as
- 15 far as the property manager.
- 16 Do you work at Lantana every day of the week?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. What days do you work there?
- 19 A. Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- 20 Q. All right. And the other two days, where do you work?
- 21 A. In Manning.
- 22 Q. All right. On Monday when you are at work, are you
- 23 mostly in the office---
- 24 A. All day.
- 25 Q. ---doing office work?

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Did you have occasion to see Daunte Johnson on that
- 3 Monday before you saw ^{Minor 2}?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What was the nature of that interaction?
- 6 A. He came in and asked me---
- 7 Q. Came in where?
- 8 A. In my office.
- 9 Q. All right.
- 10 A. And asked me did I speak to the guy about the job --
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. -- which was my landscaper --
- 13 Q. All right.
- 14 A. -- cause he wanted to cut grass.
- 15 Q. All right.
- 16 A. And I informed him that he had the number and that he
- 17 could call him.
- 18 Q. He had the number of the landscaper?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. You had already given that to him on a different day?
- 21 A. On -- yes.
- 22 Q. All right.
- 23 A. On that -- which would of been that wednesday prior.
- 24 Q. The wednesday before the Monday --
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. -- you talked to Daunte?

2 A. Yeah, they -- the same Wednesday I talked to both him
3 and Sharee.

4 Q. All right. Well, let's talk about that a minute.

5 On the Wednesday before you and ^{Minor 2} found Sharee, the
6 Wednesday before, you talked to Sharee and Daunte?

7 A. Yeah, that was my first encounter with Daunte.

8 Q. All right. Tell us about your first encounter.

9 A. Well, I spoke to Sharee about the arguing --

10 Q. Right.

11 A. -- and I told her that I needed to speak with him.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. But obviously she didn't tell him because he came to me
14 because somebody else told him --

15 Q. All right.

16 A. -- and asked me did I need to see him and I told him
17 yeah, but I was on my way out and I would talk to him when I
18 got back and I did.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. So he came in, talked to me. I explained to him that,
21 you know, I was gonna have to put him on trespassing if they
22 continued to argue. At that time Sharee walked in the
23 office.

24 Q. All right.

25 A. And he asked her why didn't she tell him that I wanted

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 to see him.
- 2 Q. All right.
- 3 A. And she said who told you.
- 4 Q. All right.
- 5 A. And he just said somebody told him.
- 6 Q. And you then told both of them together --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- that they were gonna have to calm down?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. All right. At that time during that wednesday meeting,
- 11 you told him something about working with the landscaper if
- 12 he---
- 13 A. No, he asked about a job --
- 14 Q. All right.
- 15 A. -- cause they was out there cutting the grass.
- 16 Q. All right.
- 17 A. And I just said go ask him --
- 18 Q. All right.
- 19 A. -- you know.
- 20 Q. You, you gave him the man's number?
- 21 A. The, the, the owner, he was on the property.
- 22 Q. All right. After that con -- meeting on wednesday,
- 23 you -- that was your first meeting with Daunte.
- 24 Did you have another meeting with him on Monday?
- 25 A. No, I---

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. Before you met with ^{Minor 2} Before you saw ^{Minor 2}
- 2 A. No, I had encounter with him -- came in that -- with
- 3 him on that Friday.
- 4 Q. All right. So, after Wednesday of the week before, you
- 5 saw Daunte again on Friday?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. What was that about?
- 8 A. He wanted his clothes out of Sharee's apartment.
- 9 Q. And why he -- why couldn't he get his clothes?
- 10 A. She had locked him out.
- 11 Q. She had locked him out of the apartment?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. All right. So he was asking you for help?
- 14 A. To get his clothes.
- 15 Q. All right. And were you able to give him any help?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. What did you tell him?
- 18 A. I told him that if she didn't open the door, he could
- 19 call 9-1-1 and ask them to help him retrieve his---
- 20 Q. All right.
- 21 A. ---stuff.
- 22 Q. All right. And that was on Friday before the, the
- 23 death of Sharee on Monday?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. All right. Now, do you come in on the weekends?

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. No.

2 Q. Friday -- after you leave Friday---

3 A. No.

4 Q. ---do you stick around Saturday, Sunday?

5 A. No.

6 Q. So, on Monday, you came in?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Had you -- any information been given to you about
9 events over the weekend between Sharee and Daunte?

10 A. Yes.

11 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

12 THE COURT: Okay. I sustain.

13 Q. Based on the information you had -- that had come to
14 you, did you take any action to, to talk to Daunte or Sharee
15 on Monday when you came in?

16 A. No.

17 Q. All right. Did you see Daunte on Monday?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. About what time was that?

20 A. About 4:30.

21 Q. In the, in the afternoon?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Had you seen him earlier in the day?

24 A. Yeah, I thought I saw him going to the mailbox.

25 Q. All right. And then about 4:30 he came in and talked

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 to you?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And asked you what?
- 4 A. About the job.
- 5 Q. All right. And anything else?
- 6 A. No. But I asked him what happened over the weekend.
- 7 Q. All right. And what did he say?
- 8 A. He said nothing.
- 9 Q. That's what he said?
- 10 A. He said nothing. Just Sharee being Sharee.
- 11 Q. Okay. And then did you give him any instructions?
- 12 A. No, I didn't cause I was like getting ready to go home.
- 13 Q. All right. And this would of been around five o'clock
- 14 on Monday?
- 15 A. About 4:30, 4:45.
- 16 Q. All right. After you decided to lock up the office and
- 17 you were heading out, that's when you ran into ^{Minor 2}?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. He came to your office or came looking for you?
- 20 A. He came down to where my car was parked at another
- 21 apartment.
- 22 Q. All right. And found you?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Told you about what?
- 25 well, you can't tell me what he said but that's when

Doretha Bell-James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 you went and went to his apartment?

2 MS. NEYLE: Objection.

3 A. Yes.

4 MS. NEYLE: Leading.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Don't---

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Let me rephrase the question.

7 Did -- what did you do after ^{Minor 2} came to you Monday
8 afternoon?

9 A. I went to his mother's apartment.

10 Q. All right. And that's -- as a result of going to the
11 apartment, that's when you made the 9-1-1 call?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then you talked to the officers when they got
14 there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. All right. I don't think I have anything further. I
17 thank you very much for coming to court today.

18 THE COURT: Any questions?

19 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. You can step down.

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ^{Minor 2}

22 Put your hand on the Bible and let him swear you in.

23 You have to turn this way. Turn that way.

24 Okay. You need to take your mask off when you sit
25 down.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 You want some water?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay. We'll get you some.

4 THE BAILIFF: How you doing, sir?

5 THE WITNESS: Okay.

6 THE COURT: Let me, let me have -- let me have this.

7 THE WITNESS: Okay.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Turn around and face me. Face me
9 and turn around. Place your left hand on the Bible. Raise
10 your right-hand. State your name.

11 THE WITNESS: Minor 2 .

12 THE BAILIFF: Pull your mask off please.

13 THE WITNESS: Minor 2 .

14 Minor 2 , being first duly
15 sworn, testified as follows:

16 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Once you get here, I
17 want you to speak up.

18 Okay?

19 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

20 THE BAILIFF: State your name for the record and spell
21 your last name and speak loud into the mic.

22 THE WITNESS: My name is Minor 2 (sic). Minor 2 .

23 THE BAILIFF: Take your mask off.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. Minor 2 .
2 How old are you, sir?
3 A. Fifteen years old.
4 Q. All right. And where do you go to school?
5 A. Sumter, Sumter High School.
6 Q. And what grade are you gonna be in when school starts
7 back?
8 A. Tenth grade.
9 Q. Tenth grade.
10 Now, you know why you're here today?
11 A. Yes, sir.
12 Q. All right. So we gonna get right to it cause how you
13 feeling?
14 How do you feel today?
15 A. I feel good.
16 Q. Good.
17 Tell me the name of your mother.
18 A. Sharee Bradley.
19 Q. And tell me the name of your father.
20 A. Cermon Jame (sic).
21 Q. All right. And who did you live with back in 2019 in
22 August?
23 A. Sharee Bradley.
24 Q. And where did you live?
25 A. Gamecock Apartment.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. All right. Gamecock.
2 It was called Gamecock then?
3 A. Yes, sir.
4 Q. Have you ever heard the word Lantana before?
5 A. Yeah, that, that name now.
6 Q. That's the name?
7 A. Yes, sir.
8 Q. All right. And before you lived in Lantana, where did
9 you live with your mother?
10 A. In the country.
11 Q. All right. Do you know what part of the country?
12 A. Dalzell.
13 Q. Dalzell. Excuse me.
14 And, and what kind of house did you live in in Dalzell?
15 A. A trailer.
16 Q. A trailer.
17 And who did you live there with?
18 A. My mama, my little sister, and my brother.
19 Q. All right. So you the, you the oldest child?
20 A. Yes, sir.
21 Q. And back then, in 2019, am I correct you were 12 years
22 old?
23 A. Yes, sir.
24 Q. All right. And what school did you go to then when you
25 were living at the trailer?

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Ebenezer Middle School.
- 2 Q. All right. And then you had a younger sister.
- 3 what was her name?
- 4 A. Minor 1 .
- 5 Q. And do you know how old she was back in 2019?
- 6 A. She was like two or like -- I don't remember what age
- 7 she was.
- 8 Q. All right. And then you had another younger brother?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. what was his name?
- 11 A. Minor 3 .
- 12 Q. Minor 3.
- 13 How old is Minor 3 today?
- 14 A. Six.
- 15 Q. Six.
- 16 Now, you-all lived in the trailer.
- 17 Did you come to know a man named Daunte Johnson when
- 18 you lived at the trailer?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 Q. He was a friend of whose?
- 21 A. My mama.
- 22 Q. Okay. And did he stay at the trailer sometimes?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- 24 Q. Do you know how long he stayed at the trailer?
- 25 A. I say about two month.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. A couple months?
- 2 A. Yeah, a couple month.
- 3 Q. Then what happened?
- 4 A. Then my mama moved.
- 5 Q. Your mom moved.
- 6 Where did she move?
- 7 A. To the apartments.
- 8 Q. To the apartments at Lantana?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. All right. Do you remember the apartment number?
- 11 A. [REDACTED].
- 12 Q. [REDACTED]?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Right?
- 15 A. [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].
- 16 Q. [REDACTED] then.
- 17 All right. When you-all were living there at the
- 18 apartment, how long did you live at the apartments between
- 19 the time you moved in -- you remember the time you moved in?
- 20 A. Say a --.
- 21 Q. Think about this.
- 22 From the time you moved into Lantana till the time your
- 23 mama was found deceased, how long had you-all lived at
- 24 Lantana?
- 25 A. About three months.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. You say three months.

2 Okay. Do you remember what those months were?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Okay. Now, during the time when you moved in the
5 apartment, at first, just moved in, did you know anybody at
6 Lantana?

7 A. I had a couple of cousins out there.

8 Q. All right. Was Daunte living with you and your mom
9 when you first moved there?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. All right. How long was -- went by -- how many weeks
12 went by before he showed up and -- at Lantana?

13 A. I say two months or three.

14 Q. Two months or so.

15 When he came to stay at Lantana, did he stay there all
16 the time?

17 A. He use to -- yeah, he stay there all the time.

18 Q. He stayed there most every night he was there?

19 A. No, some night he use to left.

20 Q. Some, some nights he wasn't there?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. All right. Now, let's talk about the events that led
23 up to August the 5th.

24 August the 5th, do you remember what day of the week
25 that was when you found your mom?

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Sunday.

2 Q. You think it was a Sunday?

3 A. I think it was Sunday.

4 Q. All right. So let's talk about Sunday.

5 Do you remember being in the apartment playing -- what
6 did you like to do in your, in your room in -- at the
7 apartment?

8 A. I usually like to play the game NBA 2K.

9 Q. NBA 2K.

10 Tell the jury what kind of game that is.

11 A. It's a 2K game called NBA 2K.

12 Q. What kind of game is?

13 It is like---

14 A. Basketball.

15 Q. It's basketball and you like playing the basketball
16 game?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. All right. And where would you play the game at?

19 A. In my room upstairs.

20 Q. All right. Upstairs?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. How many bedrooms did the apartment have?

23 A. We had three.

24 Q. Three bedrooms?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. Were they all upstairs?
- 2 A. It be two upstairs and one downstairs.
- 3 Q. What was downstairs?
- 4 A. It was like a playroom.
- 5 Q. A playroom.
- 6 Did it have a bed in it?
- 7 A. No, sir.
- 8 Q. All right. So the playroom, what did it have in it?
- 9 A. Like toys.
- 10 Q. Toys.
- 11 Okay. So you had a bedroom upstairs?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. Yes.
- 14 who else had a bedroom upstairs?
- 15 A. My sister and brother.
- 16 Q. They shared a room?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. All right. And then what about the third bedroom?
- 19 A. My mama room.
- 20 Q. Your mama's room.
- 21 When you would play video games, NBA 2K, in your
- 22 bedroom, how would you play it?
- 23 Is it -- just tell the ladies and gentlemen how do you
- 24 play that game?
- 25 What do you need to play that game?

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. You need a microphone and you need like a controller to
2 play it.

3 Q. A controller.

4 And what do you do with the controller?

5 A. Like it's certain buttons you got to press---

6 Q. Buttons?

7 A. ---to play it.

8 Q. All right. And what do you, what do -- the buttons, do
9 they attach to something?

10 A. On the controller.

11 Q. And the controller, does it attach to something?

12 A. In the game. Like it's a little cord.

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Where does the cord go?

16 A. In the controller.

17 Q. Okay. And then what do you watch it on?

18 A. The TV.

19 Q. So you had a TV in your room?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And you say the controller and the game and then what
22 else?

23 How do you listen to the game to play it?

24 A. My microphone. My microphone.

25 Q. Where do you put the microphone?

Minor 2 - Direct examination
BY SOLICITOR Finney

1 A. On my head.

2 Q. So is it one?

3 A. It was like some little microphone that I put in my
4 ear.

5 Q. So it's like earplugs?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. All right. So you had the earplugs in and you were
8 playing the game?

9 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

10 Q. Do you remember Sunday night playing the game in your
11 room?

12 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

13 Q. Do you remember -- tell the ladies and gentlemen what
14 you remember doing Sunday night.

15 A. So, I remember I was playing the game in my room
16 about -- I don't remember what time it was. So I had --
17 well, I was about to lay down. I had moved my sister in my
18 mama room.

19 Q. Okay. Let's talk about that now.

20 where, where was your sister be -- before you moved
21 her?

22 A. She was laying in the bed with me.

23 Q. So she had gone to sleep?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. All right. What did you do with her?

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. I put her in my mama room.
- 2 Q. Is that -- that's -- your mama's bedroom, is that
- 3 upstairs?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. All right. And after you put your sister in your
- 6 mama's bed, was mama in bed?
- 7 A. No, sir.
- 8 Q. Was anybody in the bed?
- 9 A. No, sir.
- 10 Q. All right. So, once you put her in there, the only
- 11 person in the bed was who?
- 12 A. Nobody.
- 13 Q. I mean who was in the bed?
- 14 A. It was---
- 15 Q. Give me her name.
- 16 A. Me and my sister.
- 17 Q. What---
- 18 A. That was---
- 19 Q. What was your sister's name?
- 20 A. Minor 1.
- 21 Q. All right. So you put Minor 1 in your mama's bed?
- 22 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
- 23 Q. All right. Then what did you do?
- 24 A. I went back in my room to play the game.
- 25 Q. You kept playing the game?

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
2 Q. This was late at night now?
3 A. Yes, sir.
4 Q. All right. Did you see your mother that night?
5 A. Yes, sir.
6 Q. When?
7 what -- before or after you put Minor 1 in your mama's
8 bed?
9 A. It, it was before I put Minor 1 in my mama's bed.
10 Q. All right. You saw mom before that?
11 A. Yes, sir.
12 Q. What was mom doing?
13 A. She was laying on the chair watching TV.
14 Q. And where was she?
15 A. Who, my sister?
16 Q. Your mama?
17 A. She was---
18 Q. Where was mom?
19 A. She was laying on the chair watching TV.
20 Q. Where?
21 A. Downstairs.
22 Q. All right. So you had to go downstairs to see mama?
23 A. Yes, sir.
24 Q. You saw her looking at TV.
25 Did you---

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. And then I tell her good night, I love you.
2 Q. All right. You said good night, I love you?
3 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
4 Q. And what did you do?
5 A. Went back upstairs.
6 Q. All right. Did you start playing the game again?
7 A. Yes, sir.
8 Q. How long did you play the game?
9 A. For like a few more hours and then I started to lay
10 down.
11 Q. All right. You got tired?
12 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
13 Q. All right. Did anything happening during the night
14 that night that woke you up?
15 A. Yeah. When I was laying down, Daunte came in the room
16 and asked for a mop.
17 Q. A mop?
18 A. Yes, sir.
19 Q. Okay. And do you know what time it was when he did
20 that?
21 A. No, sir.
22 Q. Why was the mop in your room?
23 A. Because I think I was cleaning up that day.
24 Q. Okay.
25 A. And I had left it in there by my closet.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. The mop was in your room by your closet?
- 2 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
- 3 Q. All right. Did you get up and give him the mop?
- 4 A. Uh-huh. (Affirmative).
- 5 Q. All right. Say --?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. All right. And once you -- did, did you see him?
- 8 A. He---
- 9 Q. Did he come---
- 10 A. He come---
- 11 Q. ---in your room?
- 12 A. He peek his head in there.
- 13 Q. He peeked his head in.
- 14 Then you gave him the mop?
- 15 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
- 16 Q. Did you see him any more that night?
- 17 A. No, sir.
- 18 Q. All right. Then you went -- what happened to you then?
- 19 A. I went to sleep.
- 20 Q. All right. What's the next thing you remember after
- 21 waking up?
- 22 A. The next thing I remember I wake up, came downstairs.
- 23 Then I look, I look on the floor -- I was looking for my
- 24 mama. I came downstairs and then I ain't see my mama in the
- 25 chair. So I was looking and then I look in the rug and, and

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 I flip her over to try to wake her up and then I just saw
2 blood. And then that when I went outside to go get the
3 apartment lady.

4 Q. All right. So now listen.

5 when you woke up, and you were upstairs, did you know
6 what time it was then?

7 A. I know it was daytime.

8 Q. It was daytime.

9 Did you take a shower before you came downstairs?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. And did you brush your teeth?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Change your clothes?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Did you play the game?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. When you woke up, you came straight downstairs?

18 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

19 Q. You found your mama?

20 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

21 Q. Where was she, on the chair or on the floor?

22 A. On the floor.

23 Q. And what was -- what was her condition in terms of --
24 was there something around her?

25 A. A rug.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. A rug.
2 She was inside the rug?
3 A. Yes, sir.
4 Q. All right. And you said you saw what?
5 A. I saw blood when I try to wake her up.
6 Q. All right. Did -- she didn't wake up?
7 A. No, sir.
8 Q. So what did you do then?
9 A. Then I went outside and I got the apartment lady.
10 Q. Do you know the apartment lady's name?
11 A. No, sir.
12 Q. All right. But you, you got her?
13 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
14 Q. What did you tell her?
15 A. She came in there and then, as soon as she came in
16 there, she called the police.
17 Q. She called 9-1-1?
18 A. Yes, sir.
19 Q. All right. How, how long did it take for the police to
20 get there?
21 A. I'd say six, six minutes.
22 Q. Six minutes?
23 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
24 Q. All right. When the police got there, did you talk to
25 them?

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. No. When the police got there, they pull up like on
2 the other street.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. And then I was walking to the other street.

5 Q. Right.

6 A. And then that when I saw him and that when they started
7 chasing him.

8 Q. You saw who?

9 A. Daunte.

10 Q. All right. You saw Daunte where?

11 A. On the other street.

12 Q. How far away from your apartment was the other street?

13 A. Like it wasn't that far. It was like behind the
14 street.

15 Q. All right. Let me, let me ask you to do this. There
16 is a map here. State's Exhibit No. 46.

17 Can you look at that?

18 Have you ever seen this map before?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Look at that map and see if you can figure out anything
21 on that map that you see that you under -- that you
22 recognize.

23 A. Tell -- like the street.

24 Q. Yes, sir. Anything.

25 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, objection.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MS. NEYLE: May we approach?

3 THE COURT: Yes.

4 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
5 hearing of the jury at this time.)

6 Q. All right. Can you identify anything in this
7 photograph?

8 MS. NEYLE: Objection---

9 THE COURT: Mr.---

10 MS. NEYLE: ---Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Solicitor, I need you to move it into
12 evidence---

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor---

14 THE COURT: ---for the record.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ---may I move State's 46 into
16 evidence?

17 It's an aerial view of the Lantana Apartments.

18 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, may we approach?

19 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
20 hearing of the jury at this time.)

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, I'd move State's 46 into
22 evidence.

23 THE COURT: All right. It's in over objection I think
24 (indiscernible). It's in evidence.

25 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 46 was received into

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 evidence at this time.)

2 Q. ^{Minor 2}, can you look at that photograph and, and just
3 decide -- determine anything in there that you recognize?

4 A. That street right there.

5 Q. which street?

6 Put your finger on it.

7 A. (WHEREUPON, the witness complies.)

8 Q. That street right there?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. All right. What does that street -- what, what, what
11 are you telling us---

12 A. The street---

13 Q. ---about that street?

14 A. But this the street when I saw him on right there.

15 Q. You saw who?

16 A. Daunte.

17 Q. All right. So you saw Daunte after, after the lady
18 called 9-1-1?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And where was he?

21 A. Right here on this street.

22 Q. All right. And what was he doing?

23 A. Running over this way.

24 Q. I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

25 A. Running over this way.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. Running that way?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. And did you -- did -- where were you at?
- 4 Can you point---
- 5 A. I was like---
- 6 Q. ---where you were?
- 7 A. I was like right here.
- 8 Q. You were right in that area?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. All right. And you was running after Daunte?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Trying to find him or trying to get to him?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. And were there police in the area?
- 15 A. Yeah, the police been already there.
- 16 Q. A lot of police?
- 17 A. Yeah, they was coming.
- 18 Q. All right. All right. After the police got there, did
- 19 you have to speak with them and give a statement about what
- 20 you told the jury today?
- 21 Did you tell the police that day the same thing?
- 22 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. All right. And did you help the police that day look
- 24 for Minor 1?
- 25 A. No, sir.

Minor 2 - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. What did you do after the police got there
2 and after things got quiet so to speak?

3 What did you do?

4 A. I went to this girl house and she calmed me down and
5 stuff.

6 Q. She calmed you down?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. All right. How long was it before you knew your mom
9 had passed away?

10 A. I'd say like -- you talking about when I found her?

11 Q. Did you -- when did you find out your mom had passed
12 away?

13 When did you know?

14 When is the first time you knew that?

15 A. When I came downstairs and try to wake her up.

16 Q. I don't think I have anything further. Answer any
17 questions this lady lawyer, Ms., Ms. Elizabeth, may have for
18 you.

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no questions for ^{Minor 2}

21 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: You can come down, ^{Minor 2}

23 THE COURT: Anybody need a break?

24 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

25 THE COURT: Oh, okay.

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Dupray Adams.

2 THE BAILIFF: Sir, right here. Place your left-hand on
3 the Bible. Raise your right-hand. State your name.

4 THE WITNESS: Dupray Adams.

5 DUPRAY ADAMS, being first duly
6 sworn, testified as follows:

7 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Step around. State your
8 name for the record and spell your last name please. Pull
9 your mask off.

10 THE WITNESS: Dupray Adams. A-D-A-M-S.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

13 Q. Good morning, sir.

14 A. Good morning.

15 Q. Would you take your mask off please so we can hear you
16 clearly.

17 where do you live, Mr. Adams?

18 A. [REDACTED] North St. Paul Church Road Route 165 Sumter, South
19 Carolina.

20 Q. Have you always lived in Sumter?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And what do you do for a living?

23 A. well, I have my own business now. Carwash.

24 Q. All right. And do you have -- are you the father of
25 Minor 1 ?

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. All right. I want to show you and see if you can
3 identify this photograph.

4 A. Yes, that's my daughter, Minor 1.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Like to move State's 1 into
6 evidence.

7 THE COURT: What says defense?

8 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I object under 403.

9 THE COURT: Okay. I'll allow it in over defense
10 objection.

11 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 1 was received into
12 evidence at this time.)

13 Q. Do you know -- can you tell the ladies and gentlemen of
14 the jury was this your first child?

15 A. No.

16 Q. All right. Tell us how many children you have.

17 A. With her, she made number six.

18 Q. All right. And when would -- do you remember what --
19 when, when's her birthday?

20 A. [REDACTED], 2013.

21 Q. All right. And so, in 2019, she would of been almost
22 six, five---

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. ---turning six?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. Do you know when that picture was taken?

2 A. Not exactly. But I know that she was five during that
3 picture.

4 Q. In that picture---

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. ---right there she was five?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And do you recognize the room she's standing in?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Where is that room?

11 A. That's the living room from where she was living at
12 with her mother.

13 Q. Where at?

14 A. In Lantana Apartments.

15 Q. All right. And do you know how long they -- Sharee
16 and, and Minorl had lived at that apartment there?

17 A. I could say about two months.

18 Q. All right. So that picture was taken two months --
19 within the two months of her living there?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Leading.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Don't lead him, solicitor.

23 Q. All right, sir. On August -- first of all, let me ask
24 you this.

25 What was your relationship like with Sharee over the

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 five years you and she had this child?

2 A. We were coparenting.

3 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen what you did as a father
4 during these five years you had Minor 1.

5 A. Well, basically I picked her up. You know, we go
6 places. She would come over to the house and play with her
7 sister. You know, just different things.

8 The relationship with me and her mom was, you know, we
9 was -- you know, we was -- you know, we just being parents.
10 You know, sometimes we were in agreements, sometimes we were
11 in disagreement. But, you know, we all -- we always came
12 together and, and came up with a common solution for our
13 daughter. So, we was just father and daughter, you know,
14 spending time with each other. You know, just building---

15 Q. Would you---

16 A. ---a relationship.

17 Q. All right, sir. When is the last time you saw Minor 1?

18 A. I don't know the exact date. But it was a Saturday
19 which would be the 3rd of that weekend prior to everything.

20 Q. All right. So --.

21 A. That morning.

22 Q. How long, how long had she been with you up until that
23 Saturday?

24 A. I think about two weeks.

25 Q. All right. And you-all -- she was staying with you at

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 your house?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. All right. How did she get back to Lantana?

4 A. That Saturday my wife had took her home.

5 Q. Okay. All right. And was that usual that you would
6 visit with her -- she would visit with you at your house on
7 a regular basis?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. All right. Now, how did you learn that Sharee had been
10 killed?

11 A. I was coming home from work one day and I seen a, a
12 unmarked white car and it look like a police officer's car
13 but it didn't have anything on it. So, I seen a blue
14 uniform coming from my door. So, of course, I put two and
15 two together.

16 So, as I'm pulling up, they were pulling away but we
17 met them. We -- I met them as I was going to my house. And
18 so he got out and Sharee sister asked me did I have Minor 1,
19 did I know where Minor 1 was, and I was like well, no, was --
20 she with her mother and she's with her mom and that's when I
21 found out.

22 Q. All right. And that was what day?

23 A. That was Monday, the 5th.

24 Q. August 5th?

25 A. August 5th.

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. Do you remember what time that would of
2 been when you were getting off work and you met the police
3 officers, what time of day that was?

4 A. It may of been around 4:00, 4:30, close to 5:00 maybe.

5 Q. In the evening?

6 A. In the evening.

7 Q. All right. And after having the conversation, did you
8 go somewhere---

9 A. I---

10 Q. ---do something?

11 A. No, I went -- I got back in the car and went straight
12 to the apartments.

13 Q. To Lantana?

14 A. To Lantana Apartments, yes.

15 Q. All right. Did you stay at Lantana for quite a while
16 that night?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. All right. Did you eventually go to the police
19 department?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. All right. Did you talk with the officers that night?

22 A. I just talked to the victim's advocate --

23 Q. All right.

24 A. -- that was sitting in the office with us.

25 Q. Okay.

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. That was it.

2 Q. All right. Now, as, as a result of finding out about
3 Sharee, Minor 1 -- was -- her whereabouts were unknown.

4 Is that correct?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. For days and days?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All right. Did you have occasion to talk to Daunte
9 before you found out that Sharee was dead?

10 A. Well, I -- I've talked to him but not days before then.
11 It's -- it was a while ago before -- actually I've talked to
12 him while they were staying somewhere else. They wasn't
13 staying in Lan -- Lantana then.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. That's when I talked to Daunte.

16 Q. So, before Sharee passed away, the last time you talked
17 to Daunte was when Sharee was staying at the trailer---

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. ---in Dalzell?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Have you ever had a conversation with Daunte about
22 doing some kind of agreement to kill or harm Sharee or
23 Minor 1?

24 A. No, sir.

25 Q. Have you ever had a conversation with Daunte about

Dupray Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 paying him to do any harm or killing Sharee or Minor 1?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Have you ever had a conversation with Daunte about
4 agreeing to you were gonna do something and he was gonna
5 clean up after you did some harm to both -- one of those
6 ladies?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. Was there any reason that existed in your mind that you
9 wanted to harm your daughter or Sharee?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Did you have \$5,000 to pay anybody to do anything?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. You and Sharee had one daughter, Minor 1?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Did you have any other children?

16 A. No.

17 Q. I don't have anything for you, sir. Answer any
18 questions the other lawyer may have.

19 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no further -- no
20 questions for Mr. Adams.

21 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

22 THE WITNESS: Okay.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Cannon. Officer Cannon.

24 THE COURT: Y'all still okay?

25 You want a break?

1 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

2 THE COURT: Okay. We'll take a 10 minute break. Don't
3 discuss the case. All y'all got to go if one goes.

4 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
5 presence of the jury.)

6 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Solicitor, it is 11:15 and I
7 normally try to break for lunch anywhere between 12:00,
8 12:30, 1:00, no later than 1:15 cause, if we do that,
9 rushing us. So I'm, I'm just telling you --.

10 (WHEREUPON, the audio was turned off at this time.)

11 (Whereupon, the following takes place within the
12 presence of the jury.)

13 THE COURT: Mr. Solicitor, you may call your next
14 witness.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 We call Invest -- Officer Cannon.

17 THE BAILIFF: Left-hand on the Bible and raise your
18 right-hand and state your name.

19 THE WITNESS: Jacob Cannon.

20 JACOB CANNON, being first duly
21 sworn, testified as follows:

22 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Have a seat please.
23 State your name for the record and spell your last name
24 please.

25 WITNESS: Jacob Cannon. C-A-N-N-O-N.

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

3 Q. Good morning, sir.

4 A. Good morning.

5 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen where you work.

6 A. I was at Lantana Apartments on Carolina Avenue.

7 Q. And what were you doing there?

8 what was your occupation?

9 A. I was a police officer assigned to the patrol division
10 with the Sumter Police Department.

11 Q. And did you get a call to respond to a situation at
12 Lantana on August the 5th, 2019?

13 A. I did.

14 Q. All right. And were you in a patrol car?

15 A. I was.

16 Q. Did you put your blue lights and sirens on?

17 A. If I remember correctly I did.

18 Q. All right, sir. And were you in a police officer's
19 uniform?

20 A. I was.

21 Q. All right. Now, are you still a police officer?

22 A. I'm no longer a police officer.

23 Q. All right, sir. And where do you reside now?

24 Are you living in Sumter?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I'm living in Sumter.

3 Q. Had you been to Lantana Apartments before?

4 A. I have.

5 Q. Can you, can you tell the jury or show the jury -- I
6 want to show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit No
7 46.

8 Can you familiarize yourself with that and tell us if
9 you recognize anything in there?

10 A. I do. I believe that's the nursing home that's close.
11 I'm trying to get my bearings here.

12 Q. Yes, sir.

13 A. This is Poulos Street. Of course this is Susie Rembert
14 right here or yes. This is Poulos Street and Susie Rembert
15 --

16 Q. All right.

17 A. -- and this is the apartment complex.

18 Q. All right. So, when you responded that afternoon,
19 what -- do you know what time it was give or take?

20 A. It's was a little after six o'clock --

21 Q. All right.

22 A. -- in the evening.

23 Q. All right. In August, was it light or dark or---

24 A. It---

25 Q. ---in-between?

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. It was still light outside.
- 2 Q. All right. So when you arrived, can you tell us the
- 3 route?
- 4 How did you get there on this map?
- 5 Tell us what direction you came from.
- 6 A. I don't really remember exactly which direction I came
- 7 from. I believe I came from the police department. But I
- 8 know -- I believe I pulled in this driveway here.
- 9 Q. The driveway here?
- 10 A. Right.
- 11 Q. And you would of parked your car where?
- 12 A. Right in this area --
- 13 Q. All right.
- 14 A. -- near the, near the apartment, near the scene.
- 15 Q. All right. And did you get out?
- 16 A. I did get out.
- 17 Q. And did -- what do you do when you get out of -- when
- 18 you're on a call like that?
- 19 A. So, when I get out, of course, you have to secure the
- 20 scene, make sure everything's safe obviously for you and
- 21 everybody around and that's, that's what I did. I got out
- 22 and then I was given instructions to provide scene security
- 23 around the rear of the apartment complex or the apartment.
- 24 Q. And how did you get there, drive or walk?
- 25 A. I walked.

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. Tell -- show us the way you walked.

2 A. So, if this is the front right here, I walked around
3 this way.

4 Q. All right. And you were then at the rear of the
5 apartment?

6 A. I was at the rear of the apartment.

7 Q. All right. Tell us what happened during that time when
8 you were at the rear of the apartment.

9 A. So, not long after I got to the rear of the apartment a
10 young lady approached me and she told me there's the dude.
11 And so, of course, immediately I was trying to locate this
12 person and I was asking her where. There was a lot going
13 on, a lot of people moving around. But I ended up getting a
14 description out of her, which she told me it was a black
15 shirt, red shorts.

16 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

17 Q. All right.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 Q. So don't tell what she's---

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. ---told you.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. But you can -- based on the information you provided,
25 you were looking for a gentleman?

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. All right. Did you actually see the gentleman?

3 A. I did not.

4 Q. All right. Did you have a body camera?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. And was it activated?

7 A. It was.

8 Q. And have you reviewed the tape to see what your tape
9 shows at that location at that time?

10 A. I have.

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. I'd like to play the
12 body cam of Officer Cannon.

13 THE COURT: Any objection?

14 MS. NEYLE: It -- and it -- it -- just so I'm clear,
15 the State is admitting it into evidence?

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Has it been marked?

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: It is right here, judge.

21 THE COURT: Has it been marked?

22 Don't play it yet now.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. We're getting ready to
24 mark it.

25 THE COURT: All right. Well, it's playing.

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Hold on.

2 (WHEREUPON, the body cam video of Officer Cannon was
3 marked as State's Exhibit No. 49 for identification purposes
4 only at this time.)

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: State would move Exhibit 49 into
6 evidence.

7 THE COURT: Okay. It is in without objection.

8 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 49 was received into
9 evidence at this time.)

10 THE COURT: Now you may publish to the jury.
11 Is their monitors on?

12 THE COURT: Is your monitor on, sir?

13 THE WITNESS: It's not, sir.

14 THE COURT: Is the jury's monitor on?

15 THE BAILIFF: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 49 was published to the
18 jury at this time.)

19 Q. Tell us, tell us what we're looking at here.

20 THE BAILIFF: It's on now, isn't it?

21 THE WITNESS: It's on now, yes, sir.

22 So this is me in front of the apartment. This is when
23 I just arrived on scene.

24 Q. All right. Did they ask you to move to the rear of the
25 location?

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I was, I was asked to move to the rear --

2 Q. All right.

3 A. -- to provide security.

4 Q. And did -- where's the camera located on you, officer?

5 A. It would of been on a -- I guess a -- it's a device
6 that holds it like a -- I can't, I can't think of the word
7 you call it---

8 Q. On your chest?

9 A. ---but it's right here on my -- on the left-side of my
10 chest right here.

11 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, may we approach?

12 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

13 (WHEREUPON, the video was stopped at this time.)

14 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
15 hearing of the jury at this time.)

16 (WHEREUPON, the video was started again at this time.)

17 Q. So, have -- Officer Cannon, have you moved to the rear
18 of the apartment complex now?

19 A. I have.

20 Q. All right. And as the video moves, you can describe
21 what you are seeing and what you remembered from that day.

22 A. Yes, sir. So, I'm still approaching the residence. Me
23 and other officers were just trying to make sure that we
24 were behind the correct apartment number, which eventually
25 we do right here.

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right, sir. That's one of your law enforcement
2 partners there.

3 Who is that in the picture?

4 A. Yes, sir, that's Officer Toney McCoy.

5 Q. All right. Now you see a young lady.

6 A. Right. This is the young lady that approached me---

7 Q. All right.

8 A. ---and provided me with the description and told me
9 that---

10 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Ask the question different.

12 Q. All right. And based on this young lady speaking with
13 you, were you then engaged in looking for someone?

14 A. I was.

15 Q. And what did the person that you were looking for have
16 on?

17 A. Black shirt and red shorts.

18 Q. All right. And your camera is moving now?

19 A. It is. I'm trying to figure out exactly who she's
20 talking about because there was a lot of people running
21 around in that area. So, I wasn't sure exactly where he was
22 and so I was just trying to locate him.

23 Q. All right. Eventually you start running also?

24 A. Eventually I do after I gave the description out to
25 surrounding officers over the radio.

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And the description was given out over the
2 radio.

3 How many other officers do you think were in the
4 scene -- in the area?

5 A. Oh, I, I can't even remember how many officers were
6 there. There were a good bit of us, and I believe this,
7 this is the point where they tell me that---

8 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

9 Q. Can't say what somebody told you.

10 A. Well---

11 Q. But---

12 A. Well -- well, the officers put out on -- over the radio
13 that he had ran into a house on Susie Rembert which is why I
14 started running over there.

15 Q. All right. And so you're heading now to the Susie
16 Rembert house?

17 A. I am, yes, sir.

18 Q. All right. Is this the house?

19 A. This is the house.

20 Q. All right.

21 A. And now I'm just covering that window just to make sure
22 myself and the other officers remain safe.

23 Q. All right. Can you tell us what you see now?

24 A. So they're calling the occupants of the house out now.
25 So two occupants came out and I'm cuffing the one that

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 matched the description that was provided to me and the
2 description that I provided to the other officers in the
3 area.

4 Q. All right. And that's the gentleman that's got the
5 white hat on and the black shirt and the red pants?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. All right. And so now what do you do with that
8 gentleman that's been handcuffed?

9 A. So eventually I'll be instructed to secure him in a
10 car.

11 Q. All right. And did you have a car?

12 A. My car was in front of the scene. I ran over---

13 Q. All right.

14 A. ---there so my car was not there in front of the house
15 on Susie Rembert.

16 Q. All right. So now what are you about to do?

17 A. So at this point I asked for consent to search his
18 person. He gave me that consent. So I began searching his
19 pockets.

20 Q. And what did you find in his pockets?

21 A. So in a -- in one of his pockets I found an ID and a
22 social security card that belonged to a female and then his
23 wallet was in the other pocket.

24 Q. And did you take the cards that you found in the first
25 pocket?

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I did.

2 Q. I want to show you what's -- some items and ask if you
3 can identify them.

4 A. So one's the social security card of Minor 1. The
5 next one is the social security card of Sharee Bradley. The
6 next social security card is for Minor 3 and then it's
7 an ID for -- a South Carolina ID for Sharee Bradley.

8 Q. Did he also have a, a black wallet?

9 A. He did.

10 Q. And was his -- Mr. Daunte Johnson's I -- identification
11 card located in that wallet?

12 A. Yes, sir, it was.

13 Q. Was it located by you?

14 A. It was located by me.

15 Q. All right. And what did you do with these items once
16 you took them from Mr. Daunte Johnson?

17 A. I passed them to Officer Michael Austin. It was his
18 car and he was gonna be transporting. So all the belongings
19 and everything that was on him I gave to him.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: At this point I'd like to move these
21 items in as State's 50 for identification.

22 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right. It's in for identification or
24 is it in evidence, Mr. Solicitor?

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I, I was going to call Mike Austin

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 but I, I don't have to if you don't require me to.

2 THE COURT: What does Mike Austin got to do with it if
3 the---

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: He's the one that put them in the
5 evidence room.

6 THE COURT: I understand that. But these are
7 non-fungible items. It doesn't -- you don't have to
8 establish the chain for --.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I move them into evidence.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Any objection?

11 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

12 THE COURT: All right. It's in without objection.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No. 50.

14 (Whereupon, the IDs, social security cards, and wallet
15 were marked as State's No. 50 and received into evidence at
16 this time.)

17 Q. Once you got with -- Mr. Johnson's belongings off of
18 him and did a search, did you put him in the car that you --
19 you're showing on that camera?

20 A. I did put him in the car.

21 Q. And what happened -- did you transport him?

22 A. I did not.

23 Q. All right. Someone, someone else did?

24 A. Yes, sir, Officer Mike Austin did, Michael Austin.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Beg the Court's indulgence.

Jacob Cannon - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

2 (Pause.)

3 Q. The gentleman that you handcuffed and took to the car
4 and got the IDs out, do you see him in court today?

5 A. There's a screen over there. I'm not sure if that's
6 him behind the screen.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Can you stand up, sir?

8 A. (WHEREUPON, the witness complies.)

9 Q. Is that him?

10 A. I still can't see.

11 Q. All right. I'm gonna need you to come around here
12 please, sir.

13 A. (WHEREUPON, the witness complies.)

14 Q. Can you look in the courtroom and see if you see the
15 man you took into custody that day?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Is he in the courtroom now?

18 A. He's right there.

19 Q. Thank you, sir.

20 No other questions for Officer Cannon.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. NEYLE:

23 Q. Officer Cannon---

24 A. Hey.

25 Q. ---good morning.

Jacob Cannon - Cross-examination
By Mr. Neyle

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. You did not prepare a report in this case, correct?

3 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

4 Q. And did you transport anyone else that day?

5 A. I transported I believe his name is Cody Daney to the
6 other gentleman that came out the house.

7 Q. You were outfitted with your body worn camera?

8 A. Yes, ma'am, I was.

9 Q. Okay. And that camera began from transport to the, to
10 the scene, correct?

11 A. So, the -- I believe my body camera footage started
12 when I got on scene.

13 Q. All right.

14 A. I'm not sure if it was rolling as I was driving to the
15 scene or not.

16 Q. And that camera goes all the way until you transported
17 Cody Daney to the police department---

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. ---correct?

20 And, as you said, Daunte came out of the house with his
21 hands up?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And he, he gave you consent to search his pockets?

24 A. That's correct.

25 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no further questions.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further, solicitor?

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: You can step down.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: We call Cermon James.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Stand right up here and put your
7 hand on the Bible.

8 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
9 your right-hand. State your name.

10 THE WITNESS: Cermon James.

11 CERMON JAMES, being first duly
12 sworn, testified as follows:

13 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Step around. State your
14 name for the record and spell your last name please.

15 THE WITNESS: Cermon James. J-A-M-E-S.

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

18 Q. Good morning, sir.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. The ladies and gentlemen of the jury want to know a
21 little bit about you. Tell us where you are from.

22 Are you from Sumter?

23 A. Yes, sir, I am.

24 Q. You lived here all your life?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. Where did you go to high school?
- 2 A. Sumter High.
- 3 Q. All right. And are you the father of ^{Minor 2}?
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. And is he your oldest?
- 6 A. Yes, sir, he is.
- 7 Q. Oldest son?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. And do you know how -- how old is he now?
- 10 A. Fifteen. He'll be---
- 11 Q. Fifteen.
- 12 A. ---16 in August.
- 13 Q. In August he'll be 16?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. All right. Tell us where you work.
- 16 A. Target.
- 17 Q. Is that in Kershaw County?
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. All right. And did you and Sharee Bradley have a
- 20 relationship where ^{Minor 2} was the product of that
- 21 relationship?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. So, tell us how you got along with Sharee Bradley.
- 24 How did y'all meet and what kind of relationship did
- 25 you all have?

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. You say how did we meet?

2 Q. Yes, sir.

3 A. Well, we met at a middle school.

4 Q. A middle school?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right.

7 A. So we had a long relationship as childhood friends,
8 suppose to be lovers --

9 Q. Right.

10 A. -- and as we got a -- we got older, we had ^{Minor 2} and we
11 just became adults and went our separate ways.

12 Q. Right.

13 A. But I still was there for him and we still communicate
14 and it basically was just about ^{Minor 2}

15 Q. All right. So, how close were you and ^{Minor 2} after you
16 and Sharee kind of separated?

17 A. We was still good. Had a good bond. I would come pick
18 him up some time. We'd go to the beach or whatever and
19 he'll come to the house and play the game.

20 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury about you and
21 Sharee when she decided to move from the trailer at Dalzell.

22 A. She asked me for help, help her move, and I took my
23 time and I came and I help her and, at the time where I was
24 helping her, I told her I said well, Sharee, you got you,
25 your kids a place. You, you got a job right there in front

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 of you -- your house. You don't need no one to, to move in
2 with you. You know, like this, this, this what you wanted.
3 You got it.

4 Q. All right. And---

5 A. Do good.

6 Q. And when you, you talking about the place, is that the
7 Lantana---

8 A. Apartment, yes, sir.

9 Q. Lantana?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. You remember -- you helped her move into that
12 apartment?

13 A. Yes, sir, I help---

14 Q. All right.

15 A. ---with the air conditioner, the furniture.

16 Q. All right. At the time that she moved into Lantana,
17 did you know a fellow named Daunte Johnson?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Okay. Did you know she had been seeing a fellow named
20 Daunte Johnson?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. All right. After they moved into Lantana, did you go
23 by and check on her and, and ^{Minor 2} from time to time?

24 A. Oh, well, I wouldn't check on her but I would have
25 picked ^{Minor 2} up.

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. Okay. Now, you say Sharee was working?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Where was she working?

4 A. The nursing home in front of the Lantana Apartments.

5 Q. All right. Let me show you this -- I don't know if you
6 can tell from here. This is State's Exhibit 46. It's a
7 map.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. Do you recognize anything in that map?

10 A. Well, the apartment's right there.

11 Q. That's the Lantana Apartments.

12 Point out where she worked?

13 A. I believe right there.

14 Q. This is the nursing home?

15 A. I believe so.

16 Q. What kind of work did she do over there?

17 A. Well, I never got any details with her but I just knew
18 she had a job there.

19 Q. All right. So, after moving to Lantana, did you get
20 information from Sharee that there was a problem with ^{Minor 2}
21 and, and a fellow named Daunte?

22 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I believe he can answer it.

24 MS. NEYLE: It calls for hearsay, judge.

25 THE COURT: You can -- you need to rephrase the

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 question.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right, sir. I'll be glad to.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 Q. Had you ever met this fellow named Daunte before August
5 the 3rd of 2019?

6 A. Never.

7 Q. All right. Do you remember August the 3rd meeting him
8 for the first time?

9 A. If August the 3rd was that Friday.

10 Q. Yes, sir.

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. All right.

13 A. That was the first time I met him.

14 Q. All right. And where did you meet him?

15 A. Lantana Apartments.

16 Q. All right. And the fellow that we're talking about
17 that you met, Daunte Johnson, do you see him in court today?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Stand up if you need to. That's fine.

20 Do you see him?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. All right. When you met him that day in August, what
23 was the nature of the meeting?

24 Why were you there to meet him?

25 A. To confront him.

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Why?

2 A. Because Sharee --.

3 Q. You can't say what Sharee said---

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. ---now mind you.

6 A. Well, I got a call saying that---

7 Q. All right.

8 A. ---my son wasn't --.

9 MS. NEYLE: Objection.

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

11 MS. NEYLE: Hearsay.

12 Q. So, based on the call that you got, it was from Sharee?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. You wanted to meet with Daunte Johnson?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. All right. And did you have that meeting?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And what did you tell him when you met with him?

19 A. First I met him and I told him why you treating my son
20 wrong --

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. -- and he said I'm not treating your son wrong. He
23 don't want to listen. I say well, what do you mean he won't
24 listen and he said he want to be up all night playing the
25 game and I was like well, it's summertime. I don't see a

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 problem with that. And if he ain't doing nothing
2 disrespectful, why you plugging his game out, why you
3 talking to him like he's an adult. I'm an adult. I don't
4 feel safe with my son being around you because I hear the
5 things you doing to him. So --.

6 Q. Had you talked to ^{Minor 2} about these things that were
7 going on?

8 A. Prior before I came, I heard an incident happened
9 between---

10 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

11 Q. All right. And---

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 Q. And based on this incident, you wanted to talk to this
14 fellow, Daunte?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. All right. And you, you talked to him on Friday?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Do you remember about the time of day it was on Friday?

19 A. Approximately around like 10:00 that night.

20 Q. At, at night?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. So it was dark when you talked to him?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Was Sharee there when you talked to him?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And did you -- you said you wanted to confront him.

2 Did, did you get -- when you left -- you left that
3 meeting with Daunte, did you feel like you had expressed
4 yourself clearly?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. All right. Now, did you actually do something special
7 Friday night that you don't usually do?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Tell the jury.

10 A. I stayed over longer than I actually usually do. I
11 stayed about to 3:00 just to make sure they were safe and,
12 and, you know, that they was out of harm's way.

13 Q. All right. And so when you're saying you stayed until
14 3:00, where was that that you stayed?

15 A. At Sharee apartment, Lantana.

16 Q. All right. And where did you stay in the apartment?

17 A. I, I sat on the couch and we talked there until about
18 3:00 and---

19 Q. You and who?

20 A. Me and Sharee.

21 Q. All right. And where was ^{Minor 2}?

22 A. He was upstairs (sic).

23 Q. All right. Where was Daunte?

24 A. I thought he was gone.

25 Q. You thought he was gone where?

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Out the complex.
- 2 Q. So you thought he had left the complex?
- 3 A. Yeah, cause --
- 4 Q. All right.
- 5 A. -- during -- when we was talking, I told him he had to
- 6 leave and---
- 7 Q. You told Daunte that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Friday night?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. All right.
- 12 A. And he said okay, I'm about to go. So I thought he
- 13 left. So Sharee invite me in and we sit down, we talk, and
- 14 we just, you know, had childhood memories. And around about
- 15 3:00, I say well, I think I need to go and she said well,
- 16 be -- drive safe. And so I left.
- 17 Q. All right. Did you return to Lantana the next day?
- 18 A. Yes, I did.
- 19 Q. And what day was that?
- 20 A. Saturday.
- 21 Q. And what time was that?
- 22 A. It was in the morning around about 9:00 -- 9:00, 10:00.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. Probably 9:30 or something like that.
- 25 Q. So you left about 3:00 in the morning --

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. -- and you returned 9:00 or 10:00 the next morning?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Saturday morning.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. What did you find when you got there?

7 A. I saw Daunte walking around.

8 Q. All right.

9 A. And I approach him again and I said we just talked last
10 night. I thought I told you to leave, man, from around here
11 and he say man, I ain't got no where to go. I don't got no
12 where to go. I said well, that ain't my problem and that
13 ain't Sharee problem and that ain't my son problem. My son
14 don't -- I don't feel safe with my son in this house with
15 you.

16 Q. All right. And did he tell you that he was gonna do
17 anything at that point?

18 A. He just keep saying I'm gonna leave.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. I'm gonna leave.

21 Q. On Saturday morning, when you confronted Daunte, was
22 Sharee nearby?

23 A. Yeah, she was cause things got a little heated cause I
24 say well, you need to leave now. He said man, I said -- I
25 told you I was gonna go. I said if you don't leave, I'm

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 gonna, I'm gonna beat your A.
- 2 Q. Okay. And when you told him that --
- 3 A. That when---
- 4 Q. -- was you---
- 5 A. ---Sharee came out the door and she said Cermon, don't
- 6 fight him because I already getting in trouble with the
- 7 landlord and I say -- then that when ^{Minor 2} came out. He said
- 8 daddy, don't fight him cause I don't want my mama to get
- 9 kicked out. So, when ^{Minor 2} and his mom said that, I didn't
- 10 want them to get kick out they apartment. So, I left.
- 11 Q. All right. Did you see Daunte Johnson after that?
- 12 A. No, sir.
- 13 Q. All right. So, after Saturday leaving the apartment,
- 14 did you see ^{Minor 2}'s on -- maybe Sunday?
- 15 A. No, sir.
- 16 Q. What about Monday?
- 17 A. After the call.
- 18 Q. All right. How did you get the call?
- 19 A. One of my cousins called me and said Daunte just killed
- 20 your baby mama.
- 21 Q. All right. And what did you do?
- 22 A. I rushed to the apartments.
- 23 Q. And what time do you think you got to the apartments?
- 24 A. I just got off. So it had to been probably like around
- 25 about 5:00.

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. In the evening?
- 2 A. Yes, sir.
- 3 Q. All right. So when you went to Lantana, did you find
- 4 Minor 2?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. All right. And did you have an occasion to talk to the
- 7 officers either that night or the next day?
- 8 A. That same night.
- 9 Q. The same night.
- 10 where did you talk to the officers at?
- 11 A. Inside his truck.
- 12 Q. Inside the officer's truck?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. Do you see the officer here --
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. -- that you talked to?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Point him out.
- 19 Right there in the red tie?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Melton?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. All right. When you talked to Melton that night, you
- 24 told him everything you just told the jury today?
- 25 A. Yes, I did.

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. When you decided to spend the night or, or
2 spend some, some extra, extra hours Friday night, did you
3 have a plan to do that?

4 In other words, did you bring a toothbrush or a change
5 of clothes or anything?

6 A. No, sir, it just was like I just felt like I, I, I
7 wanted to make sure they was safe.

8 Q. Did you ever tell Daunte Johnson that you would pay him
9 \$25,000 to kill Sharee Bradley?

10 A. No, I didn't.

11 Q. Did you ever tell Daunte that you would help hurt
12 Sharee or Minorl?

13 A. No, sir.

14 Q. Did you have \$25,000 to pay anybody to do anything like
15 that?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. When, when you last saw Daunte Saturday, did he tell
18 you he was leaving?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And, and when you -- when, when I say leaving, what was
21 your understanding of leaving?

22 A. From around at that time.

23 Q. Around---

24 A. Cause I was there like just to get away from me.

25 Q. All right. Did you have any understanding he was gonna

Cermon James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 leave town?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Okay. But you let him know that -- clearly what your
4 feelings were about him, him being around your son?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right.

7 A. And --.

8 Q. And all of this happened in a few weeks before Sharee's
9 death?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. After Sharee's death, did ^{Minor 2} -- where, where did he
12 go to live?

13 A. With me.

14 Q. All right.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Beg the Court's indulgence.

16 (Pause.)

17 Q. Sir, just a couple more questions.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Did you ever have a conversation with Daunte about him
20 cleaning up the crime scene after you were gonna go in there
21 and kill Sharee or, or Minor 1?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Did you ever talk with Daunte about any sum of money?
24 I think I said 25,000.

25 Did he ever offer you or did you ever offer him

Cermon James - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 \$25,000?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Did you have that kind of money?

4 A. No, sir.

5 Q. Thank you, sir. Answer any questions the lawyer may
6 have.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. NEYLE:

9 Q. Mr. James, that Friday night that you went over to
10 Lantana, you, you met with Daunte, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And, and you told him he had to leave or you were gonna
13 fight him, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. He didn't fight you?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. And that following day you went over there
18 again, correct?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. And you told him again he had to leave or you were
21 gonna fight him?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And, and he didn't fight you?

24 A. No.

25 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no further questions.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further, solicitor?

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing further.

3 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You can step down.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Call Patsy Moore.

5 THE BAILIFF: Yes, ma'am. Place your left-hand on the
6 Bible. Raise your right-hand. State your name.

7 THE WITNESS: Patsy Moore.

8 THE BAILIFF: Again please.

9 THE WITNESS: Patsy Moore.

10 Patsy Moore, being first duly
11 sworn, testified as follows:

12 THE BAILIFF: Thank you. Watch your -- step around
13 please. State your name for the record and spell your last
14 name please.

15 THE WITNESS: Patsy Moore. M-O-O-R-E.

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

18 Q. Good morning, ma'am. Give you some water.

19 Tell the, the ladies and gentlemen where you live.

20 What -- you live in Sumter?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. And how long have you lived in Sumter, all your life or
23 --?

24 A. Since fourth grade.

25 Q. Fourth grade.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 You work here in Sumter now?
- 2 A. I do.
- 3 Q. Where do you work?
- 4 A. Pilgrim's Pride.
- 5 Q. All right. Is that why your voice is kind of unsteady?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. All right. How long have you worked out there?
- 8 A. Seven months.
- 9 Q. All right. You were a neighbor to Ms. Sharee Bradley?
- 10 A. Yes, sir.
- 11 Q. Where the -- what apartment number did you live in?
- 12 A. [REDACTED].
- 13 Q. So you were right next door?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. And how long had you known Ms. Sharee?
- 16 Did you know her before she moved into Lantana?
- 17 A. I did.
- 18 Q. All right. How did you know her then, before Lantana?
- 19 A. We went to school together.
- 20 Q. Where at?
- 21 A. Alice Drive.
- 22 Q. So did you know ^{Minor 2} daddy, Cermon?
- 23 A. I did.
- 24 Q. From school?
- 25 A. I'm not sure.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right.

2 A. But I knew him.

3 Q. But you knew him?

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. All right. Tell us how you got to know when, when --
6 did you know that Sharee was gonna move into the Lantana
7 before she got there?

8 A. I didn't.

9 Q. All right. So there she was moving in and you-all had
10 known each other for some time?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you have a good relationship with her?

13 A. At first when we -- when she first moved in we did.

14 Q. What caused the change in the relationship?

15 A. Daunte.

16 Q. Daunte Johnson.

17 How long after she moved in did Daunte Johnson start
18 being at the Lantana?

19 A. I'm not sure.

20 Q. All right. A short period of time?

21 A. It was a short period of time but it wasn't when she
22 first moved there.

23 Q. All right. So, after she moved there, things were
24 good. Then something changed because Daunte was in the
25 picture.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. All right. Now, did Daunte -- are, are you aware --
- 3 did Daunte stay with her every night or most nights during
- 4 the week?
- 5 A. Oh, most of the time.
- 6 Q. All right. And so you saw him regularly?
- 7 A. I did.
- 8 Q. All right. Did -- to your knowledge, did he have a
- 9 car?
- 10 A. The car that he drove, that's the only car I seen.
- 11 Q. He, he had a car that he was driving?
- 12 A. That he drove down here.
- 13 Q. Okay. And did he have a job?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Okay. Did it come to pass that there were times at
- 16 Lantana that Daunte would sleep at your house?
- 17 A. When her and him started going through it he did.
- 18 Q. And how, how did that happen?
- 19 A. He didn't have no place to go and I offered him a place
- 20 to stay.
- 21 Q. All right. Where was he staying with you?
- 22 Was he in a room?
- 23 A. In my living room.
- 24 Q. Pardon me?
- 25 A. In my living room.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. In your living room.
2 He was on a couch?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. All right. How many nights would you say he spent the
5 night on your couch?
6 A. He stayed at my house that Friday night and he was
7 there that Saturday night.
8 Q. All right. Now, during this time in 2019 when Daunte
9 was at the apartment, you were living there, Sharee was
10 living there, did you work?
11 A. I did.
12 Q. where were you working then?
13 A. Church's --
14 Q. Church's --
15 A. -- Chicken.
16 Q. -- Chicken.
17 And what was your hours if you remember back then?
18 A. I would work 8:30 to 4:00 or I would work 4:00 till
19 11:00.
20 Q. All right.
21 A. Sometimes I'd go in at 1:00 to 11:00.
22 Q. All right. And that Church's, is it downtown on
23 Liberty Street?
24 A. It is.
25 Q. All right. So, how would you get to work?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. I would go down Carolina.
2 Q. No, I'm sorry.
3 Did you---
4 A. Oh, drive?
5 Q. ---drive?
6 You drove to work?
7 A. Uh-huh.
8 Q. You had your car.
9 Now, you have children?
10 A. I got five.
11 Q. Your children live with you at Lantana---
12 A. They do.
13 Q. ---at that time and Sharee had children -- she -- her
14 children were there?
15 A. Uh-huh.
16 Q. Who would be looking out for your children while you
17 were at work?
18 A. Mr. Davis.
19 Q. Do you remember his first name?
20 A. Devon, Devon.
21 Q. Mr. Devon Davis.
22 where did he live?
23 A. In Apartment ■.
24 Q. All right. And is that -- that means he's next door to
25 you or next door to Sharee?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. No, he's on the other side of her.
- 2 Q. On the other side of Sharee?
- 3 A. Uh-huh.
- 4 Q. So let me ask you this.
- 5 If, if you could tell the jury, did -- your building,
- 6 how many apartments were in your building if you remember?
- 7 A. It would of been four and then the office. Five.
- 8 Q. All right. That's what I was getting at.
- 9 The office is in your building?
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. And then who's in the next apartment next to the office
- 12 if you remember?
- 13 A. It was then -- I can't remember who was staying next.
- 14 Q. Okay. And then who---
- 15 A. It was---
- 16 Q. Then next to that apartment---
- 17 A. Uh-huh.
- 18 Q. ---would be you and then next to that would be Sharee?
- 19 A. Sharee.
- 20 Q. And then next to Sharee would be?
- 21 A. Mr. Davis.
- 22 Q. All right. And Mr. Davis was your regular baby-sitter?
- 23 A. He was.
- 24 Q. He stayed at your, at your house or his house?
- 25 A. If he didn't stay at my house they stayed at his house.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. Did you have occasion to talk to Daunte
2 about the treatment of Sharee before her death?

3 A. That night I got off work and he was saying all types
4 of --.

5 Q. Which night?

6 Let's talk about that.

7 A. That would of been Sunday night --

8 Q. Sunday night?

9 A. -- when I got of work.

10 Q. Do you remember what time you got off on Sunday night?

11 A. I got off at 11:00 .

12 Q. All right. And what time would you have gotten home?

13 A. Between 11:15 and 11:30.

14 Q. And this is at night. So it's dark.

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. Did you -- when you got out of your car, did you see
17 Daunte that night?

18 A. He was outside. That's when Chuck came up to me and
19 was letting me know they got into an altercation earlier
20 that day.

21 Q. Earlier in the day?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. You heard about an altercation.

24 who was the altercation between that -- if --?

25 A. Daunte and Sharee.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And you heard the details about that?

2 A. I did.

3 Q. Did you talk to Daunte about that?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. And what did you say to him?

6 A. I would let him know that he needed to go apologize to
7 her and that's when she came to the door and she was like
8 see---

9 MS. NEYLE: Objection.

10 A. ---that's how he talk to me.

11 MS. NEYLE: Hearsay.

12 Q. Okay. Hold on. Hold on.

13 THE COURT: Hold on.

14 Q. You can't say what somebody told you. So you can't say
15 what Sharee said cause that would be hearsay.

16 A. Uh-huh.

17 Q. But you can, you can say what you told other people.

18 A. Oh, well, I told him---

19 Q. So, did you---

20 A. ---he need to apologize to her.

21 Q. All right. When you told him that he needed to go
22 apologize, did you tell him anything else about stay -- your
23 house and---

24 A. He couldn't stay at my house if he didn't apologize.

25 Q. All right. When he -- when you told him that, what did

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 he say?
- 2 A. He went over there.
- 3 Q. He went over there to Sharee's house?
- 4 A. He did. He did.
- 5 Q. All right. When you got home at 11:30 that night,
- 6 let's say 11:15, where were your kids?
- 7 A. Mr. Davis house.
- 8 Q. Did you have to go over there and pick them up?
- 9 A. I did.
- 10 Q. And bring them to your house?
- 11 A. I did.
- 12 Q. And did you see Daunte and a fellow named Uncle Mike
- 13 that night?
- 14 A. Yeah, Mike was outside.
- 15 Q. Uncle Mike, who is he to you?
- 16 Is he somebody---
- 17 A. He is---
- 18 Q. ---you know?
- 19 A. I didn't know him like that.
- 20 Q. You didn't know him?
- 21 A. Not like that.
- 22 Q. But you knew his name?
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- 24 Q. All right. You would recognize him if you saw him
- 25 again?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I would.

2 Q. All right. Did you have a conversation with Daunte
3 where Uncle Mike was in the conversation?

4 A. I was standing out there while they was talking.

5 Q. All right.

6 A. I didn't have a conversation.

7 Q. Did, did you hear a conversation between Uncle Mike and
8 Daunte involving a knife?

9 A. Yes, he wanted the knife back.

10 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

11 THE COURT: My understanding -- the question you were
12 asking was between Uncle Mike and asking her if she heard a
13 conversation between Uncle Mike and the defendant.

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's correct.

15 THE COURT: Who is speaking in this conversation?

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Uncle Mike is speaking to the
17 defendant.

18 THE COURT: Is that right?

19 Q. Is that right?

20 Did you hear---

21 THE COURT: Was the defendant speaking to Uncle Mike?

22 Q. ---Uncle Mike talk to Daunte Johnson?

23 A. I did.

24 THE COURT: And if -- for what purpose is Uncle Mike's
25 conversation being offered?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, may we approach?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
4 hearing of the jury at this time.)

5 Q. Ms. Moore, did you hear the conversation between Uncle
6 Mike and Daunte?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. Did, did Daunte tell Uncle Mike something about the
9 knife?

10 A. He did.

11 Q. What did he say?

12 A. He'll give it back to him the next -- he -- he'll give
13 it back to his nephew.

14 Q. That's what he said he -- Daunte said I'll give the
15 knife back to your nephew?

16 A. Uh-huh. He did.

17 Q. All right. And did Uncle -- did you see Uncle Mike and
18 Daunte leave at that time?

19 A. He left.

20 Q. Where did they go?

21 A. To the store.

22 Q. All right. How do you know they went to the store?

23 A. Cause he asked him to take him to the store.

24 Q. Who asked you?

25 A. Daunte asked him to take him to the store.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Okay. And what did you do after that?

2 A. I went to Mr. Davis house and was talking to him for a
3 minute and me and my kids went home.

4 Q. All right. And that night, when you went to bed, did
5 you see Daunte again?

6 A. I went in -- that was that Sunday night. I went in the
7 house to take a shower and next thing you know he say he was
8 coming in to take a shower at 3:00 something in the morning.
9 It was 3:00 something in the morning.

10 Q. So, about three o'clock in the morning, now we're
11 talking about Monday morning?

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. Yes?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. At three o'clock on Monday morning, you went to bed?

16 A. I was taking a -- about to take a shower to go to bed.

17 Q. All right. And Daunte was around your house?

18 A. He was.

19 Q. All right. And then did you get news later on -- did
20 you wake up later on that morning?

21 A. I did. It was like 4:00.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. 4:00 something in the morning.

24 Q. And at four o'clock, did you go downstairs to see if
25 Daunte was there?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. I did.
- 2 Q. Was he there?
- 3 A. He wasn't.
- 4 Q. All right. Did you go outside looking for him?
- 5 A. I opened the door.
- 6 Q. All right. What did you see when you looked outside?
- 7 A. Sharee's chair by my door.
- 8 Q. All right. What did that tell you?
- 9 A. That he was over there.
- 10 Q. Why do you know that he was over there by cause -- you
- 11 saw the chair?
- 12 A. Cause I saw the chair.
- 13 Q. All right. And what did -- where did the chair come
- 14 from?
- 15 A. From her house.
- 16 Q. All right. Why would he use the chair outside between
- 17 your house and her house?
- 18 A. Using my WiFi.
- 19 Q. WiFi?
- 20 A. Uh-huh.
- 21 Q. For what?
- 22 To use for --?
- 23 A. His phone.
- 24 Q. For his phone. So you saw the chair.
- 25 It was four o'clock in the morning and you -- he was

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 not in your house?

2 A. He wasn't.

3 Q. Did you have occasion to talk with Daunte or hear from
4 Daunte later on Monday morning?

5 A. He called me like 6:00 something that morning and asked
6 me could he come to my house.

7 Q. All right. And what'd you say?

8 A. I told him no, I was going to work.

9 Q. All right. What time did you have to be at work?

10 A. I had to be at work at 8:30.

11 Q. All right. When you told him that, did you have
12 another conversation after that on Monday morning?

13 A. I did with him. When he called me he told me he was in
14 Lake City.

15 Q. All right. So, you got -- do you know what time that
16 was?

17 A. It was like 6:00 something in the -- that morning when
18 he called me.

19 Q. Early?

20 A. Uh-huh.

21 Q. Six or seven o'clock in the morning?

22 A. It was 6:00 something.

23 Q. You got a call from him?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. On -- and he called you and said he was where?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. In Lake City.
- 2 Q. All right. And did he say anything had happened over
3 the night or anything like that?
- 4 A. He didn't.
- 5 Q. All right. What's the next time you remember talking
6 to him?
- 7 A. When I got off work. He peeked his head in my door.
- 8 Q. All right. What time was it that you got off work?
- 9 A. I got off at 4:00. It was a few minutes after 4:00.
- 10 Q. All right.
- 11 A. My son had a sleep study.
- 12 Q. All right. So, tell us about the sleep study.
- 13 You had plans to do something after you got off work on
14 Monday?
- 15 A. I did.
- 16 Q. What was your plan?
- 17 A. Go to Columbia. My son had a sleep study.
- 18 Q. All right. And so you -- it was like a -- at a
19 doctor's office?
- 20 A. At the hospital.
- 21 Q. All right. Did you prepare to take a trip to Columbia
22 with your son?
- 23 A. I did.
- 24 Q. And what happened to stop you---
- 25 A. When Daunte---

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. ---if anything?

2 A. ---peeked his head in my door, asked me could he ride
3 with me and I asked him why. He said are you saying no. I
4 said why and he was like I'm about to go talk to Renee and
5 that was the last time I seen him.

6 Q. All right. So, he peeked his head in your door, asked
7 you for a ride to Columbia --

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. -- and then after you told him why or you told him no,
10 whatever, what did you tell him?

11 A. I asked him why.

12 Q. Why.

13 He wouldn't give you an answer?

14 A. He wouldn't.

15 Q. And then he said he was going to see Renee?

16 A. He did.

17 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Leading.

18 THE COURT: Yep.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I'm just going over the information
20 that's been given but I'll rephrase the question.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 Q. Who is Renee?

23 A. The apartment manager.

24 Q. All right. And after he said that to you, you didn't
25 see him anymore?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I didn't.

2 Q. What happened later on that afternoon concerning

3 Lantana?

4 A. I went to go drop Cordiah off to her cousin house and

5 go get my oil checked before I left. I called Mr. Davis.

6 He said -- I asked him about the kids.

7 Q. Don't, don't say what he said but you asked him about

8 your kids?

9 A. I asked him about my kids.

10 Q. All right. And you were told some information?

11 A. I, I was.

12 Q. Is that right?

13 A. I was.

14 Q. By Mr. Davis?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did that change your plans?

17 A. It did.

18 Q. And where did you go when you talked to Mr. Davis --

19 after talking to Mr. Davis?

20 A. Back to the apartment.

21 Q. All right. And what did you find when you got there to

22 the apartment?

23 A. The police was pulling up.

24 Q. All right. And so did you ever get to go to the sleep

25 study?

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I didn't.

2 Q. Did you talk to the police officers?

3 Did they interview you?

4 A. They did.

5 Q. And you gave them a full statement?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. All right. And did you sign that statement?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. Everything in that statement you've told the police
10 that -- on that -- was it that day or the next day?

11 A. I told them the next day.

12 Q. The next day you gave the statement.

13 Did you, did you give all that information to the jury
14 today?

15 A. I did.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Let me just have a
17 minute.

18 (Pause.)

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Beg the Court's indulgence.

20 (Pause.)

21 Q. The gentleman that you have been talking about, Daunte,
22 did you know his name was Daunte Johnson?

23 Did -- is that the name that you knew him by?

24 A. He -- I heard that name but he -- also I heard Curtis
25 Brown, Junior.

Patsy Moore - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And do you see that man in the courtroom
2 today, Daunte Johnson, the man you were neighbors with?

3 You can stand up.

4 A. I do.

5 Q. Do you see him?

6 A. I do.

7 Q. And is that the same man that was at Lantana that
8 stayed with Sharee and stayed on your couch?

9 A. He was.

10 Q. Okay. Thank you, ma'am. Answer any questions the
11 other lawyer may have for you.

12 A. Okay.

13 CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. NEYLE:

15 Q. Ms. Moore, Sharee would be jealous when, when Daunte
16 would spend the night with you, correct?

17 A. She was.

18 Q. She thought you and, and Daunte were romantic?

19 A. She did.

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 And you lived next door to Sharee?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. And you lived there with your five children?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Okay. And you-all -- did you share a wall basically?

Patsy Moore - Cross-examination
By Mr. Neyle

1 A. We did.

2 Q. Your apartments were right next to one another.

3 Okay. In your statement to law enforcement, you also
4 told them that your, your two children, Ansley and Kenion,
5 were playing with Minor 1 that day of August 5th, correct?

6 A. Someone told me that. I was at work that day.

7 Q. But you told them that your children were playing---

8 A. I gave them---

9 Q. ---with Minor 1?

10 A. ---that statement that someone gave me.

11 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Your Honor, I have no further
12 questions.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Solicitor, you have any more?

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No, sir.

15 THE COURT: You can step down.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, this would be a good
17 time to take a lunch break.

18 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Ladies and gentlemen,
19 we're gonna take a lunch break. I'm trying to figure.

20 Does quarter till 2:00 give y'all enough time to get
21 back here or you need till two o'clock?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Two o'clock.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Be back in the jury room at two
24 o'clock. Don't discuss this case, allow anyone to discuss
25 it with you. Don't do any research. Don't Google anybody.

1 Don't read anything. I'll see you at 2:00.

2 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
3 presence of the jury.)

4 THE BAILIFF: The jury is excused.

5 THE COURT: Any -- anything I need to deal with from
6 either side before we go to lunch?

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing from the State.

8 THE COURT: All right. Let, let me talk to the lawyers
9 in chambers just a minute before y'all take a lunch break.

10 (WHEREUPON, Court was in recess for the lunch break.)

11 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
12 presence of the jury.)

13 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

15 Mr. Solicitor, you may call your next witness.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Please the Court, Your Honor.

17 I'd call Michael James.

18 THE BAILIFF: Mr. James, you just come on around and
19 then walk up and take your mask off. Stay up here.

20 THE WITNESS: All right.

21 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
22 your right-hand.

23 MICHAEL JAMES, being first duly
24 sworn, testified as follows:

25 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Have a seat. It is

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 right here.

2 Is that too high for you?

3 THE WITNESS: No, it's all right.

4 THE BAILIFF: Okay. State your name -- wait a sec.

5 State your name and spell your last name for the record
6 please.

7 THE WITNESS: Michael E. James.

8 THE BAILIFF: Michael---

9 THE WITNESS: Michael E. James. J-A-M-E-S.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

12 Q. Good afternoon, sir.

13 A. Good afternoon, Mr. Finney.

14 Q. What do people in the community call you out when, when
15 they talk to you, talk to -- do you have a nickname?

16 A. Yeah, they call me D.C. sometime.

17 Q. Call you what?

18 A. D.C.

19 Q. D.C.

20 You ever heard anybody call you Uncle Mike?

21 A. Occasionally.

22 Q. All right. So, Michael James, where do you live now?

23 A. I live in Manning, South Carolina.

24 Q. How long have you lived down there?

25 A. About a year or so.

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. All right. And are you employed now or retired?
- 2 A. I'm retired.
- 3 Q. What did you use to do?
- 4 A. Truck driver.
- 5 Q. All right, sir. You did that for a long time?
- 6 A. Yes, sir.
- 7 Q. All right. Do you have family in the area, Sumter,
- 8 Manning?
- 9 A. I did have family in Sumter and Manning.
- 10 Q. All right. They gone on now?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. All right. Mr. James, we're here today talking about
- 13 the death of Sharee and Minor¹ back in 2019.
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Did you live at Lantana Apartments back in 2019?
- 16 A. Yeah, I lived with Winona.
- 17 Q. You lived with -- I'm sorry.
- 18 You lived with Winona?
- 19 A. Right.
- 20 Q. Do you know where the Lantana Apartments are?
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. Where are they?
- 23 A. On the side of -- what the other apartment?
- 24 Game -- Gamecock.
- 25 Q. All right. And do you know if Gamecock and Lantana are

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 the same apartments?

2 A. No, they not the same apartment.

3 Q. All right. When you were there in 2019, was it named
4 Gamecock or Lantana?

5 A. It could of been Gamecock.

6 Q. All right. You're not sure?

7 A. I'm not sure.

8 Q. All right. So tell us, the ladies and gentlemen of the
9 jury, who is winona?

10 A. Winona is my niece.

11 Q. All right. And she's younger than you are?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. All right. And she lived where?

14 A. She live in Lantana Apartments.

15 Q. She, she -- do you know her house address where you
16 lived with her?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you remember the house address?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. Okay. Do you remember the street it was on?

21 A. Yeah, it was on the first little street to your right.

22 Q. Do you know the name of it?

23 A. No, I don't remember.

24 Q. All right, sir. How long did you live with win -- with
25 winona at that address?

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. About a year or so.
- 2 Q. All right. Back then in 2019 when you were living with
3 Winona, did you have a vehicle?
- 4 A. Yeah, I had a green truck.
- 5 Q. What kind of truck?
- 6 A. Ford.
- 7 Q. A Ford truck?
- 8 A. Yes, sir.
- 9 Q. Was it a big one or a---
- 10 A. Smaller one.
- 11 Q. ---smaller?
- 12 A. Ranger.
- 13 Q. A Ranger.
- 14 A smaller model?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. All right. And you used it to drive around?
- 17 A. Right, sir.
- 18 Q. You don't have that vehicle anymore?
- 19 A. No, sir.
- 20 Q. All right. During that time you were living with
21 Winona, did you happen to meet Daunte Johnson?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. And was that the first time you met him when you were
24 living in Sumter with Winona?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And did he come to stay with you-all at the
2 house there, Winona's house?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Who else lived with Winona at that house?

5 A. Her daughter, her son.

6 Q. Her daughter.

7 You remember her name, the daughter?

8 A. The daughter named Courtney.

9 Q. Courtney.

10 And what was the son's name?

11 A. Cody.

12 Q. Cody.

13 So, two children, Uncle Mike, and Winona, and then
14 Daunte also stayed there?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. All right. Do you remember the occasion when Sharee
17 was found dead?

18 A. Somewhat.

19 Q. All right. Were you in the area -- were you in Sumter
20 that day?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Were you at the house when Daunte got arrested?

23 A. I don't remember.

24 Q. All right. So, before that, backing up a little bit
25 till the day or two days before Sharee was found, do you

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 have occasion to have a conversation with Daunte where he
2 told you he didn't feel good about the situation at Lantana
3 or Gamecock as you call it?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And what was your response to him when he told you
6 that?

7 A. I was like -- well, you know, he said it in a, in a,
8 in, in, in a non -- he said that, you know, he was in fear
9 for his life or something --

10 Q. All right.

11 A. -- because of she had another boyfriend or whatever.

12 Q. All right.

13 A. And so it was one of those type of occasions.

14 Q. So what did you offer to do for him, for Daunte?

15 A. I told him, I said well, I don't have a gun. I have
16 a -- I get -- I got a knife.

17 Q. All right. And the knife that you were talking about,
18 was it your knife?

19 A. Nah, it was Cody knife.

20 Q. That's your niece's son's knife --

21 A. Right.

22 Q. -- Cody.

23 And how did you get access to Cody's knife?

24 A. It was laying around the house or something.

25 Q. All right. And did you get the knife, Cody's knife?

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yeah, I did.
- 2 Q. Who -- what did you do with it?
- 3 A. I give it to Daunte.
- 4 Q. Do you remember when you gave it to Daunte?
- 5 A. I don't remember the date.
- 6 Q. Was it, was it near in time to when Sharee got killed?
- 7 A. Yeah, it was close to that time.
- 8 Q. All right. When you gave it to Daunte, do you remember
- 9 what day of the week it was?
- 10 A. Not exactly.
- 11 Q. All right. So, when you gave it to him, were you
- 12 expecting to get it back?
- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. Did you ever ask Daunte to give you the knife back?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. When?
- 17 A. I -- the day after I give it to him.
- 18 Q. A day after you gave it to him you asked for it back?
- 19 A. Right.
- 20 Q. What did he tell you?
- 21 A. He say he'll give it back to Cody or somebody.
- 22 Q. Give it to Cody or somebody and he didn't when -- he
- 23 didn't give it to you?
- 24 A. He didn't give it to me.
- 25 Q. All right. At the time -- did you see the knife?

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. No, I didn't see it.

2 Q. All right. Do you know what it looks like when you
3 gave it to him?

4 A. Yeah, I remember what it looked like.

5 Q. I'm gonna ask you -- tell the ladies and gentlemen what
6 it look like.

7 what do you remember about the knife?

8 A. It was kind of like a -- it had an Army on -- it
9 something like a military knife.

10 Q. Okay. Is it like a pocketknife like this?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Tell, tell the jury.

13 A. It about this long. The blade about this long and it
14 had the, the little saw like areas in it.

15 Q. All right. I'm gonna show you what's been marked as
16 State's Exhibit 40 and 41 and ask if you can identify what's
17 in these photographs.

18 A. That looks like a shoe, a bedroom shoe, or something.
19 That it. Kind of like the picture or something.

20 Q. You see -- it's something -- it's like a picture?

21 A. Uh-huh.

22 Q. Did, did the knife have a picture on it?

23 A. I don't remember.

24 Q. All right. So, you can't identify that picture as
25 being anything in particular?

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. It could of had a picture on it.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. I'm not saying it didn't.

4 Q. All right. Let me ask you to do this. I'm gonna show
5 you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 51 for
6 identification.

7 Would you look in this box and tell me if that can be
8 identified by you?

9 A. Not, not really.

10 Q. You're not sure?

11 A. I'm not sure.

12 Q. All right. After you gave the knife to Daunte, you
13 asked for it back the next day?

14 A. Right.

15 Q. He didn't give it to you.

16 Did you ever hear from Cody or anybody that Cody got
17 his knife back?

18 A. No, I don't -- I, I, I don't remember.

19 Q. You don't remember.

20 When you found out that Sharee had been killed, did you
21 go downtown and talk to the police officers and give a
22 statement?

23 A. No, they came to me.

24 Q. And where did they come to?

25 A. Winona house.

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And you sat down inside the house and talked to them?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. All right. Let me ask you this. I want to show you
4 what's been marked as State's Exhibit No. 39 for
5 identification.

6 Do you recognize what's in that picture?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. What is that?

9 A. That's a couch.

10 Q. Do you know whose couch?

11 A. It look like Winona couch.

12 Q. Do you recognize the room as being something you've
13 been in before?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Is that the room you would talk to the officers in?

16 A. Possibility.

17 Q. All right. Can you recognize that as being win --
18 Winona's house?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. I move 39 into evidence,
21 evidence.

22 THE COURT: What says defense?

23 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. It's in without objection.

25 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 39 was received into

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 evidence at this time.)

2 Q. After Sharee passed away, did you stay with Winona for
3 a long period of time, another year or so?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. All right. And then you -- eventually you moved to
6 Manning?

7 A. Right.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Well, I moved -- I don't know if I moved to Manning.

10 Q. All right. I want to take your mind back one more
11 time.

12 After you asked Daunte for the knife back, did you have
13 occasion to see him at Winona's house?

14 A. Occasionally.

15 Q. Did you have occasion to know that he took a trip with
16 Winona?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Do you remember which day that was?

19 A. I know exactly what date it was but --

20 Q. All right.

21 A. -- I know they went to Lake City or some place.

22 Q. Lake City.

23 They took a trip and it was just a, just a ride there
24 and back?

25 A. Yeah.

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 Q. Did they take somebody else with them?
- 2 A. Yeah, Juwan, a little fellow named Juwan.
- 3 Q. Who, who was -- why did -- who had to go to Lake City?
- 4 Was it---
- 5 A. Juwan had to go to Lake City.
- 6 Q. And who was helping him get there?
- 7 A. Winona.
- 8 Q. All right. So she took him and Daunte rode --
- 9 A. Right.
- 10 Q. -- as far as you know?
- 11 All right. Did you have Daunte -- were you at the
- 12 house when Daunte got arrested?
- 13 A. I don't remember.
- 14 Q. The day they went to Lake City, do you know if that was
- 15 the same day --
- 16 A. I think so.
- 17 Q. -- that, that he got arrested?
- 18 A. I think so.
- 19 Q. All right. Do you know -- did you ever have a chance
- 20 to see Daunte -- after you asked him for the knife again and
- 21 he said I'm not -- I'll give it to Cody, did you ever talk
- 22 to Daunte again before he was arrested?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- 24 Q. Who -- where?
- 25 A. At Winona house.

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. When?

2 A. The day after he came back from Lake City.

3 Q. So, after he came back from Lake City, you and him have
4 a conversation.

5 Did you ever go anywhere with him or do anything with
6 him that day?

7 A. No, we might of went and got some cigarettes or
8 something.

9 Q. All right. And then some time later on that day he was
10 arrested?

11 A. Right.

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay. Beg the Court's indulgence.

13 (Pause.)

14 Q. Let me ask you a question, sir.

15 Mr. James, your -- three years ago, the events that
16 we're talking about today, have you had any medical problems
17 in the last three years?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Has it affected your memory at all?

20 A. It might of did.

21 Q. Okay. You gave a statement to the police that, at the,
22 the house, at Winona's house either the day of Sharee's
23 death or the next day?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And you told the police everything you knew at that

Michael James - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 time?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Did you tell them that you had given the knife to
4 Daunte?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Did you tell the police that you asked for the knife
7 back from Daunte and, and he didn't give it to you?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. All right. And, to your knowledge, did you ever see
10 the knife again?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. All right. Answer any questions the other lawyer may
13 have.

14 CROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. NEYLE:

16 Q. Mr. James, you said that you lent Daunte that knife,
17 correct?

18 A. Ma'am, one night.

19 Q. Yes, sir.

20 And, and you lent him that knife cause he said he was
21 having problems with one of Sharee's baby daddies?

22 A. Something like that.

23 Q. Okay. And so he asked for that knife for protection?

24 A. Yeah, something like that.

25 Q. Yes, sir.

1 Your Honor, I have no further questions.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further, solicitor?

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: You can step down, sir. Be careful.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: We call Cody James. I'm sorry.

6 Cody Daney.

7 Right up there, sir, and put your hand on the Bible.

8 THE BAILIFF: Sir, place your left-hand on the Bible.

9 Raise your right-hand. State your name.

10 THE WITNESS: Cody Daney.

11 CODY DANEY, being first duly

12 sworn, testified as follows:

13 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Step around please.

14 Remove your mask off. State your name for the record and
15 spell your last name please.

16 THE WITNESS: Cody Daney. Last name D-A-N-E-Y.

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

19 Q. Good afternoon, sir. I want you to tell the ladies and
20 gentlemen of the jury a little bit about yourself.

21 Where are you living now?

22 A. Orangeburg, South Carolina.

23 Q. And what do you do for a living?

24 A. I drive trucks for Food Lion.

25 Q. And how long have you done that?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. I've been driving trucks for about -- since 2017. I
2 started in the military.
- 3 Q. All right. What branch?
- 4 A. Army National Guard.
- 5 Q. And are you still in the reserves?
- 6 A. Yes, sir, I am.
- 7 Q. All right. What's your rank?
- 8 A. A specialist.
- 9 Q. Very good.
- 10 You grew up in the Sumter area?
- 11 A. Yes, sir, I did.
- 12 Q. Where did you graduate high school?
- 13 A. Sumter High School.
- 14 Q. What year?
- 15 A. 2017.
- 16 Q. All right. And so you been working ever since high
17 school?
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. All right. Tell us who your mom is.
- 20 A. Winona Daney.
- 21 Q. And did she have a residence in Sumter?
- 22 A. Yes, sir, she did.
- 23 Q. What address did you-all have all there?
- 24 A. ■■■ Susie Rembert Street.
- 25 Q. And do you remember Susie Rembert being close in

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 proximity to a place called Lantana Apartments?
- 2 A. I guess it's referred to as Carolina?
- 3 Q. Yes, sir, I think it's had some different names.
- 4 A. Yes, sir.
- 5 Q. Gamecock maybe?
- 6 A. Gamecock, yes, sir.
- 7 Q. Okay. All right. You lived at Susie Rembert.
- 8 Is it road or street?
- 9 A. Street I believe.
- 10 Q. Susie Rembert Street.
- 11 You lived there with your mom?
- 12 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
- 13 Q. Did you have anybody else living there?
- 14 A. My Uncle Michael, my mother, and my sister.
- 15 Q. All right. And Uncle Michael was the gentleman you
- 16 just saw leaving the courtroom?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. All right. Is his name Michael James?
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 Q. Did he stay with you-all -- your family for a
- 21 considerable amount of time?
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. Okay. I want to take you back to the events of August
- 24 the 5th, 2019, and did you know Sharee Bradley?
- 25 A. No, sir, I didn't.

Cody Dahey - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. Did you know her daughter, Minor 1?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. All right. How did you -- did you know Daunte Johnson,
4 Johnson?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. How did you come to know him?

7 A. It -- my mom knew him for a while. I discovered him
8 one day when I came back from the college.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. That was after I graduated in 2017. He was staying
11 with us here and there on and off. When this incident
12 happened, he wasn't staying with us as much. My mother
13 discovered that he was going back and forth from Gamecock
14 Apartments with the lady I, I guess, you know, allegiantly
15 (sic) that he killed or however it is. And he was going
16 back and forth from her to my mom's house.

17 So my mom told him that he should just stay over there
18 since he was over there having -- I guess talking to her.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So that's how I discovered him.

21 Q. Did you discover, during this time, that -- something
22 that belonged to you had been taken away from the house on
23 Susie Rembert Street?

24 A. Yes, sir, I did.

25 Q. Tell the jury about that.

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. So I'm, I'm not sure who the jury --?

2 Q. That's -- just talk.

3 A. Okay. I'm sorry. But -- so what ended up happening
4 was I ended up having to get checked into a behavioral
5 health place.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. I ended up -- I went to a party one night with my, my
8 cousin and I had too many drinks and I'm not sure if someone
9 slipped something in my drink or not or what happened.

10 But I ended up not being able to sleep for a whole five
11 days. I ended up getting checked into the hospital and I
12 remember talking to the people at the hospital and they
13 would kept -- they kept coming in my room and they were
14 asking me is -- am I suicidal and I kept telling them no,
15 I'm not suicidal. I just -- please just give me something
16 so I can get some rest because I haven't slept in five days.

17 My mind is not in the right place. I'm not feeling
18 well. And I felt as if, if I would of said that I was
19 suicidal, they would of gave me something to get some rest
20 cause they wouldn't give me anything. So, I ended up saying
21 that, and once you say that you're suicidal, they have to
22 check you into a behavioral health place.

23 while I was in this behavioral health place, I'm not
24 sure if it was before I got there or however, but during the
25 midst of all of that, my mother -- they took the -- I use to

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 collect knives because I use to work at Budweiser and the
2 way that we would deliver our product is our beer cases
3 would be wrapped in plastic. So every time that I would
4 leave my knife at home I would end up buying another one to
5 cut the plastic so I can continue to work.

6 And one day me and my brother went to this pawn shop
7 and they had this collectible knife. It was like an antique
8 knife. It was probably about this big and I bought it and I
9 use to keep it on display in my room cause it was a
10 collectible item.

11 Before I ended up going to the hospital; they took all
12 of my knives and that was one of the knives that they had.
13 So, when I got back home they gave me my knives back but I
14 didn't have the antique knife. That's a good way to
15 describe it cause it's basically like a collectible knife.

16 And before -- a couple -- a few days before my
17 birthday, this -- all of this ended up happening on my
18 birthday, on [REDACTED]. Before all of this ended up
19 happening, I got -- my mom told me that -- I was asking
20 where my knife was and my mom told me that my uncle---

21 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Hearsay.

22 Q. You can't say what your mom told you.

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. But you can say if you discovered where the knife was.

25 A. I did discover where the knife was.

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And where was the knife?

2 A. Daunte had it.

3 Q. All right. And did, did you give it to him?

4 A. No, sir, I didn't.

5 Q. All right. So, Daunte acquired the knife somehow?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And did you have a conversation with Daunte about
8 getting the knife back?

9 A. Yes, sir, I---

10 Q. Do you remember when that conversation took place?

11 A. Yes, sir, it had to be maybe a few days before the
12 incident happened.

13 Q. All right.

14 A. And I confronted him and asked him if he had my knife
15 and at first he didn't want to admit that he had it. And I
16 told him like my mom -- I -- I'm sorry that I have -- I, I
17 don't know how to---

18 Q. I understand.

19 A. ---word it.

20 Q. I'll get you straight.

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. But basically you can -- whatever you said to Daunte
23 and whatever Daunte said to you you can talk about.

24 A. Okay. So, I confronted him about the knife and he
25 didn't want to admit that he had it. And I told him that I

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 knew that he had it because of -- you get what I'm saying.

2 Q. All right.

3 A. And he told me that he would give it to me.

4 Q. All right.

5 A. And that was how that conversation went.

6 Q. All right. When was the -- let me ask you this. Let
7 me do a couple of things.

8 When you went to the hospital for your checkup and for
9 your treatment, how long did you stay?

10 A. I was in there for -- I had -- also had something
11 called Rhabdo, which is, when you work out too much, your
12 muscle break down.

13 Am I talking too much?

14 Q. That's all right. You're, you're the, you're the --
15 great witness.

16 A. Oh, I'm sorry, sir. I'm, I'm trying to explain---

17 Q. All right.

18 A. ---everything.

19 Q. Very good.

20 A. I was in the hospital with something called Rhabdo.
21 It's when your, your muscles -- when you work out, your
22 muscles break down and your muscles release chemicals into
23 your bloodstream to heal your muscles. But if you work out
24 too much, it will release too many chemicals in your
25 bloodstream and it's deadly, deadly for your kidneys.

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By Solicitor Finney

1 So they have to put you on an IV and filter all the
2 chemicals out of your bloodstream. So, I was in the
3 hospital bed for a week. After they finished filtering the
4 chemicals out, then I had to go to the behavioral health
5 place.

6 Q. How long did you stay there?

7 A. I can't remember exactly but I remember it had to be
8 somewhere around the 4th of July.

9 Q. All right. And now we're talking about August the 5th,
10 a month later, which you were back home by then?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Had you started working again by the time you got back
13 home?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. All right. And you were working at Budweiser?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. In Orangeburg?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. All right. And how would you get to Orangeburg for
20 work?

21 A. I would drive.

22 Q. All right. What time would you get up in the morning?

23 A. Somewhere ranging before four o'clock till about six
24 o'clock in the morning.

25 Q. That's when you would get up?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. And then you'd drive to Orangeburg?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. What time would you normally get off your route?
- 5 A. It would vary depending on what day it was.
- 6 Q. All right.
- 7 A. Maybe somewhere between 4:00, 5:00---
- 8 Q. All right.
- 9 A. ---or maybe earlier.
- 10 Q. All right. So now let me ask you this. I'm gonna show
- 11 you State's Exhibit No. 39 ask you if you can identify it.
- 12 A. Yes, sir, that's our living room.
- 13 Q. And is that the living room your mama -- mama's house
- 14 basically on Susie Rembert Street?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. All right. And that's how it looked in August of 2019?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. All right. Then I want to show you State's Exhibit 41
- 19 and ask if you can identify it:
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. What is that?
- 22 A. That's the knife.
- 23 Q. What is -- what, what -- I think you had a special term
- 24 for it.
- 25 what'd you call it?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. An antique knife.
- 2 Q. An antique?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 Q. Collector's knife?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. All right. That's the knife you bought?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Q. All right. And that's in 41.
- 9 Is that a different picture in 40?
- 10 A. Yes, sir, it is.
- 11 Q. All right. Do you know the background of this picture?
- 12 In other words, what did -- you see the knife but
- 13 what's in the background?
- 14 A. I believe that's my TV stand..
- 15 Q. Okay. So is this your room?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. All right. And when these pictures were taken --
- 18 A. Yes, sir.
- 19 Q. -- the officers were in your room taking pictures?
- 20 A. uh-huh.
- 21 Q. Did they take the knife also?
- 22 A. I, I guess they did cause---
- 23 Q. All right.
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- 25 Q. You don't have it now, do you?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I don't.

2 Q. Have you had it since Sharee Bradley passed?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. All right. And you -- did you tell me where you bought
5 this knife at?

6 A. It was a pawn shop.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay. Like to move 40 and 41 in.

8 THE COURT: What says defense?

9 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

10 THE COURT: All right. They're in without objection.

11 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 40 and 41 were
12 received into evidence at this time.)

13 Q. Now, Mr. Cody, I want to show you what's been marked as
14 State's Exhibit No. 51 and ask if you can identify the
15 contents of this box.

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Tell us what this is.

18 A. That's the antique knife.

19 Q. All right. When you last saw it, it wasn't in pieces
20 like this, was it?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. All right. And this is the knife that you bought and
23 that you kept in your bedroom?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. All right. Is that the blade on the knife?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir, I believe so.

2 Q. Is -- was it that big when -- I mean when you bought
3 it, it was a big blade knife like that?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And it had a big handle on it?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And it's been taken apart?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. All right. Wasn't like this?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Last time you saw it it was all together?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. All right. And when you got it back, tell the ladies
14 and gentlemen -- excuse me.

15 I want to move 51 into evidence.

16 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

18 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 51 was received into
19 evidence at this time.)

20 Q. All right. When -- the last time you saw this knife,
21 where was it?

22 How did you get it?

23 A. So, that day, on my birthday --

24 Q. Which day is your birthday?

25 A. [REDACTED].

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. [REDACTED]?

2 A. Yes, sir, I---

3 Q. Did you work that day?

4 A. Yes, sir, I did.

5 Q. All right. Let me start you off. I want to go back to
6 the beginning.

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Did you talk to the police officers after you were
9 pulled out of the house on Susie Rembert that day?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. All right. And do you remember -- did you talk to them
12 that night or was it the next?

13 A. It was the same day.

14 Q. The same day.

15 You gave them a statement about everything we're
16 talking about here today?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. All right. At the time that you gave them the
19 statement, did you tell them that you had seen Daunte early
20 that morning?

21 A. No, not that morning.

22 Q. All right. When you got up early that morning, which
23 was Monday morning, your birthday, what time do you remember
24 getting up?

25 A. I can't remember exactly but it had to be early.

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Was Daunte at your mother's house when you got up early
2 that morning?

3 A. No, sir, I don't believe he was.

4 Q. All right. And you would have gotten together and
5 driven, driven to Orangeburg?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. You would of worked your shift?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. And you would of come back home?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Did you have plans that afternoon when you came back
12 from Orangeburg?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. What were your plans?

15 A. I wasn't exactly sure what I was gonna do but I wanted
16 to enjoy my birthday and we -- I ended up talking with my
17 brother. We had plans to hang out with some friends later.

18 Q. Did you have occasion to have any birthday cake that
19 day?

20 A. Yes, sir, I did.

21 Q. How did that go?

22 Tell the jury.

23 A. So, I can't remember exactly how everything went --
24 transpired when I got home. I do remember seeing Daunte
25 when I got home. But as far as the cake situation, we had

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 our family members, some of our family members, come over to
2 cut the cake and wish me happy birthday. So --.

3 Q. Did you end up eating some cake?

4 A. No, sir. There was like -- I can't remember exactly
5 but it was probably only like one piece cut from the cake.
6 I didn't even get a chance to eat my cake.

7 Q. What stopped you from eating your cake?

8 A. I can't exactly remember, sir.

9 Q. All right. Did, did you have occasion to get officers
10 knocking at the door that evening?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And---

13 A. That ended up happening.

14 Q. Did they end up taking you downtown to the police
15 station?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. All right. Tell the ladies and gentlemen about the
18 five minutes before you got pulled out of the house that
19 evening---

20 A. Okay. So---

21 Q. ---by the police.

22 A. I -- by then -- by now everyone has left the house, the
23 family members that came for the birthday party. Well, not
24 the birthday party but the gathering that we had and I'm,
25 I'm basically the man of the house. So I make sure I check

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 my house before I do anything, before I go in my room.

2 So I was going ahead and go ahead and take a shower.

3 So, before I went and got my shower, I went and checked the
4 house to make sure everything was all right.

5 When I went, I saw that Daunte was in the kitchen, and,
6 you know, like we said before, I ended up talking to him a,
7 a few days before, if I can remember correctly, about the
8 knife and I saw that he was cleaning the knife in the sink.
9 When I saw that he was cleaning the knife in the sink, I was
10 standing behind him and I made a joke to him.

11 I was like oh, you cleaning my knife, huh, you know,
12 because he -- at first he didn't want to tell me that he had
13 it. And, after that, he handed it to me and I took my knife
14 and I put it on my bed and then I got in the shower to take,
15 take a shower so I can get prepared for my day.

16 After I went -- while, while I was taking a shower, I
17 heard some ruckus. When I heard some ruckus, I -- something
18 told me to get out of the shower. So, I got out of the
19 shower and then I opened the door and I saw that it was my
20 sister coming into the house. So I said all right.
21 Everything's okay. So, I went back in the shower.

22 When I went back into the shower, I heard a lot of
23 rusting (phonetic) -- ruckus. That time when I heard a lot
24 of ruckus, something said get out of the shower in my mind.
25 The Holy, Holy Spirit touched me. So I got out of the

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By Solicitor Finney

1 shower and I went into my room.

2 As I was on my way out of the shower, I saw that my
3 mother was running -- going outside and I saw that Daunte
4 came in, came in the house. Daunte ended up running to the
5 kitchen. I went into my room. I'm completely naked; just a
6 towel, and I grabbed my -- I put on some Adida (phonetic)
7 pants. I didn't have anything else but that on and I went
8 into the living room.

9 By now my mother's went outside and it's only me and
10 Daunte in the house. Daunte went to the kitchen and he
11 grabbed a knife.

12 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Relevance.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: It's his observation of the --.

14 THE COURT: I know. She's objecting on relevance.
15 I'll allow it.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 Go ahead.

18 A. All right. So Daunte went to the kitchen and he
19 grabbed a knife and me and him met right in the living room.
20 The door is right in front of us.

21 Q. Is this the living room in State's 39?

22 A. Yes, sir, that's correct.

23 Q. Okay. Show the jury what you're talking about when you
24 say you met Daunte at the door.

25 A. All right. So, the door is facing this way. This

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 right here is my room. My mother's room is right here. The
2 bathroom is in that back corner and this is my sister's room
3 and the kitchen is over here.

4 So, when Daunte came and ran through the front door, I
5 was coming from the bathroom from out of my room. So I
6 ended up coming right here and Daunte came right here and we
7 met right in the middle and the door is right in front of
8 us.

9 Q. The front door?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. All right.

12 A. So, when that ended up happening, I can't remember
13 exactly what we -- what I said to him but I said -- I could
14 hear the police outside at this, at this point. I said what
15 are you doing and I can remember he was saying the -- they
16 think I did something to the girl, girl next door and I
17 said -- I can't remember exactly what I said. I said why
18 would you bring that here and then I pushed him and I said
19 go outside and face it like a man and he said I can't let
20 them take me.

21 So, at this point I'm hearing the police banging on the
22 door. So, I'm, I'm a young black man and this is another
23 man that doesn't want to surrender. It's either one or two
24 choices. Either I can stay in this house and possibly get
25 hurt with everything that's going on or I can go outside and

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 save my life.

2 So, when I went outside, that's what ended up happening
3 and something told me to lay on the ground. So I laid down.

4 Q. All right. The knife that you had gotten -- that you
5 saw Daunte washing at the sink --

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. -- is that the knife that's -- you've called the
8 collector's knife in State's Exhibit 41?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. That's the big knife?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. The knife that you saw him get in the kitchen after the
13 police were knocking, was it this knife or a different
14 knife?

15 A. It was a different knife.

16 Q. Describe it for the jury.

17 A. It had to be a kitchen knife if I can remember
18 correctly.

19 Q. And was he in the kitchen?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. All right. Do you know what he did with the knife?

22 A. I don't remember exactly.

23 Q. All right. I want to show you what's been marked as
24 State's Exhibit 37 and 38. Ask if you can identify what's
25 in those pictures.

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. What is it?

3 A. That's the knife that he had.

4 Q. And where is that knife in those pictures?

5 A. In the couch.

6 Q. And what couch is that?

7 A. The living room couch.

8 Q. Now, in your, in your mom's house?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. All right. And these pictures would of been taken
11 before or after the, the police got there?

12 A. After, yes, sir.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move 37 and 38 in.

14 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, may we approach?

15 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

16 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
17 hearing of the jury at this time.)

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move 37 and 38 in.

20 THE COURT: All right. In -- they're in over
21 objections of defense.

22 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 37 and 38 were
23 received into evidence at this time.)

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, at this time I would
25 like to replay the portion of this young man being pulled

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By Solicitor Finney

1 out of the house by the police so that he can describe for
2 the jury. It's the -- State's Exhibit 49.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Cannon's body worn camera.

5 THE COURT: Are you gonna fast forward it to that
6 portion or you're gonna be able---

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: Y'all's monitor's on?

11 (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Let's go back just a little bit more
13 backwards.

14 All right. That's good.

15 Can you see that?

16 Is your screen on right there?

17 THE COURT: Is your screen on right there?

18 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

19 THE COURT: Can y'all cut him on please?

20 THE CLERK: Yes, sir.

21 THE BAILIFF: All right.

22 THE COURT: Is it on?

23 THE WITNESS: No, sir. There it is.

24 THE BAILIFF: Thank you.

25 Q. Can you identify that fenced area and that house?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. Whose house is that?
- 3 A. That's the next door's neighbor's fence.
- 4 Q. That's the next door neighbor's fence?
- 5 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)
- 6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. And right there, stop it
- 7 please.
- 8 Can you come back to the front door?
- 9 Can you tell me whose front door that is?
- 10 A. That's a---
- 11 Q. It's coming right now. Hold on a second. Right there.
- 12 A. Yes, sir, that's our front door.
- 13 Q. All right. And, and those are the officers that were
- 14 coming in the front door?
- 15 A. Yes, sir, I believe so.
- 16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Go ahead. Forward it.
- 17 Stop it.
- 18 Who is that lady in the striped dress?
- 19 A. That's my mother.
- 20 Q. And her name is?
- 21 A. Winona Daney.
- 22 Q. All right. So she came out.
- 23 You were still in the house?
- 24 A. Yes, sir.
- 25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Fast forward. Go ahead.

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Stop it.

2 And who is that?

3 A. That is me.

4 Q. All right. And when you came out of the house, you,
5 you had just gotten out of the shower?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Go ahead.

8 And who is that?

9 A. That's Daunte.

10 Q. All right. And he came out of the house as well.

11 All right. All right. Thank you very much.

12 Beg the Court's indulgence.

13 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

14 (Pause.)

15 Q. Cody, when you got the knife back from Daunte --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. -- you said the big knife, the collector's knife, you
18 threw it on your bed you said?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Had you seen the knife since the -- once this happened
21 and you were taken out of the house, have you seen the knife
22 since then except for today?

23 A. No, sir, I haven't seen it.

24 Q. Did you ever tell the police that you examined the
25 knife once you got it back from Daunte?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. Tell them -- the jury about what you found when you
3 examined the knife.

4 A. When he handed me the knife, I closed -- I, I don't
5 know if it was closed already or -- yeah, it had to be
6 closed. But I -- as I was closing it, I could feel that it
7 had to be some dirt or something grinded up between beside
8 it. Whenever you have any type of knife that works like
9 that, it's like a, a slit in it where the knife closes,
10 where the actual knife goes into. And if it's some depreese
11 (phonetic) in there, you can feel that it's something
12 that -- I felt some dirt or something grinding up between
13 it.

14 Q. All right. But you never had a chance to examine it
15 closely yourself?

16 A. No, sir, I didn't.

17 Q. And once the police got it, they took it and took it
18 and put it into evidence?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: One moment, Your Honor, please.

21 (Pause.)

22 Q. Just a couple more questions. I want to make sure the
23 jury -- it didn't, it didn't get confused.

24 The collector's knife that you got back from Daunte,
25 that was the same day that you got arrested from the police?

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. How long a period of time between the time you got it
3 back and the police knocking on the door?

4 A. It had to been like five, ten minutes maybe.

5 Q. Good.

6 After the police knocked on the door, Daunte said
7 something to you. You talked to him inside the house cause
8 you didn't know what was going on.

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. what did he say to you?

11 A. He said I -- they think I did something to the girl
12 next door.

13 Q. The -- he said I think I did something or they think I
14 did something?

15 A. I asked him, I said what are, what are you doing, like
16 what's going on, and he said that they think I did something
17 to the girl next door.

18 Q. Okay. Did you see him go in the kitchen and get
19 another knife --

20 A. Once---

21 Q. -- a kitchen knife?

22 A. Yes, sir. When he, when he ran through the door, and
23 I, I got out of the shower, my mom -- I saw my mom run out
24 of the door and I saw him running in the house and he went
25 and ran towards the kitchen.

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By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right.

2 A. And I went and ran to my room and put my, my Adida
3 (phonetic) pants on.

4 Q. All right.

5 A. And when we met in the middle, that's when he had a
6 knife in his hand.

7 Q. All right. Is the knife he had in his hands, is that
8 what you see in State's 38?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Did you see him put it in the couch?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Now, I need you to tell the ladies and gentlemen of the
13 jury, the man that you and I have been talking about, Daunte
14 Johnson, do you see him in court today?

15 You can stand up if you need to.

16 A. I don't see him.

17 Q. All right.

18 A. Am I missing him?

19 Q. Why don't you come down here and walk, walk right here.
20 Just look around the court and see if you see him in the
21 courtroom.

22 A. He looks different but I believe that's him right
23 there.

24 Q. All right. I thank you for coming today. Answer any
25 questions the lawyer may have.

Cody Daney - Direct examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. NEYLE:

3 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Daney.

4 A. Good afternoon, ma'am.

5 Q. When you got that knife from Daunte, did he hand it to
6 you?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. And, and you took it and then you put it in your
9 bedroom?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. And, and after you put it in your bedroom, did
12 you give it to anyone else?

13 A. No, ma'am.

14 MS. NEYLE: Okay. I have no further questions.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Solicitor.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you for coming, sir.

17 THE COURT: You can step down.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Winona Daney.

19 Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

20 Go right up here. Put your hand on the Bible please.

21 THE BAILIFF: Yes, ma'am. Place your left-hand on the
22 Bible. Raise your right-hand. State your name.

23 THE WITNESS: Winona Daney.

24 WINONA DANEY, being first duly
25 sworn, testified as follows:

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Step around. State your
2 name for the record and spell your last name please.

3 THE WITNESS: Winona Daney. D-A-N-E-Y.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

6 Q. Good afternoon.

7 A. Hello.

8 How are you?

9 Q. Good.

10 Can I get you some water?

11 A. Oh no, sir.

12 Q. All right. Ms. Daney, tell the ladies and gentlemen of
13 the jury where you live.

14 A. Columbia, South Carolina.

15 Q. And what is your occupation?

16 A. Data tech prep.

17 Q. And how long have you been doing that?

18 A. Two years.

19 Q. All right. You use to live in Sumter?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. What was your address?

22 A. ■■■ Susie Rembert Street, Sumter, South Carolina.

23 29---

24 Q. All right.

25 A. ---150.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And when you lived at that address, did you have a
2 house?

3 I mean I know you -- that you did.

4 A. It was a duplex.

5 Q. What -- I what -- it was a duplex.

6 So you had a next door neighbor and you-all shared --
7 was it ownership or rental?

8 A. Rental.

9 Q. All right. And I have a picture here that's State's
10 Exhibit 34.

11 Can you identify what's in that picture?

12 A. Mailbox [REDACTED].

13 Q. Is that your mailbox or was your mailbox?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. All right. And that was on Susie Rembert?

16 A. Susie Rembert Street.

17 Q. Street.

18 All right. And I have a picture of State's Exhibit 35
19 I want to show you. Tell me if you recognize that.

20 A. That is my duplex.

21 Q. Is that the front door?

22 A. That's the front.

23 Q. That's the front of the duplex?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. All right. And it shows the front door?

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, it shows---

2 Q. All right.

3 A. ---the front door.

4 Q. All right. And I want to show you 36.

5 Do you recognize what's in 36?

6 A. I only been in her house once. So --.

7 MS. NEYLE: Judge, may we approach?

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
10 hearing of the jury at this time.)

11 A. That is a picture of my next door neighbor's house,
12 right?

13 Q. This one?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. well, I wanted to show you State's Exhibit 39.

16 Is that---

17 A. Oh, okay.

18 Q. I know you haven't seen these photos before.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. Do you recognize 39?

21 A. Now that's my house.

22 Q. okay. well now look at 39 next to 36.

23 A. Oh, okay. This is my house but with a dimer light.

24 Q. Yes, ma'am.

25 A. Yes.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. But both pictures are of your living room?

2 A. Uh-huh.

3 Q. All right.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: So, I'm just gonna ask the Court to
6 allow me to move these pictures inside Susie Rembert. One
7 is already in. These three are going to be.

8 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

9 THE COURT: All right. They're in without objection.

10 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 35 and 36 were
11 received into evidence at this time.)

12 Q. When you lived there, who did you live with at Susie
13 Rembert?

14 A. When I first moved there, it was me, my daughter,
15 Courtney Daney, Cody Daney, my son, and Daunte Johnson and
16 what was -- Quenton -- what's Quenton last name?

17 Quenton Commander.

18 Q. Okay. But he's a, he's a friend?

19 A. He's my daughter's friend.

20 Q. Friend.

21 Okay. Did you have occasion to have Michael James,
22 Uncle Mike, come and stay with you?

23 A. Yes. Michael originally, when I first moved there, was
24 not living with me but then he was evicted and he moved in
25 with me.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. How long did Michael James, Uncle Mike,
2 stay with you and your family?

3 A. I would say maybe a year or maybe a little under a
4 year. I'm not sure.

5 Q. All right. And during the time that you were staying
6 at Susie Rembert in 2019, did you have occasion to renew a
7 relationship with Daunte Johnson?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen a little bit about how
10 you started.

11 How did you and Daunte start and where did you start?

12 A. From the beginning or from---

13 Q. From the beginning.

14 A. ---2019?

15 In 2016, maybe 2017, Daunte -- I met Daunte in
16 Charlotte, North Carolina.

17 Q. Were you living there?

18 A. I was living with my brother.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. And I met Daunte one day in the parking lot. We talk
21 every now and then. It was not like we was in a
22 relationship or anything. He would see me every now and
23 then. I'd talk to him, pass him by, or he'd say maybe can I
24 take you to the store and I'd take him to the store.

25 But then I moved away from Charlotte and I was driving

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 back and forth to Charlotte and then one time I ran into
2 Daunte. We went out, had lunch, kicked it, or whatever and
3 then I went back home. And then I think he contacted me on
4 Facebook or something. And that's how I ran back into
5 Daunte. I was living in Manning then, and when I was living
6 in Manning, he came down a weekend. We spent time together
7 and then he left.

8 But then I, I think I ran into Daunte again when I was
9 in Charlotte and he was telling me he was homeless, and
10 that's when I told him well, hey, if you homeless, you can
11 come live with me for a little while until you get back on
12 your feet and then, you know, you get your own place.

13 Q. And that was in Sumter at Susie Rembert?

14 A. That was in Sumter in -- at Susie Rembert. I mean that
15 was in Manning and then I moved to Susie Rembert. Daunte
16 moved with me --

17 Q. I see.

18 A. -- to Sumter.

19 Q. From Manning?

20 A. From Manning to Sumter.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. When I got to Sumter on Susie Rembert Street, he met
23 Ms. Sharee. When he met Ms. Sharee---

24 Q. All right.

25 A. ---he stayed with me for maybe a week or two weeks and

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 after that he moved in with Ms. Sharee.

2 Q. I see.

3 And did you know Ms. Sharee?

4 A. I met her twice.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I helped her out once when she needed someone to get
7 her car cause she -- or license.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And then I met her -- she had a flat tire and I helped
10 her with the flat tire. But that was the only time.

11 Q. Back during this time period, August, 2019 --

12 A. Uh-huh.

13 Q. -- were you working in Sumter or Columbia?

14 A. I was working in Sumter.

15 Q. Okay. Was Daunte working?

16 A. Not as I know of.

17 Q. Okay. And while he was staying at your house, did he
18 have his own room?

19 A. In 2019 Daunte was not living with me then. Daunte --
20 I'm not sure which year it was or maybe it was the end of
21 the year. When he moved in with Sharee, I lost contact with
22 Daunte.

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. Daunte showed back up at my house in 2019.

25 Q. All right.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. But I was going through some personal problems with my
2 family --

3 Q. All right.

4 A. -- and that's how I found out that Daunte was back in
5 Sumter.

6 Q. I see.

7 So, did you have occasion to have him come to your
8 house and ask you for a ride or ask you to -- ask to ride
9 with you somewhere on August the 5th, 2019?

10 A. Yes, August the 5th of 29 -- 2019, Daunte came to my
11 house maybe around about 7:00, 7:30. I'm not
12 particularly---

13 Q. AM or PM?

14 A. ---sure of the time. But I was up getting dressed
15 because a friend of mines nephew wanted to -- me to take him
16 to the housing authority in Lake City. He was getting his
17 section 8 voucher. So I told him yes, I would take you to
18 get your voucher.

19 So I was already up getting dressed because, you know,
20 I had to go all the way out to Shaw Air Force Base to pick
21 him up and then make it to Lake City. So, I got up early so
22 we could have enough time to make it to the appointment, and
23 then around about 7:00, 7:30, Daunte knocks on my door.

24 Q. Were you expecting Daunte to knock on your door?

25 A. No, I was not expecting him.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. So what did he ask you?

2 A. He asked me can he come in. I say Daunte, you can come
3 in but I am on the way to take a friend of mines to Lake
4 City. You can come in. He said well, can I stay here. I
5 said -- and at -- and at first I said yeah. I say yeah, you
6 can stay until I get back. But at -- later on I thought
7 about it.

8 My daughter was expecting. You know how pregnant
9 people is and then they didn't really get along together.
10 So, I said oh, I said no, I wouldn't want her to wake up and
11 then maybe they get into a confrontation. So I say no,
12 Daunte, you ride with me. So, he got in the car with me.

13 Q. All right. What kind of car did you have at that time
14 if you remember?

15 A. A 2011 Nissan Altima two door.

16 Q. What color was it?

17 A. Red.

18 Q. So you and Daunte got in the red car?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When did you go from your house to where first?

21 A. I left my house and went to ■ Hard Pack Road --

22 Q. In---

23 A. -- in Shaw.

24 Q. That was to pick up your---

25 A. To pick up my friend's nephew, Devon.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Okay. And when you picked up Devon, there were three
2 of you in the car?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. You then traveled to Lake City?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What time is this that you're on your way to Lake City?

7 A. I'm not sure but it should of been -- if I left home
8 say 7:30, it should of took me what, no more than 15, 20
9 minutes to get there and then we picked him up and he was
10 already dressed, ready, and we left---

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. ---and went to Lake City.

13 Q. Do you remember what Daunte had on at that time that,
14 that day?

15 A. I couldn't remember. I can't really remember but I
16 thought he had on like some athletic shorts and a t-shirt.

17 Q. All right. And when you drove to Lake City, was Daunte
18 in the front seat or the back seat?

19 A. When I got to ■, ■ Hard Pack Road, Daunte was in the
20 front seat. Devon came out. He's a shorter gentleman. So,
21 I told Daunte, I say you need to get out, let Devon, Devon
22 in the back because my car is a two seater. A Nissan Altima
23 is not very spacious in the back. Really you can't fit too
24 much in there.

25 But Daunte was like no, I'll get in the back. He can

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 sit in the front. So Daunte got in the back and Devon got
2 in the front.

3 Q. What did Daunte do on the way to Lake City that
4 morning?

5 A. He was sleeping.

6 Q. Just a---

7 A. Laying down in the backseat sleeping. Well, I guess
8 position hisself the best way he could --

9 Q. All right.

10 A. -- taking a nap.

11 Q. So he didn't talk?

12 A. No, he didn't talk.

13 Q. He didn't engage either one of you in conversation?

14 A. No.

15 Q. All right. Once you got to Lake City, you had to wait
16 for the young man to go in and do his paperwork?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How long did that take?

19 A. Maybe -- I would say an hour, 30 minutes, hour. I'm
20 not sure.

21 Q. What were you and Daunte doing during that time?

22 A. I was hungry. I had done got up early that morning and
23 I wanted to get something to eat. So I say Daunte, do you
24 want something to eat. He was real quiet. He was like if
25 you buy me something to eat and usually that's not the type

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 of Daunte I'm use to because he's always playing, cutting
2 jokes, or whatever. I say yes, I'll buy you something to
3 eat. So, we went to Burger King and I got something to eat
4 and I bought him something to eat.

5 Q. Did you eat in the car or did you eat in the
6 restaurant?

7 A. We ate in the car. I came, came back to housing
8 authority and we ate in the car.

9 Q. All right. So, while you're waiting to -- for this
10 young man to finish inside, are you and Daunte talking?

11 A. Off and on. Not very much.

12 Q. All right. You said it was a different Daunte?

13 A. It was -- he was different --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- cause I'm so use to the playful Daunte. You know,
16 Daunte's a jokester, you know, very talkative. But this
17 morning he wasn't.

18 Q. When you got back from Lake City, did Daunte ride in
19 the backseat or the front seat coming back from Lake City?

20 A. I believe he rode in the backseat.

21 Q. Did he talk?

22 A. Devon was in the front seat. No, he just positioned
23 himself to lay in the backseat.

24 Q. All right. And then when you got back to your house,
25 you had to drop off the young man at Shaw?

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. You dropped him off at---

3 A. I dropped him off and then my friend which I did the
4 favor for taking his nephew got in the car and we drove back
5 to my house.

6 Q. What was his name?

7 A. Paul Bowman.

8 Q. Paul.

9 So Mr. Paul and you drive back to your house. Daunte's
10 still in the car.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Tell the jury, if you can remember, what time of day
13 was it that you arrived back at your house.

14 A. I was a little confused about the time because it -- I,
15 I, I wasn't just looking at the clock or anything. So, I'm
16 assuming maybe 12:30, 1:30 cause I was on -- when I dropped
17 them off, I went to go pick up a cake for my son. It was
18 his birthday.

19 Q. All right. So, you dropped Daunte off at Susie
20 Rembert?

21 A. Susie Rembert.

22 Q. Did you drop Paul off?

23 A. No, Paul rode with me to Wal-Mart.

24 Q. Okay. So y'all go to Wal-Mart to get what?

25 A. A cake --

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. A birthday cake?

2 A. -- and some ice cream for my son.

3 Q. Okay. After shopping, did you return back to the
4 house?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Did you see Daunte again that day?

7 A. I think he came in. He rode with my daughter in my car
8 to the El Cheapo to get a pack of cigarettes, looseys or
9 whatever. They wanted to take a smoke. Even though my
10 daughter was pregnant, she was trying to get rid of the
11 cravings. So every now and then she would take a, a puff
12 from a cigarette and they went to the store to get it --
13 some looseys or a pack of cigarettes.

14 Q. And then returned to your house?

15 A. Yes, and they returned to my house.

16 Q. Do you have an idea -- can you -- a recollection of
17 what time the police knocked on your house that night?

18 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure because, when they left, I
19 went to bed.

20 Q. Okay. So---

21 A. I went to take a nap.

22 Q. ---when you're saying when who left, when who left?

23 A. When my daughter, Courtney Daney, and him left to go to
24 El Cheapo to get the looseys --

25 Q. Right.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. -- I went in the room to take a nap.

2 Q. All right. Were you still napping when the police
3 knocked on the door?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. All right. And when you answered the door, were you
6 aware why they were there?

7 A. No one knocked on my door. I was laying down in the
8 bed and I just started hearing a lot of commotion. Like a
9 lot -- a loud noise and people saying things. So I didn't
10 know what was going on.

11 So, I was coming to the door. I think Daunte was
12 saying something to me, I'm not sure, because my mind was
13 get to the door. I need to know what's going on. So, when
14 I got to the door and opened the door, all I saw was
15 policemen.

16 Q. Was your daughter there then?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was Cody there then?

19 A. Yes, Cody -- my son was in the shower. So, when I got
20 to the door, and I saw all of these police, and I really
21 didn't know what was going on, the only thing I could think
22 of, my son is in the shower. My daughter probably was
23 outside but I knew for a fact my son was in the shower
24 because he said he was going out to dinner with some friends
25 for his birthday. It was his birthday.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 So I kept telling the police out like my son is in
2 there taking a shower. You know, I don't want anything to
3 happen to him because they had guns drawn on us.

4 So, I attempted to go back to the door to open the door
5 because he was like they was about to knock the door down.
6 I didn't want them storming in there and my son in the
7 shower. He doesn't know what going on cause he's in the
8 shower.

9 So, when I turned back to open the door, apparently
10 Daunte or someone, it was on -- my son was in the shower,
11 had locked the door. And so the next thing I know, when I
12 turned back around, my son must be had already gotten out
13 the shower and him and Daunte opened the door.

14 Q. Okay. Were you able to go back in your house after---

15 A. No.

16 Q. ---the police---

17 A. We were, we were not -- me or my daughter were not able
18 to go in there for hours. It was, it was really late at
19 night. We sat on the porch.

20 Q. I want to ask you if you can identify what's been
21 marked as State's Exhibit 39 again.

22 A. Yes, that's my living room couch.

23 Q. All right. And do you see what's in State's Exhibit 38
24 in this picture, Exhibit 39?

25 Do you see what's in 38 and 39?

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. What's in 38 is not in 39.

2 Q. Let me show you 37 and give you a better picture of
3 that.

4 A. Yes. Yes, it is.

5 Q. Is that your couch in, in the---

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. ---Exhibit, Exhibit 37?

8 A. Yes, it is.

9 Q. And what is that that's on the couch?

10 A. My kitchen knife.

11 Q. And is -- can you identify that as your kitchen knife?

12 A. Yes, that is my kitchen knife.

13 Q. Is that the same knife that's in 38?

14 A. Yes, it is.

15 Q. All right. Did you put that knife there?

16 A. No, I did not.

17 Q. Do you know how it got there?

18 A. No, I don't.

19 Q. All right. Very good. Excuse me one minute.

20. (Pause.)

21 Q. Let me take you back to -- cause I've only got a few
22 more questions for you.

23 when he showed -- when Daunte Johnson showed up on the
24 5th, the morning of the 5th, you said he was not expected?

25 A. No.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Did you -- and you told me why you took him to Lake
2 City?

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. Right.

5 So, did you -- after he was taken out of your house,
6 did you see him again or hear from him again?

7 A. Like once the police took him?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. Oh, no, hu huh. I had no contact with him.

10 Q. How long was it after that that you left Sumter and
11 moved to Columbia?

12 A. I moved to Columbia maybe three -- well, I didn't
13 actually move to Columbia. I think maybe two days. It was
14 a bunch of commotion going on in Sumter and everybody was
15 threatening my family's life. We moved to Florence into a
16 motel. We stayed in Florence in a hotel for two weeks.
17 Then we moved to Columbia.

18 My daughter went -- started having complications with
19 her pregnancy. So, we ended up being in the hospital for
20 three weeks with my daughter and then we found out -- found
21 an apartment in Columbia.

22 Q. And the commotion that you're talking about that was in
23 the community, what did it have to do with you?

24 A. Someone had put out that the little girl was at my
25 house, that I had the little girl, but I didn't have the

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 little girl. The police was there. The same day that it
2 happened, the police was there all day and all night, and
3 not only that, when they finished with the house, we went --
4 we had to go to the police station and talk to the police
5 also.

6 But they searched my house. They went up in the attic
7 and everywhere. Everything in my house was searched. The
8 little girl was not with me. But I guess it was so many
9 rumors, so much stuff going out on the Internet, they felt
10 as if I had the little girl.

11 Q. I understand.

12 When you saw him that morning, Daunte Johnson that
13 morning, unexpectedly, was he alone?

14 A. He was alone.

15 Q. And when he got in the car and rode to Lake City, was
16 he alone?

17 A. He was alone.

18 Q. All right. And you didn't see -- you didn't know
19 Minor 1, did you?

20 A. I've met Minor 1 back in 2018 when we first moved to
21 Sumter --

22 Q. All right.

23 A. -- when I gave her mother a ride -- well, I didn't give
24 her a ride. She got stopped by the police and I was nice
25 enough to get her car for her so it wouldn't get towed.

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And you met Minorl?

2 A. And, and Minorl was a little girl then.

3 Q. And on the day that he came to your house to see you
4 that morning and the day riding around Lake City --

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. -- you didn't see Minorl at all?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. I need you to do one more thing.

9 would you tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury, do
10 you see Daunte Johnson in the courtroom today?

11 You can stand up if you need to.

12 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

13 Q. Thank you, ma'am.

14 You see him over there?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: One moment, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

18 (Pause.)

19 Q. Last question.

20 Do you remember what day of the week it was that you
21 drove to Lake City?

22 A. No, sir, I just know that it was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] cause it
23 was my son's birthday.

24 Q. The day before [REDACTED] [REDACTED], did you have Mr. Daunte
25 Johnson spend the night at your house?

Winona Daney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure because Daunte has a lot of
2 drama. He's a---

3 MS. NEYLE: Objection.

4 A. ---sweetheart. I love him---

5 Q. Hold on.

6 A. ---to death.

7 Q. Hold on. Hold on.

8 MS. NEYLE: Relevance.

9 THE COURT: I'll overrule it.

10 Go ahead.

11 Q. Go ahead.

12 A. And he just have a lot of drama with him. So I do
13 remember telling him, I say Daunte, you can not stay with
14 me. I'm going through some issues with my family. I said
15 you can spend one night. After you spend that one night,
16 you must leave because I can not deal with anything but my
17 family at the moment.

18 Q. And you don't know whether, the night before -- cause
19 he -- you said he came to your house unexpected, knocked on
20 the door.

21 A. Oh, on August the 4th, no, cause August the 5th -- no,
22 he did not spend the night at my house, hu huh cause August
23 the 5th was the one he -- when he knocked on my door and,
24 and asked me can he come in. I get what you saying. No,
25 August the 4th, hu huh, no, he was not at my house.

Winona Daney - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 Q. All right. Thank you, ma'am. Answer any questions the
2 lawyer may have.

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION

4 BY MS. NEYLE:

5 Q. Ms. Daney, when, when Daunte arrived at your house the
6 morning of August the 5th you said he was wearing shorts and
7 a t-shirt?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. He was dressed normally?

10 A. He always put on shorts, uh-huh. Most of the time when
11 I see him in shorts and a t-shirt.

12 Q. All right. And you said on the way to Lake City he was
13 quiet?

14 A. Yeah, he was quiet.

15 Q. And he was sleeping?

16 A. He was laying back in the seat, eyes closed. So I'm
17 assuming he was asleep.

18 Q. Okay. And you also said that you had to leave Sumter
19 shortly after this happened?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And, and people were threatening you and your
22 family?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And they, they think that your family had
25 something to do with this?

Winona Dahey - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 A. They were thinking that I had the little girl.

2 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Your Honor, I have no further
3 questions.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 Thank you, Ms. Dahey.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. You can step down.
9 Anybody need a break?

10 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Call Darryl Spann to the stand.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Y'all need a break?

13 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I'm good.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Everybody good?

15 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

16 THE COURT: Okay. Y'all let me know now.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir, right up here. Put your
18 hand on the Bible.

19 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
20 your right-hand. State your name.

21 THE WITNESS: Darryl Spann.

22 DARRYL SPANN, being first duly
23 sworn, testified as follows:

24 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Have a seat right up
25 there. Have a seat. State your name for the record and

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 spell your last name please.

2 THE WITNESS: Darryl Spann. S-P-A-N-N.

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

5 Q. Good afternoon, sir.

6 would you like some water?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Could you tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury
9 where you live, what community?

10 Are you living in Sumter, Columbia, Manning?

11 A. Sumter.

12 Q. How long have you been in Sumter?

13 A. Oh, roughly 50 something years.

14 Q. All your life?

15 A. Mostly.

16 Q. Did you go to high school here?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. And what is your occupation?

19 A. Team leader at John Evans Manufacturing.

20 Q. How long have you been there?

21 A. Seven years.

22 Q. Okay. What kind of work do you do there?

23 A. We build chassis.

24 Q. For trucks and cars?

25 A. For trucks.

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. You said John Evans?

2 A. John Evans Manufacturing.

3 Q. That's out on 15?

4 A. Yes, 1050---

5 Q. Yes, sir.

6 A. ---Pocalla Road.

7 Q. You know why you're here today?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. All right. Did you have a close relationship with
10 Sharee Bradley?

11 A. Yes, I did.

12 Q. And when did that relationship start?

13 A. Roughly around 2016.

14 Q. And how did you-all meet?

15 A. I was staying out in Vernon Circle. I use to go out my
16 backyard where I hang my rugs out on the line and she use to
17 be on the back porch with her kids.

18 Q. Was she a resident of that area?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. And y'all, y'all got to be friendly?

21 A. Yes, we did.

22 Q. Did the relationship develop?

23 A. Later.

24 Q. All right. And you said in 2016 it started.
25 So, when did it get serious?

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. In 2016 we were just friends for about a couple of
2 years. She use to bring the kids over and my grandkids and
3 they played. We watched movies. But, in 2019, it got a
4 little serious.

5 Q. All right. So, are you saying -- the beginning of 2019
6 would of been January.

7 A. Roughly---

8 Q. Did you do something to let her know how serious you
9 were?

10 A. I asked her to marry me.

11 Q. All right. And what did she say?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right. So were plans being made?

14 A. Yeah, we got engaged.

15 Q. All right. And at that time when you got engaged where
16 was she living?

17 A. She was staying in Vernon Circle and then she moved.

18 Q. To where?

19 A. Dalzell.

20 Q. All right. And was she living in a trailer?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. In Dalzell?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then did she have her children with her there?

25 A. Yes.

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. Did something happen to stop the plans for
2 the wedding?

3 A. Yes, she told me she was having problems with her past
4 relationship, that she was bringing it to our relationship,
5 and she want to call the engagement off till, till she get
6 her things straightened out.

7 Q. All right. So, when would you say that the engagement
8 was stopped?

9 A. Around February, March.

10 Q. Okay. And February, March, April, May, June, this time
11 period, the Spring of 2019, how often would you talk to her?

12 A. We talked details on the telephone.

13 Q. Regular?

14 A. Regular.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. We see each other some time but just in and out.

17 Q. All right.

18 A. You know, she'll come and visit or something like that.

19 Q. All right. Did you have occasion to talk with Sharee
20 on the telephone on Saturday, which would I think been the
21 3rd of August?

22 A. Yes, I did.

23 Q. And how do you remember that call?

24 A. Me and her was talking and she keep telling me we
25 was---

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Objection. Hearsay.

2 A. Me and her was talking and---

3 Q. Hold on.

4 THE COURT: Hold on a minute.

5 Q. Hold on.

6 A. Okay.

7 THE COURT: For what, for what purpose are you having
8 it offered in?

9 Is it for the truth of the matter asserted or --?

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I, I was trying to get in some
11 details about the call. Not the conversation itself. So,
12 let me rephrase the question.

13 When you had this conversation with her, you remember
14 if she called you or you call her?

15 A. She called me.

16 Q. All right. And y'all were talking?

17 A. We were talking on the phone.

18 Q. Now there's a rule about hearsay. So you can't say
19 what she told you.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. But as a result of talking to her, did you -- did
22 something happen to the phone conversation that got
23 interrupted?

24 A. Yeah, she told me that---

25 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. That she'll---

2 MS. NEYLE: Hearsay.

3 A. Well---

4 THE COURT: Hold on.

5 A. She, she -- go ahead.

6 Q. All right. So you can't say what she said.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. So you -- but you can tell me what you remember about
9 from your side.

10 Did, did you keep talking to her?

11 A. No, but a brief pause. Somebody was at the door.

12 Q. All right. So, you held on the phone while she went
13 away from the phone?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And the talking stopped?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did she come back to the phone?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And did you resume the conversation?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And then something else happened?

22 A. It paused again.

23 Q. Paused again.

24 Now, during this -- how much time are we talking about
25 you-all were on the phone?

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. About 10 or 15 minutes.
- 2 Q. And was this a Sunday night?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. All right. And can you remember about what time in the
- 5 evening it was?
- 6 A. Roughly around 9:30, 10:00.
- 7 Q. In the evening?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And you talk for how long?
- 10 A. About 15, 20 minutes.
- 11 Q. All right. And so there was a call to you. Y'all
- 12 talked.
- 13 A. Uh-huh.
- 14 Q. Then you had to hold on?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Then some more talking?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And then you had to hold on again?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And then y'all said good night?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Is that the last time you talked with her?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Okay. Were you able to tell, at that time, whether
- 25 anybody else was in the house with her?

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. And did something -- did you -- when you said
3 good night, I'll see you later, did you go to bed?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What time do you usually get up to go to work in the
6 morning?

7 A. 3:45.

8 Q. And do you have -- you don't have to travel too far?
9 You just have to be at work early?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. All right. Did anything unusual happen after you got
12 up that Monday morning?

13 A. I went to work and I got a picture from her phone about
14 6:28 that morning.

15 Q. Say that to the jury again.

16 A. About 6:28 I got a picture from her and that was
17 unusual that she sent me a picture that early in the
18 morning.

19 Q. Had she ever sent you a picture like since January of
20 that year?

21 A. No.

22 Q. All right. I want to show you what's been marked as
23 State's Exhibit No. 2.

24 Can you identify that picture?

25 A. Yes.

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. What, what is that?

2 A. That's a picture of Sharee.

3 Q. That's the picture you got on your phone?

4 A. That's the picture I got on that phone the morning she
5 text me.

6 Q. All right. And it was the morning of August the 5th?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All right. And did you share this picture with the
9 police officers?

10 Did you send the picture that was on your phone to the
11 police officers?

12 A. I sent it to her sister.

13 Q. To her sister?

14 A. Uh-huh.

15 Q. Is that Eisha?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. And so this picture was sent to Eisha and
18 then maybe that's how the police got it?

19 You didn't send it to them?

20 A. No, I sent it to Eisha.

21 Q. All right. And this is the picture?

22 A. That's the picture.

23 Q. Had you seen this picture before?

24 A. I want to say yes, the night before I think.

25 Q. The night before?

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Or Saturday.

2 Q. How did you see it?

3 A. She, she show it to me, text it to me.

4 Q. On the phone that wasn't -- y'all weren't standing
5 side-by-side and looking at the phone?

6 You -- she's -- you're saying that she texted the
7 picture?

8 A. Yeah.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Exhibit No. 2.

10 MS. NEYLE: I have no objection.

11 THE COURT: All right. Are you offering it into
12 evidence, Mr. Solicitor?

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I am.

14 THE COURT: All right. It's in without objection.

15 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 2 was received into
16 evidence at this time.)

17 Q. You say you got the picture sent to your phone from her
18 phone?

19 A. 6:28 that morning.

20 Q. 6:28 that morning?

21 A. Monday morning.

22 Q. And was there any message with it?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Just a picture.

25 And how did you find out that she had been killed?

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. I got a call from her friend about 3:45 when I got off
2 from work. I was laying down in the bed and I got the
3 phonecall.
- 4 Q. In the evening?
- 5 A. About four o'clock, 4:30 that evening.
- 6 Q. All right. Did you do anything as a result of finding
7 out that news?
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. What did you do?
- 10 A. I jumped in my car and went out there.
- 11 Q. To Lantana?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. All right. Were there a lot of people out there?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. Were there police there?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you have occasion to talk with a police officer and
18 give a statement?
- 19 A. No, I don't think so.
- 20 Q. Did you give a statement later on, maybe the next day
21 or --?
- 22 A. Later on I give a statement.
- 23 Q. All right. Did you ever have occasion to meet Daunte
24 Johnson?
- 25 A. Yes.

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Tell us about that.

2 A. Sharee had a friend that stayed behind me and they were
3 over at her house and I opened my back-door and they was out
4 there playing with the kids one day. And the kids came over
5 to my house and he came over to get Minor³ and that's when I
6 met him.

7 Q. Is that---

8 A. And I, and I met him again. One day it was pouring
9 down rain and, and him or her came up to my back-door and
10 asked me can they come in till the rain stop.

11 Q. Okay. And those are the only time?

12 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

13 Q. Did you know who he was?

14 A. (WHEREUPON, there was no audible response.)

15 Q. All right. Say yes, sir or no.

16 A. Yeah. No, sir.

17 Q. All right. So she can take it down.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Do you know how long that was before August the
20 5th that you met him those two times?

21 was that close to August of --?

22 A. I want to say about five months later, something like
23 that.

24 Q. Five months before --

25 A. Yeah.

Darryl Spann - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. -- she died?

2 And the phone picture that you got that morning on your
3 phone, it came from her phone?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you know that?

6 A. I bought the phone for her.

7 Q. What kind of phone was it?

8 A. It been an iPhone.

9 Q. What color was it?

10 A. Kind of pink lookings.

11 Q. Okay. Thank you. Hold on one second.

12 (Pause.)

13 Q. Thank you. Answer any questions the lawyer may have.

14 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no, no questions for
15 him.

16 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down. Thank you.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you for coming, sir.

18 Your Honor, could we take a 10 minute break?

19 THE COURT: Okay. We'll take a 10 minute break.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, sir.

21 THE COURT: I remind you don't discuss the case. See
22 you in 10 minutes.

23 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was taken at this time.)

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Judge, I expect -- this is Mr.

1 Kearney, the crime scene technician. We gonna talk about
2 pictures and evidence and then, then I'd like to take a, a
3 break for the evening after we finish with him.

4 THE COURT: So we're gonna finish with him by 5:00 or
5 5:30?

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Maybe before 5:00.

7 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I don't---

9 THE COURT: I normally don't let, especially on the
10 second day, leave the jury here till ten o'clock at night.
11 So, I don't want to start the week by getting them mad at
12 me.

13 Okay. That will work.

14 Are you ready for me to bring the jury in?

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: All right.

17 THE BAILIFF: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Let's bring the jury please sir.

19 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
20 presence of the jury.)

21 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

23 Mr. Solicitor, you may call your next witness.

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Officer Kearney, Sumter Police
25 Department.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
2 your right-hand. State your name.

3 THE WITNESS: James J. Kearney, IV.

4 JAMES J. KEARNEY, being first duly
5 sworn, testified as follows:

6 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much, sir. Step around please.
7 State your name for the record and spell your last name
8 please.

9 THE WITNESS: Detective James Kearney, IV.
10 K-E-A-R-N-E-Y.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

13 Q. Good afternoon, detective.

14 A. Afternoon, sir.

15 Q. Tell us where you are employed.

16 A. The Sumter Police Department in the forensics division.

17 Q. How long have you been associated with the forensics
18 division?

19 A. Five years.

20 Q. All right, sir. And---

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. ---you are carrying the rank of detective.

23 Do you have a specialty there?

24 When you say forensics, is that also known as crime
25 scene investigation?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. That is crime scene investigations---

2 Q. All right.

3 A. ---yes, sir.

4 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury kind of what
5 you do as a normal, routine procedure when you are arriving
6 at a crime scene.

7 A. We respond to the scene, make sure that everything has
8 been secured, start evaluating the information that we have
9 at the time, and start looking at the physical evidence of
10 items that are there that may be part of or prudent to the
11 case.

12 Q. Do you take photographs?

13 A. I do, sir. We photograph every crime scene.

14 Q. Do you take samples of forensic evidence that may be
15 left at the crime scene?

16 A. Any forensic evidence, physical evidence, any items
17 that may pertain to the incident that occurred.

18 Q. And so obviously you had to respond to the crime scene
19 at Lantana Apartments?

20 A. I did, sir.

21 Q. All right. And as a result of going in there and
22 taking photographs, did you take photographs that evening?

23 A. I did, sir.

24 Q. All right. Let me start with something else.

25 Did you also, at my request, produce a mock-up of the,

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 the apartment that you --

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. -- investigated?

4 A. Yes, sir, I did.

5 Q. I'm gonna show you what's been marked as State's
6 Exhibit No. 47 and ask if you can identify this.

7 A. That would be a topographical view of the apartment---

8 Q. Was---

9 A. ---layout.

10 Q. What do you mean when you say topographical?

11 A. Looking at it from the top down instead of looking into
12 the room. You're looking at it basically from the ceiling
13 down toward the floor.

14 Q. And did you prepare this based on the information you
15 received and, and, and photographed that evening at
16 apartment I think ■ at Lantana?

17 A. Yes, sir, Apartment ■ I did.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move to introduce.

19 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. What, what number is it, solicitor?

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thirty -- excuse me, 47, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Forty-seven is in without objection.

23 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 47 was received into
24 evidence at this time.)

25 Q. Could you give the ladies and gentlemen of the jury a

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 little bit or just kind of show them around so the front
2 door, back-door, what you found that day?

3 A. It's -- the main entrance is over on that side of where
4 the parking lot's at. There's a courtyard back this
5 direction.

6 As we walked in the front door, you see swirling marks
7 on the floor. Also the aroma of lavender type of cleaning
8 solution. The toys, lights, everything you would notice in
9 a, in a living room right inside the door. You got the
10 sofa, the pile of clothing. There's a body rolled up in the
11 middle of the floor where the feet were just poking out of
12 it. The mop with the mop bucket in the corner.

13 These stick -- these are stairs here. They go up to
14 the second floor of the apartment. The first couch over
15 here underneath the window facing the parking lot. Had one
16 arm on it versus the second one here on wall 2 had two arms
17 on that particular couch and there's a large pile of
18 clothing there on the floor.

19 was walking in. Then you have like a dining room type
20 area with the table. Off of that on this direction is the
21 bathroom and like a child's playroom. Had toys in it. And
22 then -- but you're gonna continue straight through. A small
23 kitchen area and a back exit to get out of the residence.

24 Q. And so the front door would of been in this area here?

25 A. Yes, sir.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And the front door opens up to what?

2 A. The parking lot area.

3 Q. All right. And the back-door opens up to what?

4 A. A courtyard where they maintain a dumpster for the
5 facility.

6 Q. All right. Let me put this down.

7 Can you tell us a little bit about what you did that
8 evening when you went into the apartment?

9 Was Ms. Sharee Bradley still there and rolled up?

10 A. She was.

11 Q. All right.

12 A. She---

13 Q. Did you photograph her?

14 A. Yes, sir, I did.

15 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as State's
16 Exhibit No. 16 and ask you if you can identify that.

17 A. That's a photograph from the entryway of the apartment
18 into the living room itself where you have the pile of
19 clothing, the two armed couch, and Ms. Bradley rolled up in
20 the carpet.

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move to ex -- admit 16.

22 MS. NEYLE: No objection, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

24 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 16 was received into
25 evidence at this time.)

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: We, we want to put it on the screen
2 for the jury to see, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Once it's in you can publish it.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: We would ask that the photograph be
6 published to the jury.

7 THE COURT: Okay. It's in evidence. You can publish
8 it.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well, I mean on the screen. I
10 have -- I've identified it on --.

11 THE COURT: I understand that. But somebody's got to
12 put it up on the screen.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: There it is.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 Q. I believe I heard you say, detective, that, when you
16 came in to the front door area, you said something about the
17 floor, something being on the floor?

18 A. There's swirling marks. Looked like a mop had been
19 used out -- you know, it's like when you mop a house,
20 sometimes there's that little residual behind it and it
21 leaves those trails marks and that's what we noticed.

22 Q. All right. And you saw that in the front door and did
23 you see that at the front door area of the apartment?

24 A. Yes, sir, and throughout the living room area.

25 Q. Through the living room area?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. All right. I'm gonna start at the outside, detective.

3 Ask for you to identify what's on State's Exhibit No. 28.

4 A. It's the outside of the front of the apartment.

5 Q. And what is, is the apartment number?

6 A. Number ■.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Move to admit 20 -- 28.

8 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

9 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

10 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 28 was received into
11 evidence at this time.)

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Show it to the jury please?

13 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

14 Q. And do you see the stairwell that you talked about
15 earlier --

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. -- in that picture?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Did you have occasion to go upstairs to look for
20 forensic evidence?

21 A. We did. We checked the upstairs as well --

22 Q. Did you find anything?

23 A. -- processed it. No, sir.

24 Q. All right. Seventeen. I want to show you what's in
25 State's Exhibit 17 and ask you can, can you identify it?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir, that's another angle into the living room
2 from in front of one of the couches toward the dining room
3 area.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move that 17 be admitted.

5 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

6 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

7 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 17 was received into
8 evidence at this time.)

9 Q. In the far corner of this picture, Mr. Kearney, do you
10 see -- can you tell me what you see?

11 A. There's a pile of clothing directly in front. Just
12 past that is the rolled up body of Sharee Bradley in the
13 carpet. Beyond that is a little toy car that you're able --
14 the child's able to sit inside and then the dining room
15 behind that.

16 Q. And what's it -- what is that in the corner, a blue
17 handle looking---

18 A. So the red, the red mop bucket with the, with the blue
19 handled mop in the corner.

20 Q. All right. And did you examine the red mop bucket and
21 the blue handle mop?

22 A. Yes, sir, I did.

23 Q. All right. And I show you Exhibit No. 3. Ask you if
24 you can identify it.

25 A. It's a top view of the mop bucket with the mop in it---

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. ---and it---

3 Q. Excuse me, sir. Go ahead.

4 A. And a red fluid inside the bottom of the mop bucket.

5 Q. And is that how you found it when you came in to
6 examine the crime scene?

7 A. Yes, sir, that's how we found it.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Move State's Exhibit No.
9 3 in.

10 MS. NEYLE: No objection.

11 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

12 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 3 was received into
13 evidence at this time.)

14 Q. And do you -- could you tell us what's in State's No.
15 4?

16 A. It's a focused in view of the mop and the red solution.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move No. 4 in.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no objection.

20 THE COURT: All right. It's in without objection.

21 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 4 was received into
22 evidence at this time.)

23 Q. Did you have occasion to collect the mop and the
24 bucket?

25 A. Yes, sir, we did.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And did you put it in evidence?

2 A. Yes, sir, we did.

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Put a sticker on this one.

4 (WHEREUPON, the mop was marked as State's Exhibit No.
5 52 for identification purposes only at this time.)

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay. Thank you.

7 Let me show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit
8 No. 52 and ask if you can identify it.

9 A. Yes, sir, that's the mop that we recovered from the,
10 from the crime scene.

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move 52 into evidence.

12 MS. NEYLE: Without objection.

13 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

14 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 52 was received into
15 evidence at this time.)

16 Q. Tell us a little bit, Mr. Kearney, about what you saw
17 in the living room area that, that day when you got there in
18 terms of forensic evidence that was left behind.

19 A. There was bloodstain on the walls.

20 Do we---

21 Q. Yes, sir.

22 A. Can we use the---

23 Q. Please do.

24 A. When you first walked in and we saw the, the little
25 scooter that was just inside the door, it's a child play toy

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 where you put one foot on the pad and kind of pushed it with
2 your foot kind of scooter, there was pooling underneath
3 there that seemed to be the cleaning solution plus possible
4 blood. We also had blood spatter on top of the footpad
5 where you would normally put your foot while riding the
6 scooter.

7 Q. Let me ask you to look at State's Exhibit No. 18 and
8 tell us what you see in that photograph.

9 A. That's the back portion of the scooter on the bottom --
10 with the, with the footpad. Also the slight pooling of the
11 blood and possible cleaning solution on the floor.

12 Q. And in State's Exhibit No. 19.

13 A. It's a close-up view of a blood spot that was on the
14 footpad of the scooter up near the front by the handle.

15 Q. Can you hold that for me?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Move 18 and 19 in.

18 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no objection.

19 THE COURT: All right. They're in without objection.

20 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 18 and 19 were
21 received into evidence at this time.)

22 Q. That's State's Exhibit No. 18 on the, on the big
23 screen.

24 The blood that you said was pooling, is -- tell the,
25 tell the jury where it is on -- in that picture.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. It's near the power cords underneath the base of the
2 tire.

3 Q. Is that near the rear wheel?

4 A. Yes, sir, near the rear wheel.

5 Q. All right. And the next one on State's Exhibit 19,
6 where is the blood?

7 A. That's on the footpad over here where the handlebars
8 would connect down onto the scooter itself.

9 Q. And did you have occasion to take samples of the blood
10 on the scooter so that they could be sent to the laboratory?

11 A. Yes, sir, we did.

12 Q. Where else did you see blood in the apartment?

13 A. There was cast-off on the ceiling.

14 Q. All right.

15 A. And we also had wall processing. I'm just gonna go
16 directly to it. We've got -- there was blood staining on
17 the cushion of the couch, blood staining on the fabric on
18 the back of the couch, the one armed couch that's at the
19 window. Underneath the clothing pile on the floor there was
20 a heavy pooling of blood very coagulated. Underneath the,
21 the victim, Sharee's body, when we moved her, more had
22 drained out and pooled underneath her as well.

23 We also noticed staining on the floor in front of this
24 two armed couch, more droplets there along with the wall
25 section here on one. But, again, on -- the cast-off was on

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 the ceiling going in this direction in the, in the
2 apartment.

3 Q. All right. And when you're talking about cast-off, can
4 you explain what that is and showing the jury in Exhibits
5 23, 24, 25, and No. 5?

6 I'll hold this if -- let me, let me ask you.

7 Are those photographs of the cast-off blood that you
8 found?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Now let me get these entered.

11 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no objection.

12 THE COURT: All right. They're in without objection.

13 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 5, 23 through 25 were
14 received into evidence at this time.)

15 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury what you mean
16 when you say cast-off blood.

17 A. Cast-off blood is blood that is on an object. When
18 that object is slung, there's a significant enough amount of
19 blood on the object. So while you're swinging it, it is
20 slinging the blood off of the object while it's in, in
21 motion.

22 Q. All right. Can you give us an example of what you're
23 seeing in this picture that's on the screen, which is
24 State's Exhibit 23?

25 A. What that would be is cast-off blood coming back---

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

2 May we approach?

3 THE COURT: Yes.

4 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
5 hearing of the jury at this time.)

6 Q. Detective Kearney, in your responsibilities in the
7 crime lab or crime forensic department, have you had special
8 training to examine and determine what was going on in crime
9 scenes?

10 A. Yes, we've had several classes that en -- entail blood
11 spatter pattern where you would determine the difference
12 between cast-off versus impressions versus a, a splash and
13 splash or blood in blood type pooling, swipes, wipes, all
14 different types of things that can be done to blood either
15 while it's in motion or while it's been sitting and
16 disturbed after been sitting.

17 Q. Okay. And these classes, these are training --
18 educational things that you all -- you have to go through?

19 A. They are training classes, yes, sir.

20 Q. Have you been doing this for your entire time in the
21 forensics lab?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. All right. And are you, are you qualified to say that,
24 by your experience, that you have been able to determine
25 different patterns, different kinds of forensic blood type

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 evidence when you---

2 MS. NEYLE: Objection.

3 Q. ---look at a crime scene?

4 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MS. NEYLE: It calls for a legal conclusion.

7 THE COURT: Okay. We need -- you never asked him about
8 his training and education.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

10 THE COURT: And then you can ask him whether he's ever
11 been qualified---

12 Q. All right. As far as your---

13 THE COURT: ---as an expert.

14 Q. ---training and education, have you been trained --
15 give me your background as far as -- you graduated high
16 school?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Where at?

19 A. Sumter High.

20 Q. And then where did you go on to study?

21 A. Johnson & Wales University and Central Carolina.

22 Q. And what did you study there?

23 I mean did you get a degree?

24 A. I did get a---

25 Q. What did---

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. ---Associate's, Associate's Degree in Science with
2 the -- Central Carolina, a Bachelor's and Associate's in
3 Science with Culinary Arts in Johnson & Wales and a
4 Bachelor's in Nutrition at Johnson & Wales.

5 Q. All right. Have you had any further studies since
6 those degrees have been earned?

7 A. In training, yes, sir.

8 Q. In training?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Tell us about the training you've received as a result
11 of being a police officer in terms of the forensics.

12 A. In terms of forensics, we've -- crime scene
13 investigator classes that -- from fingerprint processing,
14 spatter patterns, photography, alternate light sources,
15 different ways of processing to collect different evidence,
16 documenting the blood staining.

17 Q. Do you have to be trained in how to collect evidence at
18 a scene so as to be able to preserve it?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. All right. And have you had that training?

21 A. I have had that training, yes, sir.

22 Q. All right. And have you had training, educational
23 experience, training in terms of how to look at patterns of
24 blood or, or forensic evidence at a crime scene to determine
25 how it got there, who -- and maybe who put it there?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. We have had practice with different stainings in
2 different classes.

3 Q. All right. Is there any other experience that you've
4 been able to gather, for example?

5 Have you gone to the FBI Academy, something like that?

6 A. I have not gone to the FBI Academy, sir.

7 Q. All right. Very good.

8 Do, do you normally work with SLED, the State Law
9 Enforcement Division in Columbia, on technical things?

10 Do you have seminars or trainings with them on crime
11 scene type issues?

12 A. We do them with the South Carolina Criminal Justice
13 Academy. SLED may be a part of the class but the academy
14 hosts the class.

15 Q. And how often have you had to do that training with the
16 academy?

17 A. It varies on a yearly basis. But we usually see
18 something in the blood spatter pattern, fingerprinting
19 processing at least once a year.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Your Honor, I would
21 offer that he's an -- eligible to give testimony on blood
22 spatter from his experience and education.

23 THE COURT: You want to be heard?

24 MS. NEYLE: I just would like to ask a few questions.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. NEYLE:

3 Q. Detective Kearney, how many hours of training have you
4 received in blood spatter analysis?

5 A. I'd say about 40 hours, ma'am.

6 Q. And that's over the span of how long?

7 A. Five years.

8 Q. And how many specific classes have you completed
9 regarding blood spatter?

10 A. Five.

11 Q. How many trials have you testified in as an expert in
12 blood spatter?

13 A. Zero.

14 Q. Can you, can you explain your methodology for analyzing
15 a scene for blood spatter?

16 A. Can you reword the question please?

17 Q. When you, when you arrive to a crime scene, how do you
18 analyze the scene for blood spatter?

19 A. Looking at the spatter, the different ways that it
20 is -- appears to have been pushed, put onto the surface,
21 whether it's been through a spurt, a transfer of like a
22 swipe or wipe, has drag marks through said items, it's
23 cause -- and there could be something like a stain over a
24 swab that's been swiped over where the stain will leave its
25 outside ridges most often and then the swiping come across

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 and disturb that original stain. But you still have the
2 outline from the original spot that was there.

3 When you start looking at the different angles of
4 attack of spatter, the length of the spots on the smooth
5 surface can give you directionality along with the tail and
6 the length. And then along with that item, the width, there
7 is a formula that can be used to be -- determined the angle
8 at which the stain occurred on the surface.

9 Q. And once you analyze a crime scene, does anyone in your
10 office do any peer review of your analysis?

11 A. No, ma'am.

12 Q. Okay. And did you prepare a report re -- regarding
13 blood spatter for this case?

14 A. I did not.

15 MS. NEYLE: Beg the Court's indulgence.

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 (Pause.)

18 Q. Just a few other questions, Detective Kearney.

19 Are there -- what organizations support the way that
20 you analyze blood spatter?

21 A. What organizations support it?

22 Q. Is there, is there a methodology that you follow?

23 Is there a name for it?

24 A. A name for it, that -- not that I'm familiar. I could
25 tell you the different groups that gave me the training.

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So the---

3 Q. And what are those groups?

4 A. The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy,
5 Southeastern Investigative Group.

6 Q. And is there a rate of error for the particular
7 technique you have for analyzing blood spatter?

8 A. Yes, ma'am, there are.

9 Q. And what is it?

10 A. I am not familiar with the exact number.

11 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I believe we have a matter of law.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I need to send
13 you to the jury room a minute. Don't discuss the case yet.
14 I'll get you back out in a few minutes.

15 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
16 presence of the jury.)

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I respectfully object to Detective
19 Kearney being qualified as an expert in blood spatter. I
20 don't think he has the necessary qualifications regarding
21 his, his bachelor's degree, judge. He testified that he's
22 never testified in a trial before regarding blood spatter,
23 judge.

24 He's only participated in five classes throughout his
25 career regarding blood spatter. He's not familiar with the

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By MS. Neyle

1 rate of error of the technique of which he's suppose to be
2 an expert in which he's asking to be qualified in, judge.
3 I -- and I, I would point to State v. Council which looks
4 at, when considering the admissibility of a scientific
5 evidence, an expert, the Court looks at, number one, the
6 complications of the technique, prior application, three
7 quality control measures, measures, consistency of the
8 method and other Court, I think State v. White, looks at the
9 peer review consideration of general acceptance and the rate
10 of error in scientific methodology.

11 I don't think he's established rate of error. I think
12 he has no peer review of his analysis, judge, and that case
13 that I'm citing to is the State v. Council, 515 S.E.2d 508.

14 THE COURT: Okay. You want to, you want to address
15 that, solicitor?

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Please the Court. I do believe that
17 this witness has testified before on blood splatter.

18 THE COURT: He said he hadn't.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I believe he's---

20 THE COURT: He's never testified -- he's told her---

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Not as an expert, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: That's right---

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I don't---

24 THE COURT: ---and that's what you were qualifying him
25 as.

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I, I was only qualifying him to get
2 to the point of showing his training and experience for him
3 to testify about, about what he found. He's not testifying
4 that -- who put it there from somebody ever---

5 THE COURT: Nobody ever testifies as to who puts it
6 there.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well---

8 THE COURT: He's got to interpret what it means.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir, and I believe, from his
10 observation, his experience, and his training, he can
11 testify that there's a difference between a drop of blood
12 and a, a sliver of blood that has been propelled there
13 from -- as a cast-off. And so what we're trying to
14 determine is are there different types of blood -- he's
15 already testified that there was swirling there as if it had
16 been cleaned with a mop.

17 He's also testified that he found long streaks of blood
18 like in Exhibit 23 and he will soon testify about little
19 drops of blood that were found in areas of the house that
20 are different from those two items that he's already found
21 and testified about.

22 THE COURT: And I understand that and he can testify as
23 to those things that he observed. A drop, this is --
24 appears to be a drop of blood. This appears to be a swirl
25 left from a mop. This appears to be a streak.

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 But I'm not sure he's qualified in testifying in blood
2 spatter. I've had a number of experts from SLED testify to
3 this. They have extensive training on what that spatter
4 means, i.e. what direction that the object was coming from,
5 you know, sometimes the distance it was away, how it hit.
6 By looking at that blood on the wall, they can testify as to
7 whether it came from top to bottom.

8 So they've had extensive training in blood spatter
9 means versus finding blood on the wall and interpret. You
10 know, I've had scenarios where the direction of the blood
11 spatter and who left it was important in, in a trial.

12 So, I'm not really sure. He hadn't had any -- he
13 doesn't have any peer review. He doesn't know the rate of
14 error and I think he can testify as to what he found and
15 whether it's a drop or a streak. But I'm not really sure he
16 can testify as to what that streak means as far as blood
17 spatter's concerned.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: I mean he may be able to. But you -- it
20 hadn't been in the record that he is been -- ever testified
21 as an expert---

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well, you got---

23 THE COURT: ---in blood spatter.

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ---to testify one time before you
25 get---

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 THE COURT: I under---

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ---to be an expert.

3 THE COURT: I understand that. I've had that happen
4 too.

5 But you got to -- you got to run through all the hoops
6 to -- of your education, your training, how you -- your peer
7 review, who's looked at it. Just like in reading
8 fingerprints, you have somebody looking over your shoulder
9 in peer review in a fingerprint to, to agree with you that
10 they're 15 or 16 points are -- so, I think he can testify
11 that the blood is on the scene and he -- and this appears to
12 be a drop and this appears to be a streak on the wall. But
13 I'm not sure he can testify as to an expert as to what those
14 streaks mean.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Y'all -- you ready for the jury?

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

18 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
19 presence of the jury.)

20 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are all seated, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

22 Mr. solicitor, you may proceed.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Mr. Kearney, let's pick up again on the blood that you
2 found there.

3 Did, did you have occasion, in the examination of the
4 apartment, to find blood on the walls in the area of wall 1
5 and wall 2, the corner of the apartment?

6 A. Yes, sir, I did.

7 Q. All right. And did you take photographs of it?

8 A. Yes, sir, I did.

9 Q. I want to show you State's Exhibit No. 23.

10 Ask you if you can identify that.

11 A. That would be on the wall 1.

12 Q. Wall of 1?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Wall 1 in this diagram?

15 A. Yes, sir, between the, between the, between the window
16 and the corner of the, the room here.

17 Q. All right. Very good.

18 And how high up on the wall would you say that, that --

19 A. I would say---

20 Q. -- blood sample was?

21 A. -- 5 feet.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Twenty-three, ask it be
23 introduced in.

24 THE COURT: It's---

25 MS. NEYLE: I think it's already in.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: It's already in, isn't it?

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Very good.

3 THE COURT: Isn't it -- Madam Court Reporter, is it, is
4 it in?

5 THE DIGITAL REPORTER: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Yeah, it -- 23, 24, and 25 and five
7 are in without objection.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Very good.

9 Detective, I want to show you what's been marked as
10 State's Exhibit 32 and ask if you took a picture of clothing
11 on the floor.

12 A. Yes, sir, I took that picture.

13 Q. Was there blood on the floor associated with those
14 clothes?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. This is No. 20, excuse me, 32.

17 MS. NEYLE: I have no objection to this photo.

18 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.

19 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 32 was received into
20 evidence at this time.)

21 Q. Do you see a pattern on the, on the floor here of --
22 can you tell something?

23 A. This was a circular type pattern underneath the towels.
24 More of a pooling with the volume of blood that's there.

25 Q. All right. And I want to show you State's Exhibit No.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 9 and ask if you took a picture of that area of the floor.

2 A. Yes, sir, I did.

3 Q. What do you notice in that area of the floor that you
4 took a picture of?

5 A. There were circular droplets of blood on the floor in
6 front of the couch.

7 Q. And do those blood droplets look similar or different
8 than the blood in 24 and the blood in 32?

9 A. There's significantly more blood in 32 as a pool. The
10 other little spots, they could be approximately the same
11 volume of blood, just spread out differently.

12 Q. And the, the, the droplets that are on the floor in
13 State's Exhibit No. 9 --?

14 THE COURT: No. 9's not in now.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay. Move No. 9 in.

16 THE COURT: All right. Any objection?

17 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. It's in without objection.

19 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 9 was received into
20 evidence at this time.)

21 THE COURT: How many more that you intend to move in
22 that we hadn't gotten to yet?

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: It may be 10 or 12 left.

24 THE COURT: Okay. You want to do them one by one?

25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor---

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Is this -- did he take every one of these
2 pictures?

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: You want to do them one by one or you want
5 to do them as a group?

6 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, we can admit them as a group.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

9 THE COURT: So you've, you've seen them all here and
10 you have -- assuming he's gonna explain them?

11 MS. NEYLE: Yes, sir, and if I could just briefly look
12 at those, the remainder, so I can --.

13 THE COURT: All right. Show them to him and then that
14 way we might can speed, speed this process up.

15 MS. NEYLE: Yes.

16 THE COURT: If you'd just show her what you intend to
17 put in.

18 (Pause.)

19 THE COURT: Nine is the last one that went in.

20 (Pause.)

21 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no objection to these,
22 these photos.

23 THE COURT: Okay. So give me the entire numbers.

24 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I'll give them to you, judge.

25 THE COURT: All right.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No. 9 is in.
- 2 THE COURT: Right.
- 3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No. 32.
- 4 THE COURT: Okay. It's in.
- 5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. No. 24 and---
- 6 THE COURT: It's in.
- 7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Twenty is now being
- 8 moved in by me.
- 9 THE COURT: Right.
- 10 okay. I don't have 20. So 20.
- 11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Twenty-one.
- 12 THE COURT: Twenty-one.
- 13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Fifteen.
- 14 THE COURT: Fifteen.
- 15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Fourteen.
- 16 THE COURT: Fourteen.
- 17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thirteen.
- 18 THE COURT: Thirteen.
- 19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Twelve.
- 20 THE COURT: Twelve.
- 21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Eleven.
- 22 THE COURT: Eleven.
- 23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Ten.
- 24 THE COURT: Okay.
- 25 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Twenty-two.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thirty and 31.

3 THE COURT: Okay. That's all of them?

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I believe I've got five more.

5 Twenty-nine.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Twenty-seven.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thirty-three.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Twenty-six.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Six.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Seven and eight.

16 THE COURT: Is that all of them now?

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: That's it.

18 THE COURT: All right. They're in without objection.

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Have you -- has she marked them all?

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Hold on.

22 (Pause.)

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Do you have 17 in, judge?

24 THE COURT: Seventeen came in. It's a, it's a, it's

25 a -- that was the photograph of the living room with the mop

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 bucket and the, and the -- and that came in.

2 okay. That's in.

3 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 6 through 8, 10
4 through 15, 20 and 21, 26 and 27, 29 through 31 were
5 received into evidence at this time.)

6 Q. I just want to show you three pictures, sir.

7 In 20 -- 24 you've got bloodstain. In 32 you've got a
8 bloodstain and in nine you've got a bloodstain.

9 Are they similar in size and shape?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. And in No. 9---

12 A. You got---

13 Q. Go ahead.

14 A. Yeah, No. 9 is smaller droplets in front of the couch
15 more like individualized. No. 32 is what we would call a
16 pool. It's just a large, a whole---

17 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

18 A. Large volume.

19 MS. NEYLE: He's giving his opinion as to the
20 definition of what a pool is.

21 THE COURT: I understand but he's looking at the
22 photograph and calls them droplets and a pool, which I think
23 anybody looking at the photograph can draw that conclusion.
24 It doesn't take an expert to get there. He's just not
25 interpret --.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 Q. And what is the shape -- would you call the shape of
4 No. 24?

5 A. Twenty-four is an elongated drop.

6 Q. All right. And can you say that these blood stains
7 came from different sources in terms of not people but how
8 they got to, to be on these surfaces?

9 MS. NEYLE: Objection.

10 A. They were---

11 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor. It calls for
12 opinion.

13 THE COURT: Yeah, I don't know how -- I mean --.

14 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right, Your Honor. Your
15 Honor---

16 THE COURT: He can say what he saw and what he
17 observed. I'm not really sure---

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right.

19 THE COURT: ---he can draw con -- opinion --

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: -- unless he knows something I don't know.

22 Q. All right. Let me show you No. 20.

23 Can you tell me where those blood stains are located on
24 your diagram, State's Exhibit No. 47?

25 A. Those are on wall 4 near the stairwell near the

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 entryway. You can't necessarily see it from the door. But
2 once you enter into the living room, they're right there on
3 the wall.

4 Q. Okay. And those -- how many would, would you say are
5 in the picture that you've got as No. 20?

6 How many blood stains?

7 A. Appears to be six --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- blood spots.

10 Q. So now let me show you what's in State's Exhibit No.
11 21.

12 Did you find and take that photograph at the crime
13 scene?

14 A. Yes, sir, I did.

15 Q. And what is the major object in that that you took the
16 photograph of?

17 A. A portion of tooth and a tooth filling.

18 Q. A portion of tooth and a tooth filling?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. All right. And can you tell us where that was located
21 or found and photographed by you at?

22 A. That would of been underneath Sharee Bradley's body.

23 Q. Under her body.

24 Did you also find bloodstains on the ceiling of the
25 apartment?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir, we did.

2 Q. Do you see that evidence in State's Exhibit 14?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And can you tell us where in the, in the ceiling area?

5 A. In this area here.

6 Q. Between the couches?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All right, sir. And would you say that there was a
9 number of stains, one stain?

10 How would you describe what you see in the photographs?

11 A. Several stains.

12 Q. This is No. 14.

13 And how high would you say the ceiling is in that room?

14 A. An 8-foot ceiling.

15 Q. All right. And I believe Photograph 13 is a different
16 view, a closer view of what you showed us in 14?

17 A. Yes, sir, it's just from a different angle.

18 Q. All right. And how did you describe the, the, the
19 drops on the ceiling in 13?

20 Would you say it was a---

21 A. Several elongated drops.

22 Q. Several?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Did you have occasion to unwrap the body of Ms. Shavey
25 (phonetic) -- sharee, sharee Bradley that evening?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir, we did.

2 Q. And when you took her out of the rug that she was in,
3 did you see anything in particular?

4 A. She had several injuries. Blood all over her.

5 Q. We're referring---

6 A. Cigarette --.

7 Q. ---to State's Exhibit 10, excuse me, State's Exhibit
8 12, 11, and 22.

9 Can you talk about the injuries, where they were on her
10 body?

11 A. She had -- on her neck, her face, under her arm, on top
12 of her head, and then in her -- in a forearm.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Just want to make sure.
14 12, 11, and 22 are in evidence.

15 THE COURT: Yes.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Thank you.

17 Did you have occasion to find a bloodstain on the
18 back-door going out into the courtyard area?

19 A. Yes, sir, on the doorframe.

20 Q. And did you take a picture of it?

21 A. Yes, sir, we did.

22 Q. I think you might of taken three pictures of it.

23 would you look at that -- 29, 31, and 30?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. All those showing the same stain?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. And was there any other blood in that area located by
3 you?

4 A. There were a couple of spots on the interior frame as
5 well.

6 Q. Interior frame of the --?

7 A. The backdoor, yes, sir.

8 Q. The backdoor.

9 Is that indicated by the star, the red star here on
10 State's Exhibit No. 47?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. All right. State's Exhibit No. 29 and these pictures
13 are all of the same stain, detective?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. So Exhibit 30 is a close-up of the, of the stain on
16 the, the back-door?

17 Is that correct?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. All right. State's Exhibit No. 7, can you tell us
20 what's in that picture?

21 A. It's a small basketball hoop, a large -- little like a
22 fire engine truck that little kids play in and other little
23 children's toys.

24 Q. Can you tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury where
25 that pic -- picture was taken, what area of the house?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Being right here adjacent or next to the restroom and
2 the kitchen.

3 Q. All right. So was there any furniture in there or just
4 toys?

5 A. Just toys and a mattress.

6 Q. All right. And would you look at State's Exhibit No. 8
7 and No. 10 and tell us what those pictures show?

8 A. Those will be the two couches that are in the living
9 room.

10 Q. All right. What did you find -- I'm gonna ask you to
11 look at also State's Exhibit No. 26.

12 Is, is that also the living room area?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. So, on 26, on the one arm couch, do you see it in 26?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Do you see items on top of the couch?

17 A. Yes, sir, they were.

18 Q. And what are those items?

19 A. Assorted clothing items.

20 Q. All right. And is that how you found the, the couch in
21 the room when you went in it --

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. -- the clothing, clothing on top of the---

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. ---of the, of the couch?

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. All right. And then did you remove the clothing---
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. ---from the couch?
- 5 A. Yes, sir, we did.
- 6 Q. And did you take a picture of what the couch looked
- 7 like after you removed the clothing?
- 8 A. Yes, sir, I did.
- 9 Q. Where is it identified?
- 10 A. It's State's 10.
- 11 Q. And what do you see in there that you didn't see
- 12 before?
- 13 A. The blood staining on the cushions.
- 14 Q. And the other couch is in State's Exhibit No. 8?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. And we refer to that as the two armed couch?
- 17 A. Yes, sir.
- 18 Q. And what do you see in that picture that shows forensic
- 19 evidence?
- 20 A. The droplets of blood on the floor in front of it.
- 21 Q. All right. Would you say it was one or two drops or
- 22 several?
- 23 A. Several drops.
- 24 Q. All right. Now, could you tell -- I want to ask you,
- 25 if I look back, I think there's one photograph I wanted to

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 ask you about.

2 Could you tell whether the floor had been cleaned or
3 attempted to be cleaned when you got there?

4 A. Different areas of the floor throughout the living room
5 did appear to be cleaned.

6 Q. Is this the same area of the floor in State's Exhibit
7 No. 9 that I showed you in front of the two armed couch --

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. -- in State's Exhibit No. 8?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. All right. And can you see anything in there that
12 looks like it might of been used to clean the floor?

13 A. There appears to be a tassel from a mop.

14 Q. In State's Exhibit --?

15 A. There's a, there's a small string like if a section of
16 a mop had broken off.

17 Q. And that's State's Exhibit No. 9 I believe.

18 So, the, the bloodstains on the floor in nine are in
19 front of the couch in -- pictured in No. 8?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Beg the Court's
22 indulgence.

23 (Pause.)

24 Q. I want to ask you, Detective Kearney, if we go back to
25 the one armed couch where you found the blood, can you

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 testify that the blood was located in different areas on the
2 couch?

3 A. On the lower surface, the seating area, and that -- on
4 the backrest itself -- as well.

5 Q. So on the back part and on the seating part?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Did you-all -- did you do any cutting of the fabric on
8 the couch to send it to the lab?

9 A. Yes, sir, we did.

10 Q. You did that?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. All right. And that was then sent to the lab in
13 Columbia?

14 A. Correct, sir.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. One moment, Your Honor.

16 (Pause.)

17 Q. Okay. So, talking about the laboratory, do you
18 remember swabbing -- tell the ladies and gentlemen what
19 swabbing a sample means.

20 A. It's a process that we use to lift DNA samples to
21 submit to SLED for processing further. They'll tell us if
22 there is sufficient cells in there to say that there's DNA
23 that they can process and give a conclusion on.

24 Q. So the DNA collection was done by you?

25 A. Yes, sir.

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And do you have a notation on this Exhibit 47 of the
2 places where you took DNA samples?

3 A. The back sash, the backdoor here we had that spot of
4 blood, the handle itself on the mop that we collected, the
5 droplets that were on the wall next to the stairs, the
6 pooling that was underneath Sharee Bradley's body, another
7 one from the -- going underneath the clothing and the
8 droplets that were in front of the two armed couch on wall
9 2.

10 The cutout of the seating area was sent to have them
11 analyze those, those swabbings. We just did a cut on that
12 and make the analysis, the analysis for that. The same with
13 the back on that one armed couch probably here. That was
14 the cutout. We did a testing on that. We did a swabbing of
15 the floor and the top of the scooter footpad and the back
16 tire of the scooter.

17 Q. Very good.

18 And all those swabs were taken by you and sent to SLED?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. All right. In one of the pictures, that picture that
21 in particular I believe you have State's Exhibit 10 and also
22 State's Exhibit 6, do you see items that would be associated
23 with a young child's hair?

24 A. Yes, sir, there's a section of hair in the crook of
25 the, the one armed couch where the seating and the back come

James Kearney - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 together. There's a section of braid there with beads in it
2 and then also there's a section of braided hair with beads
3 in it that was rolled up with Sharee Bradley's body.

4 Q. And did those beads get sent to SLED to be analyzed?

5 A. They did.

6 Q. And what are those exhibit numbers?

7 A. Ten is the couch. Six is the carpet with the braid.

8 Q. All right. Did you have anything to do with the
9 collection of the knife?

10 A. No, sir, I did not.

11 Q. All right.

12 (Pause.)

13 Q. Did you also swab the tooth that was found on the
14 floor?

15 A. The filling, yes, sir.

16 Q. The filling.

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And send it off to the lab?

19 A. I did, sir.

20 Q. All right. Thank you, officer, officer. Answer any
21 questions the lawyer may have.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. NEYLE:

24 Q. Detective Kearney, did you, did you test the, the
25 apartment for any fingerprints?

James Kearney - Cross-examination
By Mr. Neyle

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. Okay. And did -- were those sent off to SLED?

3 A. They were insufficient.

4 Q. Insufficient.

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 Q. Okay. You also collected a swab of Daunte Johnson's
7 DNA, correct?

8 A. Did I collect a buccal swab directly from him?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

11 Q. You did not?

12 A. Correct.

13 MS. NEYLE: Okay. I have no further questions, Your
14 Honor. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Anything further, solicitor?

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: You can step down.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

19 MS. NEYLE: You got a witness you can get up and down
20 in nine minutes?

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No, sir.

22 THE COURT: We're quitting them for the day then.

23 Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, we're gonna stop testimony
24 today. I need you back at 9:30 in the morning. Same
25 instructions I gave you last night.

1 Don't discuss the case, allow anyone to discuss it with
2 you. Don't do any research. Don't get on Facebook or any
3 social media. If you have an emergency, please call us. If
4 not, I'll see you at 9:30 in the morning.

5 Thank you.

6 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
7 presence of the jury.)

8 THE COURT: Okay. Anything we need to deal with before
9 we break for the evening?

10 MS. NEYLE: Judge, just one matter.

11 Back at Cody Daney's testimony, the State admitted No.
12 37 and 38 and we went up to Your Honor. I objected to that.
13 Your Honor noted my objection for the record. I just want
14 to put my objection on the record that I was objecting under
15 Rule 403 that those pictures were more prejudicial than
16 probative---

17 THE COURT: Right.

18 MS. NEYLE: ---and weren't relevant in the case.

19 THE COURT: Okay. And you, and you had objected to
20 being relevant and, and I overruled your objection finding
21 at the time the police were at the door, I think evidence
22 of, of the suspect either fleeing or doing anything to
23 allude the police or even resisting arrest is relevant in
24 this case. And so I allowed it in over your objection.

25 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

2 MS. NEYLE: Thank you.

3 THE COURT: All right. I'll see y'all at 9:30 in the
4 morning unless y'all got something different.

5 Thank you.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, sir.

7

8 (WHEREUPON, Court was in recess for the evening.)

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1 NATALIE KELLY, being first duly
2 sworn, testified as follows:

3 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Step around please.
4 State your name for the record and spell your last name
5 please.

6 THE WITNESS: Natalie Kelly. K-E-L-L-Y.

7 DIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

9 Q. Good morning, detective.

10 A. Good morning.

11 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury where you
12 work.

13 A. I work for Sumter Police Department.

14 Q. How long have you been there?

15 A. I've been there approximately 16 years.

16 Q. And how long have you been a detective?

17 A. Twelve years.

18 Q. All right. Did you happen to work some of the aspects
19 of this case against Daunte Johnson when he was arrested?

20 A. Yes, I did.

21 Q. And tell the ladies and gentlemen what your
22 participation was in this case.

23 A. I interviewed a couple of witnesses in this case. One
24 being Mr. Michael James. I took a statement from him and I
25 also collected a buccal swab from him.

1 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen what a buccal swab is.

2 A. A buccal swab, it actually looks like a Q-tip. It has
3 cotton on the end of it. The stick is a little bit longer
4 than a Q-tip.

5 What we do with that is we -- there's two of them.
6 First we ask for consent obviously from the person that
7 we're taking the swab from. Once we do that, they consent.
8 We take those two swabs. We put it in the inside of their
9 mouth, one on the left side of the jaw, one on the right
10 side of the jaw. From there, we take it. We put it into a
11 package like a box maybe about this long.

12 From there we take that box and we put it inside of an
13 envelope. From there we put a piece of red tape on the back
14 of it and we seal it. We sign it. We date it and on the
15 front we fill out the information of the individual in which
16 who we took the swab from.

17 Q. And what is done with that evidence after you've sealed
18 it?

19 A. Once the evidence is sealed, it's signed off on. I
20 take it and I put it in the evidence locker for collection
21 for the evidence custodian.

22 Q. And the evidence locker's located where?

23 A. It's within the Sumter Police Department.

24 Q. All right. Do you have the ability to go get it out of
25 the locker once you put it in?

1 A. No, I don't.

2 Q. All right. Do you know when you did that statement and
3 the sample, the buccal swab?

4 A. Yes, it was on August the 6th, 2019.

5 Q. August 6th.

6 And did you do the buccal swab at your police station
7 or at, at Mr. James house?

8 A. At the police department.

9 Q. Nothing further. Answer any questions the other
10 lawyers may have.

11 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no questions for
12 Detective Kelly.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Ask that she be excused from,
14 from---

15 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: She can be excused.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Officer Chanae Lumpkin.

19 THE BAILIFF: Yes, ma'am. Place your left-hand on the
20 Bible. Raise your right-hand. State your name.

21 THE WITNESS: Chanae Lumpkin.

22 CHANAE LUMPKIN, being first duly
23 sworn, testified as follows:

24 THE BAILIFF: Thank you. Pull your mask down and state
25 your name.

Chanae Lumpkin - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE WITNESS: Chanae---

2 THE COURT: Spell your last name please.

3 THE WITNESS: Chanae Lumpkin. L-U-M-P-K-I-N.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

6 Q. Major Lumpkin, good morning.

7 A. Good morning.

8 Q. Where do you work please?

9 A. Sumter County Sheriff's Office detention division.

10 Q. And what do you do there?

11 A. I am the assistant director there at the detention
12 center.

13 Q. And you have many duties I imagine?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. One of the duties is to oversee the management of the
16 jail phonecall system?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And how long have you been doing that?

19 A. I have been employed for 15 years. So, I would say
20 about 13 years.

21 Q. What is the name of the jail phonecall security system?

22 A. Securus---

23 Q. And---

24 A. ---Technologies.

25 Q. Securus Technology.

Chanae Lumpkin - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 And how does it work?

2 Tell the ladies and gentlemen how does it work out
3 there at the jail.

4 A. It is a third party vendor, of course, that's
5 responsible for the inmate calls to families. The way that
6 it works is a family member can set up an account with
7 Securus Technologies. Through that account, they can
8 actually place money on in order to make phonecalls for the
9 persons that are housed there. In turn, if money is placed
10 on a person's account that is housed there, that person can
11 use part of that money to actually purchase what's called
12 debit phone time in order for them to be able to speak with
13 a family member.

14 Q. And so is there a limit to the amount of money that can
15 be placed in the account at the jail by the family?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. All right. And are all the phonecalls that are made
18 between the inmate and the family, are they recorded?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. How does the inmate know they're recorded?

21 A. There is a prerecording. So for each phonecall that is
22 made, the prerecording will advise the caller, as well as
23 the person that's on the other end of the line, that all
24 calls are subject to recording.

25 Q. All right. And is there a limit to the time an inmate

Chanae Lumpkin - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 can spend on a phonecall?

2 A. Yes, sir, 15 minutes per call.

3 Q. All right. And either the inmate or the family member
4 has to pay for each call?

5 A. That is correct, yes, sir.

6 Q. How long have you been using this Securus Technology
7 system?

8 A. This system has been in place now for probably
9 approximately 20 years or so at the detention center.

10 Q. Was it in force and effect -- was it in -- the system
11 you were using on August of, of 2019?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. All right. Did you have occasion to request from the
14 Sumter Police Department to copy the phonecalls of Daunte
15 Johnson who was an inmate at the detention center?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. And did you provide the Sumter Police Department with
18 the copies of those phonecalls?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. All right. Now, would that include August the 9th,
21 2019, phonecalls?

22 A. It would, yes, sir.

23 Q. All right. I don't have anything further. Thank you
24 for coming. Answer any questions this lady may have.

25 A. Thank you.

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions, Your Honor.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

3 May the witness be excused?

4 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

5 THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

7 SOLICITOR FINNEY: We call Willie McFadden. Mr.
8 McFadden.

9 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
10 your right-hand. State your name.

11 THE WITNESS: Willie McFadden.

12 WILLIE MCFADDEN, being first duly
13 sworn, testified as follows:

14 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Have a seat. State your
15 name for the record and spell your last name please.

16 THE WITNESS: Willie McFadden. M-C-F-A-D-D-E-N.

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

19 Q. Good morning, detective.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. Tell us where you work please, sir.

22 A. Sumter Police Department.

23 Q. How long have you been with them?

24 A. Been with the Sumter Police Department since 2014.

25 Q. All right sir. And how long have you been a detective?

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Since 2016.

2 Q. Are you assigned to a particular division?

3 A. Yes, I am.

4 Q. What is it?

5 A. It's investigations -- investigation service division.

6 Q. And do you cover, in that division, violent crimes and,
7 and serious crimes and crimes in the community?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Did you respond to the scene of a call on August the
10 5th, 2019, at the Lantana Apartments?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And tell us what you were -- what you saw when you got
13 there.

14 what was the nature of the call?

15 A. It was in reference, in reference to a murder. Ms.
16 Sharee Bradley.

17 Q. All right. Did you go to her apartment?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. Did you talk with other officers while you were there?

20 A. Briefly yes, sir.

21 Q. All right, sir. Did you have occasion to then go over
22 to another location near by another residence?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. Where was that?

25 A. It was Susie Rembert Street right across from the

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Lantana Apartments.

2 Q. How far would you say from Ms. Sharee's apartment to
3 Lantana -- in Lantana over to the Susie Rembert address?

4 A. Short distance. Maybe a block away. Not even a block.

5 Q. All right, sir. When you got to the Susie Rembert
6 location, did you have an opportunity to discover some items
7 inside the house that you took into evidence?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. What was it?

10 A. It was a knife. Well, I'm sorry. I think it was two
11 knives, a phone. I'd have to look at the evidence sheet to
12 give everything that we took into custody.

13 Q. All right, sir. Let me show you what's been marked
14 previously as a State's Exhibit and see if you can identify
15 item in photograph, excuse me, Exhibit No. 40 and 41.

16 A. Yes, that's a folding knife with an eagle on it.

17 Q. Do you know where that item was located inside the
18 house in Susie Rembert -- at Susie Rembert Street?

19 A. It was -- do we have the chain I can look at to try to
20 reference back to where exactly it was located at?

21 Q. We might be able to do that.

22 while they're looking for that, let me show you two
23 other photographs, Exhibits 38 and 39.

24 Do you have any recollection of what's in -- what's
25 shown in 39, State's Exhibit 39?

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. It's a kitchen knife.

2 Q. In 39.

3 A. Oh, 39.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. It's the living room area of the residence at -- on
6 Susie Rembert Street.

7 Q. All right. And is that the way the living room area
8 looked on the day when you were in there doing your
9 investigation?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. All right. Do you see anything in that object that
12 caught your eye or was drawn to your attention?

13 A. It's that kitchen knife stuck in the couch right there.

14 Q. All right. And did -- if you look at 38, Exhibit 38,
15 does that show a close-up view of what you just described?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. Okay. So we found the living room and there's a couch
18 in the living room?

19 Yes, sir?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And then the, the investigator took another picture
22 close up to show the knife.

23 Did you---

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. ---secure the knife and take the knife into evidence?

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. I want to show you an item and ask if you can identify
3 it. This is State's Exhibit for ID No. 53.

4 Can you look in there and see if you can recognize
5 what's in there?

6 A. Yes, sir, this is the kitchen knife I recovered.

7 Q. All right, sir. And you took it out of the couch?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And put it in the evidence?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. And then what did you do with it after you put it in
12 evidence?

13 A. After that I had no more --.

14 Q. You turned it over --

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. -- to the evidence room?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. All right, sir.

19 Move Item No. 53 into evidence.

20 THE COURT: What says defense?

21 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I would object under Rule 403 as to
22 relevance --

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 MS. NEYLE: -- any relevance.

25 THE COURT: Then I will overrule your objection and it

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 is in over objection.

2 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 53 was received into
3 evidence at this time.)

4 Q. All right. Did you ask to look at an evidence
5 inventory?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. I show you and ask you if that's the record you
8 requested to see.

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. Please refresh your memory.

11 A. Okay. Yes, sir, the folding knife was collected. It
12 was a large folding knife that reads collective knife on it.
13 It was photographed. So it had two eagles on both sides,
14 which is in the photograph that I took, located on the
15 dresser in a back bedroom which is Cody's (sic) Daney's
16 bedroom.

17 Q. Cody Daney's bedroom?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. All right, sir. Very good.

20 And so the items that you read on the inventory list,
21 they are pictured in these pictures, Exhibits 40 and 41?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. All right, sir. And if you don't mind, let me show you
24 what's in Exhibit 51 and ask if you could recognize the item
25 in Exhibit 51.

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes, this is the knife I collected.
- 2 Q. All right, sir.
- 3 A. The pieces --
- 4 Q. Yes, sir.
- 5 A. -- I guess must of fell off.
- 6 Q. Yes, sir.
- 7 A. And all of it's there.
- 8 Q. When you saw it for the first time at Susan Rembert,
- 9 was it all together in one piece?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. All right. And you took it into evidence as well?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. All right, sir. Now, Detective McFadden, after you
- 14 left Susie Rembert and the evidence had been collected, did
- 15 you have an opportunity to do an interview with Daunte
- 16 Johnson?
- 17 A. Interview actually came first before I went to Susie
- 18 Rembert. I was at the scene and then I left and went back
- 19 to interview Daunte Johnson and then I interviewed Cody and
- 20 then went back to, to the scene to collect the evidence that
- 21 you just saw.
- 22 Q. All right. So you started off at the police station?
- 23 A. No, I started off at -- I did respond to the scene.
- 24 Q. Right.
- 25 A. That's correct.

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. And then you went where?

2 A. I went back to the police station. They had Daunte
3 Johnson in custody --

4 Q. All right.

5 A. -- and I went to interview him.

6 Q. Did you have the occasion to interview him on August
7 the 5th?

8 Can you tell us about what time it was?

9 A. Yes, sir. August the 5th. It was 7:10PM.

10 Q. All right. And it was at the police station?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. All right. Were you in the room with him with somebody
13 else or by yourself?

14 A. By myself.

15 Q. All right. Did you have occasion to read him his
16 Miranda rights?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. All right. And tell us what the Miranda rights are.

19 A. Okay. I'm just gonna read it verbatim from what I told
20 him?

21 Q. Oh, from the form?

22 A. From the form. That's what I usually go by. I read
23 the whole form to them.

24 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as State's
25 Exhibit No. 2. Ask if you can look at it and identify it.

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. That's correct. This is Sumter Police Department
2 interview form.

3 Q. Court's Exhibit No. 2.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Did you, did you -- is that a standard form you use in
6 the interview room?

7 A. That is correct.

8 Q. All right. And what is on that form?

9 A. The Miranda rights and also a waiver of rights.

10 Q. All right. So you have -- what is your procedure?

11 A. I normally start off explaining to them this is Sumter
12 Police Department interview form and I go through each
13 section. I was like before we ask you any questions you
14 must understand your rights. And I go through you have the
15 right to remain silent. Anything you say can be used
16 against you in court. You have the right to talk to a
17 lawyer for advice before we ask you any questions and have
18 him or her present during the questioning.

19 If you can not afford a lawyer, one will be appointed
20 for you before any questioning if you wish. If you decide
21 to answer any questions now without a lawyer present, you
22 still would have the right to stop answering at anytime
23 until you talk to a lawyer and I go down to the waiver of
24 rights that says, before any questioning, I was furnished
25 above statements of my rights at -- on here I marked at

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 7:10PM on August 5th, 2019, at Sumter Police Department by
2 Officer or Detective McFadden of the Sumter Police
3 Department.

4 And then at the bottom it has I have, I have read or
5 had read to me the statements of my rights. I understand
6 what my rights are. I am willing to answer questions at
7 this time without a lawyer present. No promises, no threats
8 have been made to me and no pressure has been used against
9 me.

10 Q. What happened after you read those rights to Mr. Daunte
11 Johnson?

12 A. I asked him did he understand them.

13 Q. And what did he say?

14 A. He said yes.

15 Q. And then what did you ask him to do?

16 A. To sign and date and time.

17 Q. And did he do that?

18 A. No, he said he didn't want to.

19 Q. All right. And what did you do then?

20 A. I, I asked him again do you understand your rights.

21 He, he confirmed he understood them again.

22 Q. And then what did you do?

23 A. Continued with the interview.

24 Q. Did you write anything on the form?

25 A. Yes, I did write, when he refused to sign, I did write

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 refused to sign on there and then also, when I asked him did
2 he understand his rights, I wrote Daunte Johnson stated he
3 understood his rights on the form as well. So, I signed my
4 name over here and also put the date over here.

5 Q. All right. And you were alone in the room?

6 There was no other witnesses?

7 A. No, sir.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. Move the Miranda form
9 in.

10 (WHEREUPON, the Miranda form was marked as State's
11 Exhibit No. 54 for identification purposes only at this
12 time.)

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Exhibit 54 I move into evidence.

14 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no objection.

15 THE COURT: Okay. It's---

16 Q. Did you happen to have---

17 THE COURT: It's in without objection.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 54 was received into
20 evidence at this time.)

21 Q. Did you happen to have a cellphone with you at the time
22 you were interviewing Mr. McFadden (sic)?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And was it on the recording what you were saying to Mr.
25 McFadden (sic)?

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. After you gave him his rights, and he refused to sign,
- 3 did you continue with the interview?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. And was it recorded?
- 6 A. It was.
- 7 Q. Did it stop recording at some point?
- 8 A. Yes, it did.
- 9 Q. Tell the jury why it stopped recording.
- 10 A. It stopped recording -- I was tasked with another
- 11 assignment and I went to interview somebody else and I hit
- 12 stop on the recording---
- 13 Q. You took---
- 14 A. ---on the phone.
- 15 Q. You took your phone with you?
- 16 A. I took my phone with me.
- 17 Q. When you left the recording, was there somebody else in
- 18 the room with you then?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. Who was that?
- 21 A. That was Detective Hansen.
- 22 Q. Do you hear Detective Hansen on the recording --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- in the room?
- 25 A. Yes, he's on the recording.

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Okay. So how long were you into the interview with
2 Daunte Johnson when Detective Hansen came in?

3 A. Probably about several minutes.

4 Q. All right.

5 A. An estimation of several minutes.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. At this time I'd like to
7 play the recording for the jury, Your Honor.

8 Do you have the disk?

9 THE COURT: You want me to---

10 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I believe he needs to move it
11 into evidence.

12 THE COURT: He does.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I'm gonna---

14 THE COURT: Any objections to it coming in?

15 MS. NEYLE: As long as the proper foundation is laid.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And, and he -- okay.

17 (WHEREUPON, the defendant's interview was marked as
18 State's Exhibit No. 55 for identification purposes only at
19 this time.)

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Exhibit 55 for the State, we move it
21 into evidence.

22 THE COURT: All right. You need to lay the foundation
23 with him other than -- whether that is the --.

24 Q. And this recording that you made that day, it starts
25 with you telling him about the information on the Miranda

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 form?

2 A. Right. I, I introduced myself to him. I tell him I'm
3 Detective McFadden with Sumter Police Department and then it
4 goes into I removed the handcuffs from behind him to the
5 front. Then it goes into the interview form.

6 Q. All right. And then once he refused to sign, you
7 continued asking questions, getting to know him, whatever?

8 A. That's correct.

9 THE COURT: That---

10 Q. And this recording that you have is a, a verbatim copy
11 of the interview between you and Mr. Johnson on August the
12 5th starting at 7:10PM?

13 A. That's correct.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Any objection?

15 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: It's in without objection.

17 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 55 was received into
18 evidence at this time.)

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Would you play the recording please,
20 sir?

21 (WHEREUPON, a portion of State's Exhibit No. 55 was
22 played for the jury at this time.)

23 Q. So, detective, you told him just now hold tight for a
24 second.

25 Has Detective Hansen come into the room with you by

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 this point?
- 2 A. Yes, he's already in there.
- 3 Q. All right. And what are you getting ready to do when
- 4 you say to Mr. Johnson hold tight for a second?
- 5 A. Just to try to find out more information to confirm --
- 6 well, just stuff that he was telling me.
- 7 Q. And how were you gonna do that?
- 8 A. A -- speak with other detectives.
- 9 Q. By telephone?
- 10 A. No, in person.
- 11 Q. Okay. They're outside the room?
- 12 A. I think in -- at that time I think Detective Litaker
- 13 was there as well.
- 14 Q. Detective --?
- 15 A. Litaker.
- 16 Q. Okay. So you were gonna go talking---
- 17 A. So---
- 18 Q. What were you trying to get?
- 19 A. I tried to confirm his story was -- what he was telling
- 20 me cause they was giving him information as far as what was
- 21 going on out there on the scene and he was relaying that
- 22 information back to me.
- 23 Q. All right. And so now the recording is going to
- 24 continue?
- 25 A. That is correct.

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right.

2 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 55
3 was played for the jury at this time.)

4 Q. Detective, is that the end of the recording?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Is that your footsteps walking down the hall we hear?

7 A. That is.

8 Q. And where are you going?

9 A. To -- I had another assignment to interview Cody.

10 Q. All right. Did you go to the house or was Cody at the
11 station?

12 A. He was at the police station.

13 Q. All right. In another room?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. All right. Detective, what did you learn from that
16 interview about Daunte Johnson in terms of the statements he
17 was giving you?

18 A. It's just an inconsistencies of what he was telling.
19 He started off by telling me he spent the night at Winona --
20 I think that's how you pronounce her name.

21 Q. Winona.

22 A. Winona Daney's house. Then he stated that he went
23 there that morning around 6:00 or 7:00 and then he went back
24 and said he stayed the night at Patsy house.

25 Q. So, were there any other inconsistencies that you found

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 when he was talking to you that day?

2 A. No, that, that was it during the time I was talking to
3 him.

4 Q. All right. So you -- did you ever have a chance to
5 talk to him again, Mr. Daunte Johnson?

6 A. No.

7 Q. All right. And by the time you left the room,
8 Detective Hansen was in the room?

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. All right. And so the rest of the interview with
11 Detective Hansen didn't have your recording in it?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. All right. Did you ask Daunte whether he had a key to
14 Sharee's house?

15 A. Yes, sir, during---

16 Q. What---

17 A. ---the interview.

18 Q. What did he say?

19 A. He said yes, he did. He had the keys. He said he had
20 an ID, social security, social security card. I believe
21 there was one more thing he said. I think --.

22 Q. All right. And did you tell him there was no break-in
23 at Sharee's apartment?

24 A. That's correct. I told him he's -- he had access to
25 the house.

Willie McFadden - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Okay. Did you ask him to tell you if there'd been some
2 kind of accident that led to her death?

3 A. I was asking him was it an accident what happened
4 between him -- and him and her that happened in there.

5 Q. Did he say it was an accident?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. All right. Did you ask him did she do something to
8 him?

9 A. I did ask him that.

10 Q. Did -- what did he say to that?

11 A. He said no.

12 Q. All right. And you told him that, based on information
13 you had received, they had a bad argument where he called
14 her all kind of insults?

15 A. That's correct. I told him that it was her or him
16 saying that he called her trash and a whore.

17 Q. All right.

18 A. And he yes, I did say that. That's why he was -- Patsy
19 made him go back to her house to apologize.

20 Q. All right. Detective, thank you for your time. I'll
21 pass you to the next lawyer.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. NEYLE:

24 Q. Detective McFadden, you didn't prepare a report in this
25 case, did you?

Willie McFadden - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 A. No, ma'am, I didn't.

2 Q. Okay. And when you first began your interview with
3 Daunte, you were alone with him in that interview room,
4 correct?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. Just you and him?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Okay. And when it was just you and him, you began that
9 recording on your cellphone?

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. Okay. And it's police department policy to record
12 interviews when it's just an officer and a suspect in a
13 room, correct?

14 A. No, ma'am, there's no protocol to recordings.

15 Q. So there's no policy as to recording?

16 A. No, ma'am.

17 Q. Is there any policy?

18 A. I'd have to review it.

19 Q. And then, after about 35 minutes, you said you had to
20 leave?

21 A. Yes, ma'am, I was tasked with a different assignment.

22 Q. Okay. And then Detective Hansen took over the
23 interview?

24 A. He came in while I was in the room --

25 Q. Okay.

Willie McFadden - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 A. -- during the interview when I was talking to him. You
2 can hear him on the recording as well.

3 Q. And you stopped that recording on your cellphone?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And you took the cellphone with you?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Your Honor, I have no further
8 questions.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing further, Your Honor. We ask
11 that the officer be dismissed.

12 THE COURT: Okay. You can step down.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: You're dismissed.

15 Anything further before lunch?

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: No, sir, not before lunch.

17 THE COURT: All right. Any reason we can't come back
18 at 2:15?

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: 2:15 is fine, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I'll
21 dismiss you for lunch. Don't talk about this case or allow
22 anyone to talk about it to you or around you. I'll see you
23 at 2:15.

24 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
25 presence of the jury.)

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 please.

2 THE WITNESS: Jeffery Hansen. My last name is
3 H-A-N-S-E-N.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

6 Q. Detective, where are you employed?

7 A. I'm employed with the Sumter Police Department.

8 Q. And how long have you been there?

9 A. I've been there since May of 2014.

10 Q. And what are you assigned to these days?

11 A. Currently I'm assigned to the violent crime section of
12 it -- of the investigative services division for the
13 detectives and I investigate more of the major cases that we
14 have.

15 Q. When you started in 2014 you weren't a detective.

16 Is that correct?

17 A. That's -- no, sir, I was a patrol officer.

18 Q. You moved up?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. When did you become a detective?

21 A. In July of 2019.

22 Q. And that was how long before you investigated the case
23 of Daunte Johnson?

24 A. It was exactly one month. I was promoted July 5th.

25 This happened August 5th.

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. So is this the first major case you worked?

2 A. Yes, sir, it is.

3 Q. All right. Now, you live in Sumter?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. All right. Tell the ladies and gentlemen a little bit
6 how you got involved with the case of Daunte Johnson in the
7 first place.

8 A. Yes, sir. I just gotten home from the days work. I
9 gotten a phonecall around six o'clock saying that there'd
10 been an incident.

11 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Hold on.

13 THE COURT: Hold on.

14 MS. NEYLE: Objection to hearsay, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: You can't---

16 Q. Don't say what you heard---

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 Q. ---other people say. Just say as a result of what you
20 heard, what did you do.

21 A. Yes, sir, as a result, I came to the Sumter Police
22 Department directly to the department to assist in the
23 interview of a suspect that was in custody --

24 Q. All right.

25 A. -- with Detective McFadden.

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. So, when you walked in the room, who was in the room?

2 A. It was Daunte Johnson, the defendant, and Detective
3 Willie McFadden.

4 Q. All right. Did you know Detective McFadden was
5 recording on his cellphone?

6 A. I did not, no, sir.

7 Q. All right. And did you come into the room, sit down,
8 and what did you do then?

9 A. When I first got into the room I just began to observe
10 what was going on, try to get a feel of the room. Again I
11 wasn't exactly sure what was going on. Just trying to get
12 caught up to speed to see what we needed to learn, what we
13 had learned already, and what we were, you know, seeking to
14 find.

15 Q. How long do you think you stayed in the room with
16 Daunte from the time you came in?

17 A. From the time I came in, I stayed in there with
18 Detective McFadden. After some time we had both stepped out
19 so that we could speak to other officers who were on the
20 scene who were gathering information that could be given to
21 us to help us conduct a better interview. And then, after
22 that, I sat back in -- stepped back in and continued with
23 that.

24 Q. When Detective McFadden left, were you alone with
25 Daunte Johnson for a while?

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I was, yes, sir.

2 Q. Approximately, approximately how long were you alone
3 before somebody else came in?

4 A. I was with Mr. Johnson by myself for about an hour I
5 believe. During that time, my goal, while I was alone with
6 him, was to continue with the interview. We had started
7 with Detective McFadden while he was in there to get a
8 timeline of where Mr. Johnson was, what he had going on, and
9 the days and, and moments leading up to when he was captured
10 that day. And my goal was just to keep that going until
11 another detective arrived. Detective Melton came and then
12 we moved more into some other fact findings just because we
13 were able to get more information from that.

14 Q. And you said Detective Melton joined you?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. What were you doing in the interview room with Daunte
17 for the hour that you were with him by himself?

18 A. Just going over the timeline again just to see what was
19 said. A lot of times whenever we go through timelines,
20 people aren't able to keep their stories straight. So, when
21 we asked it, you know, I -- we get a feel. We go over it
22 again just to see if there was anything different.

23 During my time with him there, you know, we had talked
24 about where he stayed some of the nights. He said, on the
25 night of the 3rd, he had stayed with Patsy. On the night

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 of the 4th he initially stayed or he said he initially
2 stayed with Winona, Winona Daney but then later changed it
3 to that he stayed with Patsy that night in the apartment
4 complex.

5 So there were some things that we just were, were
6 finding and, again, we just didn't know all the information
7 that was being collected on scene until we were stepping out
8 and, and getting that and coming back to it.

9 Q. So, for the hour or so, maybe two hours or so that you
10 were with him that night, did he ever talk about the -- at
11 first --

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. -- did he ever talk about harming or hurting Minor1 or
14 Sharee?

15 A. No, sir, just as, as an overview of, of what we had
16 learned throughout the interview and going forward, Daunte
17 said that, you know, the, the day before the incident, he
18 had stayed at Patsy's house. He had gotten up. He had went
19 and had grits with Sharee and then he had seen her that
20 morning.

21 He said that he was around the apartment complex. He
22 had talked to the apartment manager. He had spoke to Ms.
23 Minnie, Mr. Davis, and some others. Talked about trying to
24 get a job out there.

25 He said that, later that night, there was a fight that

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 happened between him and Sharee. Sharee had gone through
2 his phone, had found some stuff talking about women, and
3 that, during their argument, he had called her bitches and
4 whores is what he said. And that she later or he later said
5 that he -- she splashed a fruity drink on him during that
6 time.

7 As the interview progressed and we got more
8 information, he went on to say that, or I'm sorry, I was
9 told, as I stepped out, that there was a scooter that was
10 found in the apartments. We weren't exactly sure how Sharee
11 had been killed at that point. Her body was wrapped in a
12 rug. We weren't sure the manner or cause of what was going
13 on. But I was told that a scooter was there.

14 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Hold on.

16 MS. NEYLE: Hearsay.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MS. NEYLE: He, he keeps repeating what he's being
19 told.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: This is information that's being
21 processed from the scene to an investigating officer, Your
22 Honor, and it's not for the truth of the matter asserted.
23 It's actually for him to know facts about the crime scene
24 that he needs to do in the investigation of the suspect.

25 THE COURT: So, the fact that he was told there's a

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 scooter there, you're not offering to prove the truth of the
2 matter asserted?

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Well, the -- it's not that the
4 scooter was there. It's that the scooter had blood on it
5 and so there was a suspect---

6 THE COURT: I know. I understand that. Hold on a
7 minute.

8 But now -- but only he could of known that if somebody
9 told him that, right?

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Right.

11 THE COURT: So --.

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: But it wasn't because we needed to
13 know there was a scooter in the apartment. It was because
14 we needed to know why the scooter had blood on it.

15 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, should we approach?

16 THE COURT: Yeah.

17 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
18 hearing of the jury at this time.)

19 Q. So, you can't say what somebody else has told you in
20 the process of your investigation.

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. So let me rephrase the question.

23 In the process of your investigation, did you learn
24 something -- certain things about the crime scene?

25 A. That's correct, yes, sir.

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. There was a scooter that had---

3 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor. It still calls for
4 hearsay.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 Q. All right. Hold on a minute. Let me, let me show
7 you---

8 A. Sure.

9 Q. ---a picture. I want to refer you to State's Exhibit
10 19 and 18.

11 Can you tell me what's in the -- being shown in those
12 photographs?

13 A. Yes, sir, that is a scooter that was found in the
14 living room that had blood on the back.

15 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

16 May we approach?

17 THE COURT: Yeah.

18 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
19 hearing of the jury at this time.)

20 Q. Did you go to the scene that night?

21 A. No, sir, not --.

22 Q. The scene of the apartment.

23 A. Not -- I went straight to the apartment once I learned
24 about what happened. We did go out to the scene after we
25 concluded the interview of Mr. Johnson.

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. So, during the interview, you're trying to
2 get as much information as you can from not only Mr. Johnson
3 but also from the detectives who are working the scene?

4 A. That is correct, yes, sir.

5 Q. All right, sir. Did you have occasion to know, at the
6 time that you walked into the room with Mr. Johnson, how
7 Sharee met her demise?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. All right.

10 A. Not---

11 Q. Did---

12 A. ---the manner or cause.

13 Q. Did you find that information out from the suspect
14 during that interview?

15 A. Yes, sir, the ultimate and the truthful cause, the
16 stabbing --

17 Q. All right.

18 A. -- was --.

19 Q. Did you find the suspect to be cooperative and helpful
20 or something else?

21 A. No, sir, not cooperative or helpful. He denied
22 involvement. Initially he said that he had nothing to do
23 with Sharee, nothing to do with Minor 1. It wasn't really
24 until Detective Melton stepped in that we began questioning
25 him about the social security cards and driver's license

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 that were found in his pocket during his arrest.

2 Once we began on that, and, and asking him, he said he
3 kept them to remember them by. I remember he took a breath
4 and then went into what initially began as the first version
5 of events.

6 Q. All right. Let me stop you there and ask you a
7 question.

8 When you went into the room, did you have a tape
9 recorder or a body camera with you?

10 A. No, sir, I did not.

11 Q. Do you know -- why, why didn't you have something to
12 record with?

13 A. I didn't know Detective McFadden was recording and the
14 policy that was in place was there was no policy to record.
15 Had I known he was recording, I may of gone through the
16 process and, and done it up myself. But I didn't know that,
17 and when he stepped out, he took his with him.

18 Q. Did you have a body cam issued to you as a detective?

19 A. I do, yes, sir.

20 Q. Where was it that evening?

21 A. It may of been in my truck or my other things. But it
22 was not on me.

23 Q. Do you normally wear the body cam as a detective when
24 you're doing interviews?

25 A. No, sir, not, not during that time.

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. So, once you got Mr. Daunte started on talking to you,
2 what was the first version of events that he told you
3 happened that night at the apartment?

4 A. So after he took that deep breath and began to tell us
5 what was going on, his first version was that a couple weeks
6 back, Dupray Adams, Minor's father, had come to him saying
7 that he wanted to kill Sharee and wanted Daunte to remove
8 the body. He said that Dupray wanted this because Sharee
9 was the only one of his children's mother that put him on
10 child support and, because of that, he wanted to kill her
11 and then have Daunte come after, place her body in a car
12 that Dupray would provide to him, take it to a location and
13 then set it on fire and that was his role. And he said, as
14 a result, he would be paid \$5,000 from Dupray in order to do
15 that.

16 Q. Okay. Did you--all questioning him -- question him in
17 detail about that version of facts?

18 A. We didn't go into a whole lot of detail because we
19 pointed out to him from the start that Dupray Adams was
20 outside freaking out that his daughter -- he was not able to
21 find her, that it didn't make sense that, you know, the
22 circumstances that we had learned at that time didn't add up
23 with what he was saying and how Dupray was acting.

24 If he wanted her dead, you know, he wouldn't be at the
25 police department or he still wouldn't be not knowing where

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 his daughter was and that was a big focus there. But when
2 we told him that, that Dupray was there and, and freaking
3 out, and he was, he was really concerned and going through,
4 he took another pause and then went into his second version
5 of events.

6 Q. What was the second version?

7 A. The second version was he said he killed them. He said
8 he stabbed them both. He said he stabbed Sharee first, and
9 to go back to it, he said this was a result of an agreement
10 between him and Cermon James, another one of Sharee's
11 children's father.

12 Q. So first he talked about Dupray Adams --

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. Minor 1's father?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Gave you a, a scenario about that?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And then he changed it and said something about Cermon
19 being the one who had contracted for the killing?

20 A. That's correct, yes, sir.

21 Q. Tell us the details he said about Cermon.

22 A. He said that he was approached by Cermon and that he
23 wanted Sharee dead and Minor 1 dead. He said that, you know,
24 he wanted Minor 1 dead because he didn't like Dupray or
25 Dupray. I'm sorry.

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 He said that -- you know, I don't know what the issues
2 were among them but he didn't like him and that he wanted
3 his daughter to die and, you know, hurt him that way. As a
4 result of killing them for him on his behalf, from what he
5 was telling us, that he was gonna get \$20,000 from Cermon
6 James.

7 Q. Now, who's talking to you and telling you this?

8 A. This is Daunte --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- telling us this.

11 Q. And telling you that Cermon is gonna pay him \$20,000 to
12 kill these two people?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. All right. Was there any car involved in this?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Was there any burning involved in this?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. All right. Continue.

19 A. He said that he stabbed them. He said he stabbed
20 Sharee. He didn't know how many times when we asked. He
21 said that he -- Sharee knew Cermon wanted her dead and that
22 she actually begged for it during the time. He said it was
23 loud. He said that people knew what was going on. He said,
24 after killing Sharee, he killed Minor1. He said that, after
25 he killed Minor1, he wrapped her in a black and pink rug and

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 took her to the dumpster out in the apartment complex.

2 Q. Let me stop you there.

3 when he said things were loud, he was describing the
4 actual event?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And when he said people heard about it, what was he
7 referring to that?

8 A. He was just saying people in the apartments knew about
9 it.

10 Q. Okay. Okay. And so you let him continue. You let him
11 talk about what he had -- this version of the facts.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Did you question him after he finished to say, you
14 know, for example, did you say what happened to Sharee, why
15 is Sharee still there?

16 A. No, sir, I didn't go into that. We were trying to
17 focus more about the manner, the cause. You know, we didn't
18 know that, that Sharee had been stabbed. That's something
19 that wasn't known to us at that time. She was still wrapped
20 in the rug as detectives were trying to process. So that
21 was our first kind of corroboration that we found out, you
22 know, after that that's actually what happened.

23 Q. Do you remember asking him, on either of these
24 versions, whether he received any money from these people?

25 A. Yes, sir, I -- Detective Melton go. But it was asked

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 how was he gonna get paid and, you know, \$20,000 is a grand
2 sum of money to most people and he wasn't able to answer how
3 he would get paid, how that would be provided to him.

4 Q. All right. So, were there other things that you
5 brought to his attention at that time, to Daunte's
6 attention, to, to continue the interview?

7 A. We had asked him what dumpster. He had told us the one
8 that was in the complex out the backdoor. You know, we just
9 tried to keep him talking. But as we got that information,
10 I remember I stepped out right after he told us that he
11 killed Minor 1 and went to our lieutenant in his office to
12 let him know to let the officers check because a five year
13 old child doesn't deserve to be in the apartment complex---

14 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

15 A. ---dumpster.

16 MS. NEYLE: Objection. (Indiscernible).

17 THE COURT: I overrule the objection.

18 Go ahead.

19 Q. Did you confront Daunte at that time about having two
20 versions of the events---

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. ---and having inconsistencies in the event?

23 A. Yes, sir, we pointed out that neither story made sense.
24 You know, Cermon had a child with Sharee, ^{Minor 2}, who was at
25 the home at the time. His inconsistencies, prior to his,

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 you know, final admission of guilt and about the, the
2 stabbing and whatnot, along with that, I mean he was all
3 over the place. But he was consistent in what we later
4 found out to be the actual truth of the, the manner of
5 death, you know. It was questioned earlier that we thought
6 there was another manner or, or, or murder weapon that was
7 used and we questioned him and he denied that, and it was
8 ultimately what he told us was the truth about how she died.

9 Q. So, how did it happen -- how -- tell us the events that
10 were going on when he told you the final version.

11 A. Like I said, you know, he, he took the breaths. He
12 kind of just, just settled into what he was telling us the
13 first version, the Dupray, the 5,000, the car, and the fire,
14 and that -- and his only job during that was to remove the
15 bodies and then it's transitioned into he killed them both,
16 took Minor 1 to the dumpster for Cermon for \$20,000. And I
17 mean just those two versions didn't add up to, to what we
18 saw and, and felt during the investigation.

19 Q. So what, what did he tell you next?

20 A. We went in and then we began to type a written
21 statement and go into that portion. Detective Melton
22 brought his computer in and Daunte began working on the
23 statement. But, during that time, he started rambling. He
24 became kind of incoherent. Couldn't really understand what
25 was going on.

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 We -- I wished we could of questioned him more about
2 it. But just because of his ramblings and whatnot and
3 everything going on, and then there being a, a child out
4 there that we wanted to find, and, and bring that together,
5 we ended the interview. At that point we wanted to shift
6 our focus away from, from there to the recovery and
7 processing and, and, and getting her out of there.

8 Q. Okay. And can you tell the ladies and gentlemen of the
9 jury approximately where were you in the interview process
10 when Detective Melton came in?

11 A. It was right after I'd found out another possible means
12 and, and cause of death and I'd asked him about that.
13 Detective Melton came in. He had other information that
14 they learned and, and he really led the interview at that
15 point. I was there.

16 Like I said, during my time with him, I kept it going.
17 Went over the timeline again to see about any
18 inconsistencies, see where he stayed. Maybe we would of
19 learned something I could pass on to other people. But it
20 wasn't until Detective Melton got in there that it, you
21 know, took off and, and led to what was said.

22 Q. As a result of the work that you did that night, when
23 the interview ended, did you leave the room with Melton?

24 A. During some portions, yes, sir. But, ultimately, when
25 the interview concluded --

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Yes, sir.

2 A. -- yes, sir, I, I left.

3 Q. So that was the end of the interview for August the
4 5th?

5 A. That's correct, yes, sir.

6 Q. How did you officially record that interview in terms
7 of a report?

8 A. Documenting. So immediately after we went to the
9 apartment complex to aid in the, the search of the dumpsters
10 and the trash. Not only did we go to the apartment complex,
11 we went over to the landfill and then went back. But we
12 documented it, typed -- I'd taken some notes during the
13 interview, and along with that, and then being recent, we
14 sat down. We typed notes about what was told to us, what he
15 said, the substance, the, the, the matter of, you know, how
16 he did it and why he did it and we typed those up in a, a
17 memorandum of interview is what we call it.

18 Q. A memorandum -- I want to show you this document and
19 ask if you can identify it.

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. What's the date on it?

22 A. This is August 5th, 2019.

23 Q. And who would you say typed it?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Okay. And did Melton review this with you?

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. He did, yes, sir.

2 Q. And after you-all agreed on the language, you-all put
3 it in the case file?

4 A. That's correct, yes, sir.

5 Q. And, and in this memorandum of interview, you say I,
6 and then you put in parentheses, Detective Hansen.

7 A. That's correct, yes, sir.

8 Q. So that's you speaking---

9 A. First person.

10 Q. ---to the computer so to speak?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And why did you do a memorandum of interview at
13 the conclusion of the interview?

14 A. The interview wasn't recorded. That's why we had
15 Detective Melton in there to, to be our witness. There was
16 another officer behind the glass to be our witness. But to
17 document the facts and the substance of what was said, we
18 put it on paper so we don't forget.

19 Q. Was Mr. Johnson charged with the murder of Minor 1 and
20 Sharee after this interview?

21 A. He was charged with the murder of Sharee.

22 Q. Sharee.

23 A. At the end of the interview, yes, sir.

24 Q. And why was that?

25 A. Due to his admission that he stabbed her and, you know,

Jeffery Hansen - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 that being the manner of death, and then, of course,
2 everything leading up to it helped. But it was the
3 admission and the confession that, that was the result.

4 Q. Do you know what -- about what time -- you have a note
5 about what time the interview concluded?

6 A. I believe it was around 10:13, a little after
7 10:00 that we inter -- that he said that he didn't want to
8 do a written statement that we ended the interview and then
9 shifted our focus over to going to the apartment complex
10 and, and to the other areas.

11 Q. All right. Thank you. Hold on.

12 Beg the Court's indulgence.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 (Pause.)

15 Q. Answer any questions Ms. Neyle has for you.

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. NEYLE:

19 Q. Detective Hansen, excuse me, you said that this was
20 your first major case---

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. ---that you were working?

23 A. Yes, ma'am, that's correct.

24 Q. And so you had been in -- a detective for a month at
25 that point?

Jeffery Hansen - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 A. That's correct, yes, ma'am.

2 Q. And you were in the room with Daunte by yourself for an
3 hour?

4 A. Yes, ma'am, that's correct.

5 Q. And that wasn't recorded?

6 A. No, ma'am, it was not.

7 Q. And when Detective Melton came in the room, that was
8 not recorded as well?

9 A. No, ma'am, it was not.

10 Q. And you said your -- the police department did not have
11 a policy at that time regarding recording of statements?

12 A. No, ma'am, there was no policy put in place for that.

13 Q. Is there a current policy in place?

14 A. Yes, ma'am, there is.

15 Q. And what is that?

16 A. Our interview rooms are now conducted on, I'm sorry,
17 equipped with audio and video. There's also a policy that
18 was put in place that major felonies would be recorded as a
19 result.

20 MS. NEYLE: Your Honor, I have no further questions.

21 Thank you.

22 A. Thank you.

23 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May the witness be excused?

24 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

25 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: You can step down.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Call Detective John Melton.

3 THE BAILIFF: Left-hand on the Bible. Raise your
4 right-hand. State your name.

5 THE WITNESS: John Melton.

6 JOHN MELTON, being first duly
7 sworn, testified as follows:

8 THE BAILIFF: State your name for the record and spell
9 your last name please.

10 THE WITNESS: John Melton. M-E-L-T-O-N.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

13 Q. Good afternoon, detective.

14 A. Good afternoon, sir.

15 Q. Detective Melton, how long have you been with the
16 Sumter Police Department?

17 A. Roughly 16 years.

18 Q. And did you start off as a patrol officer?

19 A. I did. I started off as a patrol officer.

20 Q. All right. How long have you been a detective?

21 A. August of 2010. So, roughly 12 years.

22 Q. All right, sir. And what are you assigned to these
23 days?

24 A. The investigative services division.

25 Q. And does that investigate my -- major crimes in the

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 community?

2 A. It does, sir, and I do investigator major crimes.

3 Q. All right. Was that your task and operation/job in
4 2019 when Sharee and Minor1 were killed?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. How did you get the call to find out about
7 this case?

8 A. I actually was in the middle of another investigation,
9 learned that we had something that we needed to wrap up what
10 we were doing and be pulled from. So, I tried to settle
11 myself down, get that investigation over, and then I joined
12 this current investigation.

13 Q. So, when you joined it, did you join it at the police
14 department or at the scene?

15 A. I went to the scene first.

16 Q. All right. And were officers still processing the
17 scene?

18 A. There were officers there. There was some processing
19 that had began to be underway. There was a tremendous
20 effort going on at the scene.

21 Q. All right. And I want to just kind of stop because
22 I've got some notes here and I'm gonna follow my notes.

23 As a result of this investigation, did you happen to
24 take samples of buccal swabs from several people that you
25 interviewed?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I did, sir.

2 Q. And can you give me the names of those people that you
3 took swabs from?

4 A. Can I refer to my chains?

5 I did several of them. I would prefer to do that if
6 that's okay.

7 Q. All right, sir. Do you have it?

8 A. I do, sir.

9 Q. Okay, sir.

10 A. Cermon James, Daunte Johnson, Cody Daney, Minor 2
11 and Dupray Adams.

12 Q. Do you know if all of those samples were taken on the
13 night of the 5th or were they at different times?

14 A. They were taken at different times. I do know that
15 Mr. Johnson's sample was taken on the night of the 5th.

16 Q. And did you take it at the police department in Sumter?

17 A. I did, sir.

18 Q. All right. And then what did you do with those samples
19 once you collected them?

20 A. When I collected them, after collecting them, I put
21 them into a secured evidence area and I turned them over to
22 our evidence unit.

23 Q. All right. Now, what did you do when you left the
24 scene that night?

25 A. When I left from the scene, I went to the Sumter Police

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Department to assist Detective Hansen in an interview.

2 Q. All right. With Daunte Johnson?

3 A. That is correct, sir.

4 Q. And do you know what -- about what time you walked into
5 the room?

6 A. I don't know about what time it was. I do remember
7 that about the time that I was walking into the room we were
8 asking him about a potential murder weapon that turned out
9 to not be the murder weapon.

10 Q. All right. And how did you get involved in the
11 interview?

12 A. So, I got in. One of the first things that we do is we
13 kind of get ourselves acquainted with who we're talking to.
14 I generally like to try to know who I'm speaking with. So,
15 I worked my way into that, got to know Mr. Johnson briefly,
16 kind of hashed over what Detective Hansen had done and in,
17 in, in doing so, maybe not as specific as he would have, but
18 generalities. I kind of want to know where we are, feel it
19 out, figure out where I'm gonna go next.

20 Q. All right. And so, throughout this process, you were
21 talking to him and asking him questions?

22 A. Yes, sir, I was.

23 Q. Would you tell the ladies and gentlemen about his
24 demeanor in terms of was he cooperative, was he belligerent,
25 was he emotional?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 How, how did he look and sound?

2 A. He absolutely was not belligerent in any way. I
3 remember, when I went in, he, he was sort of trying to make
4 self-serving type statements. He sounded smart,
5 intelligent, and he kind of -- I don't know how to say this.
6 But he, he gave you a very uneasy feeling being in the room
7 with him.

8 Q. So---

9 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor. Speculation.

10 THE COURT: I'll overrule the objection. It, it -- I
11 mean I think he has a right for his own personal
12 observations.

13 Q. As the interview con, con -- you know, went on,
14 continued, tell us about what did you learn from Daunte
15 Johnson.

16 A. So, interestingly, when we started the interview, and,
17 and going over some of the timeline of events, he had spoken
18 about sort of migrating all over the country and ending up
19 here. We went into several different things in getting
20 acquainted, and, ultimately, ended up that he started
21 providing us with versions of the -- how Sharee and the
22 child ended up getting killed, murdered.

23 At first, when we talk about the self-serving side of
24 things, he talked about a gentleman sitting in this room,
25 Mr. Dupray Adams. He had said that he was approached about

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 a plan to essentially kill -- excuse me. I apologize.

2 He, he went into that his job at first was just to get
3 rid of the bodies of Sharee and Minor1 and that he was
4 suppose to be the clean-up man. And I remember, when he
5 went into it, you know, just, just being horrified at what
6 I'd just heard and he was suppose to put the bodies in a car
7 and light the car on fire.

8 And so he was suppose to get paid a sum of money,
9 \$5,000. I could tell that, by sitting there and talking to
10 him, that that wasn't the truth and it was the first time
11 that it was like the solidification that this is real, that
12 this is happening, that this did happen.

13 Sorry. Apologize.

14 So then I started talking to him about this doesn't
15 make a lot of sense. Dupray was freaking out because we
16 couldn't find Minor1 and he switched stories and went into
17 Cermon at that point. Said that he was gonna get \$20,000 to
18 essentially kill them.

19 He gave us a story that talked about Cermon being upset
20 with her, that Cermon had issues with Dupray. Just didn't
21 add up. Before giving the different versions of events, he
22 would kind of take a deep breath, sigh, pause, and he would
23 talk about it. Ultimately we learned and didn't know that
24 Sharee had been stabbed. People were still processing it at
25 that point, the scene itself when I say it, and it was

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 horrible. It was just horrible.

2 She -- when he admit that he stabbed them, he sort of
3 leaned forward in the chair, took a breath like he'd done
4 before, and he said it. And when he said, you know, that he
5 had killed them, he had stabbed them, I will never, ever,
6 ever forget. He kind of made like a funky smirk on his face
7 and I remember the pit in the bottom of my stomach when that
8 happened. It's a moment in my life I will never forget.

9 He -- I remember him talking about it was loud, that
10 the whole incident was loud. I remember him giving us and,
11 and talking about, because one of the things we asked was
12 the, the knife, and he talked about that he had, you know,
13 gotten a knife from Cody Daney essentially. It's just a
14 hard moment.

15 Q. When he did finally give you the third version, did he
16 actually use the words I did it?

17 A. I know at one point in there he used something along
18 the lines of you're right, I did it. But I can't recall his
19 exact words. I, I know, I know with one of the versions he
20 said you're right, I did it. I just don't remember which
21 version that was.

22 Q. At the time that he gave that admission, did he also
23 tell you that he had rolled up the, the, the child, Minor1,
24 and put her in a dumpster?

25 A. Yes, he said he rolled her up in a rug. I believe it

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 was black and pink and I remember -- I'm gonna withdraw my
2 opinion. But I do remember him saying that. I remember
3 asking about where the dumpster was. I remember him saying
4 the dumpster was out the back. It was inside the courtyard
5 in the complex and I just remember just the empty feeling.

6 Q. At that point, once an admission had been made, did you
7 take a step to prepare a written statement for him to sign?

8 A. I did. One of my roles at the police department is I'm
9 a detective supervisor. I asked Hansen to get that started
10 once we got to a point where we could because we turned our
11 attention later to recovering the child.

12 Q. So, at the time, who typed up the written statement
13 that you were going to ask him to sign?

14 A. So, when we got the confession, I got my computer,
15 brought it in the room, I opened it up. He's sitting across
16 the table from me and I started to type the things that he
17 was saying. When I began to type them, he didn't really
18 make -- he wasn't incoherent but he kind of started talking
19 all over the place. It was odd. It was strange. Things
20 weren't fitting together, together contextually.

21 So, I started typing and, at, at one point, he said
22 that he didn't want to do a written statement. So, at that
23 point we decided it's over. I, I -- we're not gonna keep
24 doing this. Let's go find this child and that's what we
25 did. We stopped and exited the room and turned him over to

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 other officers to take him to jail.

2 Q. The written statement that you prepared, do you have
3 it?

4 A. Yes, sir, I do.

5 Q. And it would of been put on a form that said statement?

6 A. Yes, sir, it is.

7 Q. And what would you have asked him to do at the bottom
8 of it?

9 A. I would of asked him to sign it.

10 Q. At what time did you put on the statement that you
11 start working on the statement?

12 A. 10:43PM. It's listed at the top of the statement.

13 Q. On what day?

14 A. August 5th of 2019.

15 Q. And how long did it take you to type up the statement
16 there?

17 A. Minutes.

18 Q. All right. And, at the conclusion, you handed it to
19 him?

20 A. No, sir. When he said he would -- didn't want to do a
21 written statement, we stopped right there, never got to the
22 point of asking him to sign it, and ended the interview.

23 Q. Are there some facts in the written statement that he
24 did not tell you during the interview before you started
25 writing the statement?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. There is one specific thing --

2 Q. What is that?

3 A. -- that I blacked out, that he blacked out.

4 Q. That's what he told you when you were preparing your
5 written statement?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. He hadn't said that before when you were doing the
8 interview?

9 A. I don't remember him saying that before.

10 Q. All right. And during the interview, did he tell you
11 at anytime that he had had sex with Sharee that night?

12 A. Yes, he did. I'm glad you asked that. When we were
13 interviewing him, odd things generally don't just happen at
14 random in an interview and out of nowhere he had said that
15 he had sex with Sharee. And I remember thinking that was
16 extremely, extremely out of place and odd and then he went
17 on talking about something completely different. I---

18 Q. Where---

19 A. ---still to this---

20 Q. Where is that statement recorded?

21 A. I have my handwritten notes here and I also have it --
22 we have it documented in the -- let's see here. I believe
23 it's in the memorandum of interview, sir.

24 Q. That's the one that Detective Hansen said he was typing
25 with you?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And then in your statement, the one that you
3 started writing, he didn't mention that?

4 A. He did not.

5 Q. Okay. Now, let me ask you a question.

6 Do you remember, in your handwritten notes or other --
7 anything that you had that night, him -- you being -- you
8 asking Daunte Johnson about having keys to Sharee's
9 apartment?

10 A. Yes, I think I did at some point.

11 Q. Did you make a note of that?

12 A. Let me refer to my notes, sir. I apologize. I
13 remember -- definitely remember asking him about keys. But
14 I didn't make a note of it in my handwritten notes.

15 Q. Was that inconsistent -- was there an inconsistency in
16 the information you were getting from Daunte Johnson about
17 him having keys, how he got the keys?

18 A. I don't recall that at this time.

19 Q. All right, sir. When did you get to review the
20 memorandum of, of interview that Hansen prepared?

21 A. We -- so we went into, after we sent him -- Mr. Johnson
22 to jail, we -- I began to do other interviews and we --
23 basically everything is so large. Everything is turning at
24 once. We're trying to keep up with real time information
25 that's coming in.

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 So, we have certain things we have to do. Obviously we
2 get personnel together to go and look for this child because
3 that was our number one goal. We wanted to switch over and
4 find her.

5 The other thing we did was we had others to interview
6 at the police department and I moved into that. At the
7 first available time within the same work period basically
8 before we went home, we stopped and sat down and did this
9 memorandum of interview. Detective Hansen typed it and I
10 reviewed it and we talked about it and put it down on paper
11 so we wouldn't forget.

12 Q. All right. And who was in charge of having the arrest
13 of Mr. Johnson facilitated?

14 A. That would be me.

15 Q. And how did you do that?

16 A. We placed him under arrest. Once he made the
17 confession that he did, in fact, kill Sharee and Minor 1, at
18 the time we just charged him with Sharee. I would love to
19 elaborate on that further in a minute. But we sent him to
20 jail. We left the room when he said he didn't want to do a
21 written statement. We ended the interview. We turned him
22 over to marked patrol officers, got a vehicle in position,
23 got him in the car, sent him on to the detention center.

24 Q. Do you remember the name of the officer who was driving
25 that car?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I do.

2 Q. Who was that?

3 A. The officer driving that car was Tabitha Adams.

4 Q. She's a Sumter Police Department officer, patrol
5 person?

6 A. She is, sir.

7 Q. All right. After concluding the interview Monday
8 night, let's say it's eleven o'clock, where do you go then?

9 A. Actually went over and spoke to Mr. Cody Daney.

10 Q. All right. And where was he?

11 A. He was at the police department as well.

12 Q. In another room?

13 A. He's in another room.

14 Q. All right.

15 A. He is the other individual that you see at -- on Susie
16 Rembert exit the house.

17 Q. All right. And did you talk to Cody Daney about a
18 knife that you had discovered Mr. Johnson had talked about?

19 A. Yes, sir, I did.

20 Q. All right. And Cody Daney gave you more information.

21 Did you have verification from Cody about information
22 Mr. Johnson had given you?

23 A. I did.

24 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor. It calls for
25 hearsay.

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I asked whether there was
3 verification of information learned from Mr. Johnson.

4 MS. NEYLE: That's asking for hearsay.

5 THE COURT: I mean I -- it depends on where the
6 verification came from based on his observations or what
7 he -- somebody told him.

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: I can rephrase.

9 How long -- when you talked to Cody Daney about a knife
10 that he owned, was it in the police possession?

11 A. At that point it was not.

12 Q. Okay. When did the knife get in the police possession?

13 A. And let me explain that. We had officers at
14 Mr. Daney's house. I don't know exactly what time it was
15 collected. It would of been in our control essentially but
16 I can't tell you exactly what time we collected it.

17 Q. All right. That's fine. Let me switch gears.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. You have started the paperwork for Mr. Johnson to be
20 charged with the murder of Sharee.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And he's in jail?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And do you have another opportunity to interview
25 Mr. Johnson that day, the next day, the next day?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. There were interviews that were conducted but I did not
2 do them.

3 Q. Okay. Now, did you ultimately, as the case was being
4 investigated, did you find Minor1's body that week, the week
5 of August 5th?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Did you find it the next week?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Did you find it the next week?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. All right. Was there an investigation ongoing during
12 all that time?

13 A. Yes, there was.

14 Q. All right. As part of that investigation, did you
15 listen to recorded jail phone conversations of Daunte
16 Johnson?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. All right. And how many would you say you've listened
19 to?

20 A. I have listened to tons of recorded jail conversations
21 from Mr. Johnson.

22 Q. Do you remember listening to a conversation on April
23 the 9th about eleven o'clock in the evening?

24 A. Yes, I did or not---

25 Q. In 2019.

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. It's not April. I believe you're referring to August
2 the 9th.

3 Q. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It is August the 9th, 2019.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And would that have been a conversation he had or just
6 a few days after he got arrested?

7 A. Not long after he got arrested, yes, sir.

8 Q. All right. Did you put those recordings on a disk for
9 us to play in court?

10 A. I did, sir.

11 (WHEREUPON, the disk of jail phonecalls was marked as
12 State's Exhibit No. 56 for identification purposes only at
13 this time.)

14 Q. What's been marked as State's Exhibit 56.

15 Can you recognize that disk?

16 A. I recognize the disk.

17 MS. NEYLE: May we approach, Your Honor?

18 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
19 hearing of the jury at this time.)

20 Q. As a result of -- how did you get these recorded
21 phonecalls?

22 A. I got some -- we have a access to the secure system. I
23 got some from that and I got some with hard disks.

24 Q. Okay. Okay. And hard disks from where?

25 From---

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Major Lumpkin at the jail.

2 Q. All right. Major Lumpkin at the jail does what?

3 A. She does many things but she controls the phone system.

4 So, we ask for stuff from her often.

5 Q. So you made a request?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And did you make a specific request in terms of the
8 individual or did you ask for all the phonecalls that were
9 made at the jail on a particular night?

10 A. I made specific requests for Mr. Johnson.

11 Q. All right. And when you received the disk or the hard
12 drive, whatever you want to call it, were there any other
13 calls on it besides Mr. Johnson's calls?

14 A. No, sir, just Mr. Johnson's.

15 Q. All right. And you then listened to Mr. Johnson's
16 calls to make notes?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. All right.

19 THE COURT: Okay. So how did he get that?

20 Q. So when you made the phonecall, when you listened to
21 the phonecalls, if there was something you wanted to record,
22 how would you have done that?

23 A. There's---

24 Q. How -- to save.

25 A. Oh.

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. I, I said record. I meant to save.

2 A. How'd you get that disk today in this Court is what
3 you're asking?

4 Q. Yes, sir.

5 A. I downloaded that disk off of my computer.

6 Q. All right. And you've heard the conversations?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. And you've recorded -- you've saved the conversations
9 that you listened to that you wanted to bring to court?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You put them on this disk?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right.

14 THE COURT: Okay. I'll allow it.

15 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I think we have a matter of law.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Come on.

17 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
18 hearing of the jury at this time.)

19 THE COURT: Do you want me to send the jury out?

20 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor. I hate that we have to.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm gonna ask
22 you to leave. Don't start talking about the case yet. I'll
23 get you back just as quick as I can.

24 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
25 presence of the jury.)

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: Okay.

2 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I would object to the State trying
3 to introduce these jail calls through Investigator Melton.
4 Major Lumpkin testified this morning. I, I think that would
5 of been the proper time to admit those phonecalls. She's
6 the person who is familiar with the system. She would be
7 able to authenticate them.

8 Investigator Melton can't authenticate these jail
9 calls, judge. It's improper. It's -- the, the proper
10 foundation has not been laid, judge. I would, I would
11 object to these being introduced through him.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MS. NEYLE: And, and I believe he received them through
14 Lumpkin.

15 THE COURT: He did offer -- he got them -- he said he
16 gets two ways. He can download them into his system I
17 assume or he can get them off the hard drive and that was --
18 I understood his testimony. I may be wrong. And I don't
19 know which one of these he got. But this particular piece
20 of evidence that they're trying to introduce, he said he, he
21 downloaded off of his computer and that my understanding he
22 has -- he had talked to defendant before and I assume he can
23 recognize his voice, and, in fact, that is the defendant's
24 voice on this tape he's been listening to.

25 MS. NEYLE: I believe he testified he got those hard

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 disks from Major Lumpkin. He has access to the disk from
2 Major Lumpkin.

3 THE COURT: And, and I may be -- I -- and you might be
4 right. I thought he could down -- he could get into the
5 system himself or he could get a hard, hard disk from Major
6 Lumpkin. There were two ways for him to access it and maybe
7 I missed it.

8 Is that wrong?

9 THE WITNESS: Sir, if I can see my file, I'll be able
10 to answer whether I downloaded them off the system or
11 whether I got them off my hard disk.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Go look.

13 THE WITNESS: Can you hand me my jail phonecall file
14 please?

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Is it up here on the desk?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Can you access the system without Major
18 Lumpkin?

19 THE WITNESS: I do have access to it but I want to
20 confirm which way I received these.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 THE WITNESS: I received a disk from Major Lumpkin on
23 these.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So you -- so now's a -- I guess she
25 didn't testify that she made a disk or anything---

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: She---

2 MS. NEYLE: ---even though---

3 SOLICITOR FINNEY: She testified that she would provide
4 the information that was requested from law enforcement.

5 THE COURT: I understand that. But she didn't say she
6 provided the information requested from law enforcement in
7 this case. You know, she -- that was a general statement.
8 She didn't say I was requested information from this case
9 and I provided it -- this to law enforcement.

10 She didn't say that, did she?

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: But, judge, we have a source and
12 then we have a witness who can testify that he contacted the
13 source and got the information from the source and I can ask
14 him did you change it or alter it in any way.

15 THE COURT: Okay. I assume you take -- that this -- do
16 you take the position that this is fungible or non-fungible?

17 MS. NEYLE: Judge, I would take the position it's
18 non-fungible but we're objecting -- not objection to a chain
19 of custody. We're objecting to the lack of proper
20 foundation. Lumpkin was here this morning. She could of
21 authenticated these calls and the State didn't do that. The
22 foundation has not been laid. He said he got this from,
23 from Major Lumpkin.

24 THE COURT: And I, and I understand this is not
25 traditionally the way we do this. But, but it's a similar

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 situation in this as we do on Facebook and other things to
2 authenticate a Facebook message. And many times somebody
3 who's received something on Facebook, the authentication, if
4 it looks like a duck and sounds like a duck, it's a duck,
5 and with the person who sent the Facebook doesn't
6 necessarily have to be here. It's just the person that's --
7 who received it who's familiar with the number unlike, you
8 know, fungible evidence that the chain is, is critical on.

9 I don't know that that level of authentication needs to
10 be in this. And we have had this conversations in, in the
11 court system trying to adapt to modern technology and
12 Facebook and all these other issues and how do you
13 authenticate a Facebook message. I've been in numbers of
14 seminars and had numbers of discussions with my colleagues
15 about what, what standard is available at that point.

16 And most of them take the position, if you can
17 authenticate it by what it is, the person who's given it to
18 is not necessarily that important. You know, if he can
19 authenticate that this is, in fact, a telephone conversation
20 between your client and somebody else and that he got it off
21 the system, I think that's similar to getting it off of
22 social media.

23 Do you disagree with that?

24 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor. He, he didn't get it off
25 the system. He got it from Major Lumpkin.

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 THE COURT: who testified that she maintains the system
2 and she maintains the system at the jail and records all or
3 most of the calls that come in and out. I think she
4 testified that that -- that the system's in place and, and
5 the recording comes on when they make the 15 minute call
6 that they're being -- subject to being recorded and she put
7 that into the record. She maintained the system and that he
8 testifies he got it from her from that system. I think he's
9 probably laid enough foundation.

10 MS. NEYLE: I would object, Your Honor, and just say
11 that needed to be---

12 THE COURT: I, I understand and I might be wrong. So
13 but -- I, you know, I think he's probably laid enough and
14 I'm gonna allow it. It would of been easier if she'd of --
15 it would of been a lot cleaner if she'd of testified on
16 these individual disks that she gave them to him. But the
17 fact, if they were fungible, I would agree with you a
18 hundred percent that she -- they'd have to get her back up
19 here and start over. But the fact that they're
20 non-fungible, and I assume he's gonna be able to identify
21 your client's voice based on his prior conversation and, in
22 fact, who he was and maybe he's gonna say who he was. I
23 don't know.

24 Okay. Anything else you want to put on the record?

25 MS. NEYLE: And, and, judge, how would you like to note

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 the objection on the record when it's -- you want me just to
2 note my objection?

3 THE COURT: Well, it's already -- it's on the record.
4 We been talking about it.

5 MS. NEYLE: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: You've got it covered---

7 MS. NEYLE: But---

8 THE COURT: ---very well. She's recording everything
9 we're saying.

10 MS. NEYLE: Yes, sir.

11 THE COURT: And so you, you got it on the record and
12 I'm sure it will be reviewed. And if I'm wrong, we'll see
13 what impact it has. You know, it could be cleaner.

14 MS. NEYLE: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Now you ready for the jury or y'all
16 need a break?

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Let's take a break while they're
18 out, judge.

19 THE COURT: Okay. We'll take a short break.

20 You can step down but you can't talk to anybody.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 (WHEREUPON, a short recess was taken at this time.)

23 THE COURT: During the break, I was informed by the
24 court reporter that, in fact, the witness from the jail said
25 she did turn these phonecalls over to the Sumter Police

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Department. So that's what she says is on the record. I
2 didn't make that -- that was not reflective in my notes.
3 But, anyway, either way, my ruling still stands. We'll see.

4 All right. We ready for the jury?

5 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: All right. Bring them in.

7 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
8 presence of the jury.)

9 THE BAILIFF: The jurors are seated, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 Mr. Solicitor.

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, Your Honor.

13 Your Honor, at this time we would move exhibit --
14 State's Exhibit 56 into evidence and ask that the Court
15 allow us to publish jail---

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ---phonecalls.

18 THE COURT: All right. It's in over the objection of
19 defense.

20 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 56 was received into
21 evidence at this time.)

22 (WHEREUPON, a portion of State's Exhibit No. 56 was
23 played for the jury at this time.)

24 Q. Investigator Melton, do you know Daunte Johnson's
25 voice?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Have you been in the room with him for a couple hours
3 or more?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 56
6 was played for the jury at this time.)

7 Q. Mr. Melton, have you been able to determine whether
8 Daunte Johnson has a nickname with his family?

9 A. He does.

10 Q. What is it?

11 A. Bigums (phonetic).

12 Q. All right. And do they call him that in the telephone
13 calls?

14 A. His auntie does.

15 Q. Okay. And was the auntie talking at the end of that
16 call?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And who else was on that call?

19 A. Sounds like his mom for just a brief minute.

20 Q. Question. Did you sign a arrest warrant for the death
21 of Minor 1 against Daunte Johnson?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. Do you know when you got that --

24 A. I don't---

25 Q. -- when you did it?

John Melton - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. I don't know the exact date.

2 Q. Can I show you a --

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. -- document and ask if you could review it and tell
5 me---

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. ---what date the warrant was signed?

8 A. The warrant was signed on 8/26 of 2019.

9 Q. And why was it signed 21 days after she disappeared?

10 A. Daunte confessed to taking Minor 1 to the dumpster and
11 we located DNA evidence going out the backdoor and the
12 reason he wasn't charged with that immediately was because
13 we waited for that DNA evidence to come back and it did come
14 back that the blood going out the backdoor was that of
15 Minor 1 .

16 Q. Thank you. Answer any questions the defense may have.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. NEYLE:

19 Q. Investigator, excuse me, Investigator Melton, you went
20 to the police academy, academy?

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

22 Q. And during that training you received at the police
23 academy, you learn, you learned how to write reports,
24 correct?

25 A. I did.

John Melton - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 Q. Okay. It's important they're accurate?

2 A. It is.

3 Q. Complete?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. And thorough?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. And you wrote a report in this case?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. And that was a, a two page report?

10 A. Can I see which report you're referring to?

11 Q. (WHEREUPON, Ms. Neyle handed a document to the
12 witness.)

13 A. I did.

14 Q. Okay. And that's two pages?

15 A. Yes, ma'am, it is.

16 Q. Okay. And the Sumter Police Department issued you a
17 body worn camera?

18 A. They did.

19 Q. And you didn't wear it during this investigation, did
20 you?

21 A. No, ma'am, I did not.

22 Q. Also during the course of your investigation you
23 received information that Minor 1 had been alive and playing
24 with kids the day of August 5th, correct?

25 A. I did. But I'd like to articulate on that if I can.

John Melton - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 Q. And that was from multiple people?

2 A. I would need to look. I'm, I'm familiar with the one
3 but I'd need to look and see if it's multiple.

4 Q. Do you receive information from Denasia McCray?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Did you also receive information from Ansley
7 Johnson and Kenyon Johnson?

8 A. I don't remember exactly what the children said. But,
9 yes, I did receive information for sure from Denasia McCray.

10 Q. You also received information that Minor1 had possibly
11 gotten into a green truck with a man?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. Going to the apartment, you didn't collect any video
14 surveillance from the apartment complex?

15 A. The apartment complex itself, no, ma'am.

16 Q. Okay. And that's a pretty large apartment complex,
17 isn't it?

18 A. It is.

19 Q. Okay. And they're, they're arranged in not a round
20 shape but they're kind of arranged in an oval, correct?

21 A. I'd have to look at it on a map but they're kind of
22 sort of.

23 Q. Okay. Here I'll show you this. I'll show you this to
24 refresh your memory.

25 A. Yes.

John Melton - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 Q. And you testified that this is the dumpster that Daunte
2 said he put Minor 1 in?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And there are a number of apartments that face
5 that dumpster, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you interview anybody that lived in those
8 apartments?

9 A. I did not personally but other officers made contact
10 with individuals in the area.

11 Q. Where is that reflected in the reports?

12 A. I'm not exactly sure but I, I do know that was done.

13 Q. Okay. When, when Daunte was arrested, you took photos
14 of him, correct?

15 A. Not the exact night of arrest but, yes, I did.

16 Q. You took photographs of his hands?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. And his arms?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. He didn't have any fresh marks on him, did he?

21 A. I did not see any, no, ma'am.

22 Q. Did you collect any fingernail clippings from Daunte?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you scrape underneath his fingernails for DNA?

25 A. No.

John Melton - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 Q. Okay. The clothing that he was arrested in, that was
2 collected as well?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was that sent off to SLED?

5 A. I know some of it was. I'd have to go to their reports
6 to see exactly what was sent off and what was not.

7 Q. You also testified at a preliminary hearing in this
8 case, correct?

9 A. I did.

10 Q. Okay. And that took place back on September 19th,
11 2019?

12 A. I'm not sure of the exact date. That sounds about
13 right.

14 Q. It was around that time?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Okay. And that was about a month and a half after this
17 incident occurred?

18 A. Roughly, yes.

19 Q. Yes.

20 You testified at that hearing under oath, correct?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. You, in that preliminary hearing, you said that
23 evidence was collected and sent to SLED, correct?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. Okay. You also said that DNA evidence was identified

John Melton - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 by SLED as belonging to Sharee and Minor 1?

2 A. I did and I'm glad you're bringing this up cause I'd
3 like to articulate on this and comment on this.

4 Q. Okay. You, you also testified under oath that SLED
5 processed the murder weapon and collected Sharee Bradley's
6 DNA?

7 A. Yes, I did, with explanation, and that explanation is
8 that, with this case being enormous and huge, there's lots
9 of moving parts. It was more than just me, myself, could
10 work.

11 So, I was getting information from all different
12 directions, and, as part of that information I was getting,
13 it's a preliminary hearing, hearsay is admissible, was that
14 DNA was located on a handle. At the time, an inadvertent
15 error took place. We, me, felt like it was the handle of
16 the knife that was being discussed.

17 Since then, since that preliminary hearing that was
18 fresh, new SLED DNA reports have come out and it turned out
19 to be the handle of the mop that ^{Minor 2} provided to Daunte the
20 night of the incident.

21 Q. So, when you testified, you didn't have those SLED
22 reports?

23 A. I did not. Well, I need to explain that as well. I
24 was getting them because the case was so enormous and there
25 was a lot of, you know, moving parts. We're asking for rush

John Melton - Cross-examination
By Ms. Neyle

1 and stuff. I had verbal results to say it was on a handle.
2 The inadvertent error was made that it was actually not the
3 knife handle. It was the mop handle.

4 Q. So your testimony at the preliminary hearing was wrong?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. You also prepared the investigative report as we talked
7 about earlier?

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

9 Q. Okay. And you wrote blood from several items submitted
10 to SLED including the murder weapon matches the DNA profile
11 belonging to Sharee Bradley, correct?

12 A. I did. And, once again, I was talking about the handle
13 of the murder weapon and it was an inadvertent error. It
14 was the handle of the mop that ^{Minor 2} gave to Daunte.

15 Q. So it wasn't correct?

16 A. That's correct.

17 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Your Honor, I have no further
18 questions.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Solicitor.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: One moment, Your Honor, please.

21 (Pause.)

22 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

24 Q. So, investigator, let me just ask for clarification.

25 You were receiving verbal reports from the SLED lab

John Melton - Redirect examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 about the progress on the case?

2 A. Yes. And sometimes it wouldn't directly be to me. It
3 would be somebody else and it would be relayed to me.

4 Q. All right. So when you wrote the re -- the summaries
5 that counsel was talking about, you referred to the blood on
6 the handle thinking it was the handle of the knife?

7 A. I did, sir.

8 Q. All right. And after the first set of messages came in
9 from SLED, did you actually receive paper reports?

10 A. We did.

11 Q. Lab results?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And those lab results---

14 A. Yes, we did.

15 Q. ---did they confirm that there was blood or DNA found
16 on the mop handle?

17 A. Yes, they have.

18 Q. And whose DNA was that?

19 A. That was ---.

20 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor. Hearsay.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MS. NEYLE: And, Your Honor, it's also facts not in
23 evidence.

24 THE COURT: I under -- y'all come here a minute.

25 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the

John Melton - Redirect examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 hearing of the jury at this time.)

2 Q. Detective Melton, did you get a, a paper report, a
3 final report, from the SLED lab on the mop handle?

4 A. Yes, we did.

5 Q. And did it confirm that there was DNA on it?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. That's all I have. Thank you very much.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir. You can step down.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Call Tabitha Adams.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 THE BAILIFF: Ma'am, place your left on the Bible.

13 Raise your right-hand. State your name.

14 THE WITNESS: Tabitha Adams.

15 TABITHA ADAMS, being first duly
16 sworn, testified as follows:

17 THE BAILIFF: Please step around. State your name for
18 the record and spell your last name please.

19 THE WITNESS: Tabitha Adams. A-D-A-M-S.

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

22 Q. Officer, tell us your name please.

23 A. My name is Tabitha Adams. A-D-A-M-S.

24 Q. Thank you.

25 And where are you employed?

Tabitha Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Sumter Police Department.

2 Q. How long have you been employed there?

3 A. Seven years in total.

4 Q. All right.

5 A. I was three years in another department.

6 Q. All right. What department are you in now?

7 A. Sumter Police Department.

8 Q. I'm saying are you in the department -- are you in
9 investigations?

10 A. Oh, the patrol division.

11 Q. All right. And what are your duties in the patrol
12 division?

13 A. We answer calls for service, protect the community,
14 help people out through -- we, we ride around in our
15 community, talk to people.

16 Q. All right. And were you employed by the police
17 department in August of 2019?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Did you have occasion to be called to transport Daunte
20 Johnson from the police station to a -- to the Sumter
21 Detention Center after an interview?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. All right. As a part of that process, tell the ladies
24 and gentlemen, do you have special equipment that you wear
25 when you're transporting?

Tabitha Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

- 1 A. Yes. When we transport, we have an in car camera video
2 and we also have our -- we activate our body cameras.
3 They're like a double redundancy just in case something
4 happens to either or.
- 5 Q. And on this particular night, August 5th, 2019, did
6 you have your body cam on when you started the transport?
- 7 A. Yes, sir, I did.
- 8 Q. Was it recording?
- 9 A. Yes, sir.
- 10 Q. All right. Did you provide a digital copy of that to
11 your detective in charge of this case---
- 12 A. Yes, sir, I let---
- 13 Q. ---Mr. Melton?
- 14 A. I let them know, yes, sir.
- 15 Q. All right. And how would Detective Melton, Melton know
16 about what was on the video if he wasn't in the car?
- 17 A. Because I, I told him.
- 18 Q. All right. And he wasn't in the car, was he?
- 19 A. No, sir.
- 20 Q. Who else was in the car besides Daunte Johnson and
21 yourself?
- 22 A. Officer Mike Austin.
- 23 Q. All right. And, to your knowledge, did Mike Austin
24 also have his body camera on?
- 25 A. To my knowledge he did.

Tabitha Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. would the body cams -- I don't have to
2 answer that. That's all right.

3 (WHEREUPON, the body cam from Officer Adams was marked
4 as State's Exhibit No. 57 for identification purposes only
5 at this time.)

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: May we approach?

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

8 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
9 hearing of the jury at this time.)

10 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, at this time I would
11 offer Exhibit 57, a clip on the body cam from Officer Adams.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Any objection, counsel?

13 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. It's in without objection.

15 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 57 was received into
16 evidence at this time.)

17 THE COURT: I, I moved my computer screen.

18 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Okay.

19 THE COURT: I can see it.

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Turn the audio on.

21 Okay. Thank you.

22 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 57 was played for the
23 jury at this time.)

24 Q. whose voice was that we heard at the end?

25 A. Mr. Johnson.

Tabitha Adams - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. What did he say?

2 A. I didn't hear.

3 Can you play it back?

4 Q. Yes, ma'am.

5 Just play it back 10 seconds.

6 (WHEREUPON, a portion of State's Exhibit No. 57 was
7 played back at this time.)

8 A. Yeah. He said I didn't kill them two people on
9 purpose, bo. I felt like I had to.

10 Q. Thank you, ma'am. Answer any questions defense has.

11 MS. NEYLE: I have no questions for Officer Adams.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you.

14 THE COURT: You can step down.

15 THE WITNESS: Okay.

16 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Call Buford Wilson.

17 THE BAILIFF: Place your left-hand on the Bible. Raise
18 your right-hand. State your name.

19 THE WITNESS: Buford Wilson.

20 BUFORD WILSON, being first duly
21 sworn, testified as follows:

22 THE BAILIFF: Thank you much. Step around please.
23 State your name for the record and spell your last name
24 please.

25 THE WITNESS: Buford Wilson. W-I-L-S-O-N.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

3 Q. Detective, tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury
4 where you work.

5 A. Yes, jurors, I work with Sumter Police Department. I
6 work in the narcotic's division.

7 Q. How long have you been employed by the Sumter Police
8 Department?

9 A. I've been employed by the Sumter Police Department
10 since 2006.

11 Q. And are you still assigned, assigned to the narcotic's
12 division?

13 A. Yes, sir, as a matter fact I'm on my 15th year in the
14 narcotic's division.

15 Q. And since that takes up the bulk of your work, do you
16 get called over to other cases from time to time?

17 A. Yes, sir, I do.

18 Q. All right. In August of '19 -- 2019, did you get
19 called to come in and help with the investigation of Sharee
20 Bradley and Minor 1 ?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Tell us what your call -- what your responsibility was
23 that first day, August the 5th.

24 A. Well, that particular day I received assignment from
25 Captain Rayburn, my captain, to assist with the transport of

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Mr. Johnson from the Sumter/Lee Detention Center.

2 Q. And do you know what time you might of gotten to the
3 detention center on -- we -- are we talking about August the
4 5th or a different---

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. ---day?

7 What day are we talking about?

8 A. August the 7th.

9 Q. The 7th.

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. All right. So, did you go out to the detention center
12 and pick Mr. Johnson up?

13 A. Yes, sir, I did.

14 Q. Had you ever met him before?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Did you know anything about him?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. All right. And where did you take him?

19 A. I returned with Mr Johnson back to the Sumter Police
20 Department.

21 Q. What did you do with him when you got there?

22 A. When we arrived, I stood, let him smoke, and then we
23 went inside an interview room.

24 Q. All right. So, did you smoke also?

25 A. No, sir.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. So, you -- did, did you watch him smoke
2 cigarettes?

3 Did you provide the cigarettes?

4 A. Yes, sir, I did.

5 Q. All right. And once you went inside the interview
6 room, were you maintaining yourself there?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Were other people there?

9 A. No, sir, it was myself and Mr. Johnson. We just
10 sitting around talking just getting to know---

11 Q. Just the two of you?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. All right. Did you have occasion to give Mr. Johnson
14 his Miranda rights?

15 A. Yes, sir, I did.

16 Q. All right. And did you have occasion to record the
17 rights being given to Mr. Johnson?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. All right.

20 A. I did.

21 Q. All right. And could you tell us -- do you-all use a
22 standard interview form at the Sumter Police Department?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And I want to show you what's been marked as State's
25 Exhibit or Court Exhibit No. 3.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Can you identify that document?

2 A. Yes, sir, it's a Sumter Police Department interview
3 form and it exhibits the rights of whoever we're about to
4 speak with.

5 Q. And did you explain or read those rights to
6 Mr. Johnson?

7 A. Yes, sir, I did.

8 Q. And did you have him initial those rights that you read
9 him?

10 A. Yes, sir, I did. I had him initial by each dot on this
11 form. D.J. is beside each dot on this form.

12 Q. And did he sign the form at the end?

13 A. He did, sir.

14 Q. And what does the signing the form indicate?

15 A. It indicates that he understood his rights and he
16 received it after I explain to him.

17 Q. Did he waive his rights to remain silent, have a
18 lawyer, and all that?

19 A. Yes, sir, he -- when he -- whenever he signed this
20 form, he just said hey, you know, I want -- let's, let's
21 talk.

22 Q. All right. For the record, officer, read the rights
23 for the record so the record will be clear.

24 A. So on this form it states, and if I were to be reading
25 your rights to you if I were about to interview you, it

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 would be, be before we ask you any questions you must
2 understand your rights. You have the right to remain
3 silent. Anything you say can be used against you in a
4 court, in a court. You have the right to talk to a lawyer
5 for advice before we ask you any questions and to have him
6 or her with you during the questioning.

7 If you can not afford a lawyer one will be appointed
8 for you before any questioning if you wish. If you decide
9 to answer any questions now without a lawyer present, you
10 will still have a right to stop answering at anytime until
11 you walk, excuse me, until you talk with a lawyer and then
12 it says waiver of rights. And then it goes before any
13 questions, I will, I will -- it's saying for the defendant
14 himself.

15 It says before any questioning, I would furnish you the
16 above statement of my rights and it has a time on it of
17 one -- it will be 1:00PM on the date of 8/7/2019. The
18 location was at the Sumter Police Department and it -- it's
19 asked -- it asked -- it asks for the officer's name, which
20 is Buford Wilson, Junior of the Sumter Police Department and
21 I, I -- I'll continue.

22 And it says I have read or had read to me these -- this
23 statement of my rights. I understand what my rights are. I
24 am willing to answer questions at this time without a lawyer
25 present. No promises or threats have been made to me and no

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 pressure has been used against me, signed, and it has
2 Mr. Daunte Johnson's name, the date, 8/7/19, and it was
3 1:00PM and I'm actually a witness, B.A. Wilson.

4 Q. Thank you, sir.

5 A. Thank you.

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Your Honor, I'm gonna ask the Court
7 to allow this to be State's Exhibit 58 in evidence.

8 THE COURT: Any objection?

9 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay. It's in without objection.
11 It's 58 or --?

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 (WHEREUPON, the rights form was marked as State's
15 Exhibit No. 58 and received into evidence at this time.)

16 Q. After you gave him his rights -- was there anybody else
17 in the room besides you and Mr. Johnson?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Who else was in there?

20 A. My captain.

21 Q. Is that Captain Rayburn?

22 A. Yes, sir, my -- Captain Rayburn.

23 Q. All right. How long, if you can remember, how long did
24 you stay with him that day?

25 From one o'clock in the afternoon on August 7th, how

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 long did you stay with him?

2 A. I, I spend pretty much the entire day with Mr. Johnson.

3 Q. All right. During that time, did he ask for anything
4 that you did not give him, bathroom breaks, cigarettes,
5 water, food?

6 A. No, sir, he didn't ask but occasionally we would
7 definitely offer to him any food or, you know, if he needs
8 to go to the bathroom or water.

9 Q. Did you record this interview on the 7th of, of August?

10 A. Yes, sir, I did.

11 Q. All right. And the, the rights that you read are on
12 the recording?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. Now, let's, let's -- let me get the jury to understand
15 what you did that day. So you tell me, in the first part,
16 the second part, the third part.

17 The first part is you go to the jail to pick him up?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Bring him into the room?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And you read him his rights?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. After talking with him for a while, did something else
24 happen?

25 A. Yes, sir, after talking with him for a while, he just

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 began to just open up with me and, and pretty much wanted to
2 just tell me about some things and show me some things that
3 went on.

4 Q. Did you-all leave the interview room so you could -- so
5 he could show you some things?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Where did you go?

8 A. We went to Lantana, and if, and if you're a resident of
9 Sumter, it's probably Gamecock now. It's, it's changed
10 names a couple of times. But we went -- we drove to
11 Gamecocks Apartments.

12 Q. And what was the purpose in your going to the
13 Lantana/Gamecock Apartments?

14 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

15 May we approach real quickly?

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
18 hearing of the jury at this time.)

19 Q. So, Officer Wilson, where did you go at
20 Gamecock/Lantana Apartments?

21 A. We drove to Gamecock Apartments from the Sumter Police
22 Department in-between both apartments into the main common
23 area.

24 Q. Can you point that out on this map for me, sir?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. I don't know if you've seen this map. This is State's
2 Exhibit 46.

3 A. Gamecock Apartments. We were in this area right here
4 just driving slowly.

5 Q. All right.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And what was he asked to do?

8 A. He was asked to actually point out where he thought
9 Minor 1 would of been previous conversation before we left
10 the police department.

11 Q. And so what were -- what were you looking for when you
12 got to Gamecock/Lantana?

13 A. He agreed to point out the dumpster where he had tossed
14 Minor 1.

15 Q. And did you find the dumpster?

16 A. Yes, sir, he identified the dumpster where, where he
17 had tossed Minor 1.

18 Q. And do you see it on the map of State's Exhibit 46?

19 A. Yeah, this is the apartment. The back right here in
20 this area.

21 Q. All right.

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. All right. After that was concluded, did you take him
24 back to the, to the police station?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. Did you continue an interview with him?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And you said you stayed in there a long time with him
4 that day on the 7th?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. And you did have him recorded?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 (WHEREUPON, the interview of the defendant was marked
9 as State's Exhibit No. 59 for identification purposes only
10 at this time.)

11 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. This is State's Exhibit
12 No. 59, recorded interview on August the 7th. I'm moving
13 into evidence.

14 THE COURT: Any objection?

15 SOLICITOR FINNEY: And these, these are -- these are --
16 this is not the whole interview. This is a compressed
17 version statements that the inte -- the State intends to put
18 in.

19 THE COURT: And it's as a result of an interview with
20 this witness?

21 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: What's the State -- says defense?

23 MS. NEYLE: I would just ask that a proper foundation
24 be layed.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. So when you were recording---

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. ---after you gave him his rights, was the rights
4 recorded as well?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And then you-all went into talking about the case and
7 the details of the case?

8 A. Yes, sir, and, and that, that pretty much was the
9 grounds for me giving him his rights cause he had agreed
10 to -- that he would show me where he tossed Minor 1, and
11 anytime he started to speak other than that, his, his
12 rights -- he was made aware of his rights and it was
13 recorded.

14 Q. All right. And the recording is, is very long but we
15 are playing parts of it now.

16 You've heard the parts that we've selected to play for
17 the jury?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. All right.

20 THE COURT: All right. Any objection now?

21 MS. NEYLE: May we approach, judge?

22 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
23 hearing of the jury at this time.)

24 THE COURT: It's in evidence.

25 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 59 was received into

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 evidence at this time.)

2 (WHEREUPON, a portion of State's Exhibit No. 59 was
3 played for the jury at this time.)

4 Q. So y'all had some confusion there for a minute about he
5 told you that he already told the officers where to go look?

6 A. Yes, sir, he advised me and he became a little agitated
7 that, you know, when I asked him over -- and he, he became
8 agitated and began to tell me well, I told the detectives, I
9 told them before, and that's when I had to explain to him
10 that Lantana is Gamecock sometime, Game -- it, it changed
11 the name like -- it's changed the names several times since
12 I've lived in Sumter from Gamecock to Lantana.

13 Q. And he also -- did he tell you whether he went with the
14 officers the first time he told them or whether he was in
15 the interview room when he told them?

16 A. He was in the interview room when he told the
17 detectives where he tossed Minor 1

18 Q. So the, the day you took him was the first time he had
19 been back to, to show officers exactly which can?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. All right.

22 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 59
23 was played for the jury at this time.)

24 Q. So what was that clip?

25 what was the important information you learned in that

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 clip?

2 A. I, I learned that he had used the backdoor to toss
3 Minor1 into the garbage dumpster, and at the location that
4 was pointed out on the map here, that garbage would of been
5 directly right out the backdoor of the apartment where he
6 said he tossed her. That's why I asked her did you go
7 around on the pavement or did you go through the backdoor
8 and he, he told me he went through the backdoor to toss her
9 into the garbage.

10 Q. All right.

11 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 59
12 was played for the jury at this time.)

13 Q. What information did you learn in that clip?

14 A. Well, I, I established that -- cause I asked him what
15 was she -- you know, how did he toss her, what, what, what
16 it was, you know, that he tossed her in, what was -- so he
17 did tell me that it was a blanket. Like I, I tried to
18 establish whether it was a housecoat or blanket or however.
19 And I, I learned, that once he tossed Minor1, he actually
20 went back to try, you know, for Sharee and he couldn't -- he
21 said he couldn't do it.

22 Q. All right.

23 A. So he just sat.

24 Q. On the 7th, officer, you talked for a longer period of
25 time.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Did he ever open up and tell you that he had stabbed
2 Sharee or stabbed Minor 1?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Did he ever tell you that there was an, an argument
5 between him and, and Sharee and that he lost his head and
6 went into a fit of rage?

7 A. He stated that they had argued and I asked him about
8 the extent of the argument as far as pushing or shoving or
9 physical. And he said that he had pushed her really hard a
10 couple times before and they had -- they argue every other
11 day.

12 Q. Did he tell you about an argument that happened Sunday
13 evening at the apartment complex where he used verbal
14 insults against Sharee?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And he -- did he confirm that he had, in fact, called
17 her bitches and whores?

18 A. Yes, sir, through Mr. Johnson's conversation and, and
19 our conversation, he said, after they had argued, he felt
20 bad for calling her bitches and whores and, you know, he
21 re -- he returned to apologize to her.

22 Q. All right. The next day, August the 8th, did you go
23 back -- well, first of all, did you take Mr. Johnson, after
24 the interview was concluded, back to the jail?

25 A. Yes, sir, I did.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. On the 7th?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And did you return on the 8th?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. Why did you return?

6 A. Mr. Johnson and I, I -- our, our conversation just
7 began to flow. Him and I, we talked a lot. He felt
8 comfortable with me. I felt comfortable speaking with him.
9 So, he asked can I pick him up on the 8th.

10 Q. And even though you were assigned to narcotics, the
11 captain approved of you coming in and doing the interview?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And was it recorded on the 8th just like it was
14 recorded on the 7th?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 (WHEREUPON, the second interview was marked as State's
17 Exhibit No. 60 for identification purposes only at this
18 time.)

19 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. And so now, Your Honor,
20 I'm gonna ask the Court to allow the playing of State's
21 Exhibit 60, which is August the 8th interview between
22 Mr. Daunte Johnson and Detective Wilson.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Ask him about that particular
24 exhibit.

25 Q. On this exhibit, did you have -- have you listened to

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 the interview that was recorded?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And have you pulled certain parts that you think would
4 be important for the jury to hear?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And those parts have been put on this disk for us to
7 play?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: Any objection?

10 MS. NEYLE: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Okay. It's entered and it's No. 60?

12 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 60 was received into
15 evidence at this time.)

16 (WHEREUPON, a portion of State's Exhibit No. 60 was
17 played for the jury at this time.)

18 Q. Did you give him the interview form that you'd already
19 gave him on the 7th?

20 You did another on the 8th?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 (WHEREUPON, the pre-interrogative waiver form was
23 marked as State's Exhibit No. 61 for identification purposes
24 only at this time.)

25 Q. All right. I'm showing you State's Exhibit No. 61 for

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 ID.

2 Is that the form?

3 A. Yes, sir, it is.

4 Q. And did he put his initials by each of the rights?

5 A. Yes, sir, he initialed with D.J. by each bullet here,
6 by each dot.

7 Q. And did he sign it and waive his rights?

8 A. Yes, sir, he did.

9 Q. And did you witness it?

10 A. I did, sir.

11 Q. And his date -- his signature is dated what date?

12 A. His signature is dated 8/8/19.

13 SOLICITOR FINNEY: All right. I want to move this
14 Exhibit 61 into evidence.

15 MS. NEYLE: I've no objection.

16 THE COURT: Okay. It's in evidence.

17 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 61 was received into
18 evidence at this time.)

19 Q. All right. How did you-all proceed with the interview
20 after the rights are read?

21 A. We pretty much talked a little bit about him -- himself
22 and myself and then we talked about a timeline pretty much
23 on what he did or what happened with him and Sharee. Just
24 pretty much how his, how his day went up until.

25 Q. All right.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 (WHEREUPON, a portion of State's Exhibit No. 60 was
2 played for the jury at this time.)

3 Q. So his version of events to you was that he had an
4 argument with Sharee and what did he do as a result of
5 the -- at the end of the argument?

6 A. At the end, end of the argument, he's saying that he
7 left and I kept trying to ask him hey, you argued, but
8 what -- when -- did you speak to her again, what, what
9 happened in-between, what happened, did you speak to her
10 again after you argued. And all he could give me is just
11 prior to him apologizing and take -- and, you know, as far
12 as the cigarettes and everything. But it just -- I don't
13 know. It just seemed like he was -- I -- we, we were just
14 talking and he wouldn't -- I was just trying to figure out
15 what happened in-between here.

16 Q. All right. Let's go to the next clip.

17 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
18 was played for the jury at this time.)

19 Q. Is that the description that Mr. Daunte gave you of why
20 these events when you found Sharee and Minor1 in the
21 apartment?

22 A. Yes, sir, pretty much. That's pretty much what he had
23 told me that he -- when he returned back to the apartment,
24 he observed Minor1 and Sharee and --.

25 Q. Already wrapped up and dead?

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. All -- already wrapped up. He actually -- he said he,
2 he picked up Sharee -- Minor 1 up and he took her to the
3 dumpster and he tossed her in the dumpster. He returned
4 back to the apartment. He saw Sharee and he shook and he
5 sit there and then he, he took off.

6 Q. Did he ever tell you that Dupray Adams hired him to
7 kill anybody in that apartment?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. Did he ever tell you Cermon James hired him to kill
10 anybody in that apartment?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Did he say anything about getting paid any money from
13 anybody?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Did he say that between one o'clock and three o'clock
16 when he was hanging out there at the apartment he saw
17 anybody go in there --

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. -- to -- into Sharee's apartment?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. So all he could tell you was he took cigarettes and
22 went over there and apologized and came back a couple hours
23 later and they were dead?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. All right. We're gonna go forward in the interview to

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Clip 19.

2 We're gonna go to Clip Number 10. That was Clip Number
3 8 we just played.

4 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
5 was played for the jury at this time.)

6 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Could we approach?

7 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
8 hearing of the jury at this time.)

9 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, I was informed by the
10 solicitor that it's about 50 more minutes of this
11 conversation. And so instead of keeping you here till six
12 o'clock or later tonight, I decided we're gonna stop and
13 come back in the morning and we'll listen to it in the
14 morning and we'll -- with whatever other evidence that the
15 State has.

16 So, I remind you, don't talk about this case and don't
17 do any research. I will see y'all at 9:30 in the morning.
18 You have a good evening. Don't look at any news, read any
19 papers, do any -- don't learn anything except what you learn
20 here.

21 Okay?

22 (WHEREUPON, the following takes place outside the
23 presence of the jury.)

24 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Wilson?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

1 THE COURT: You're still on the witness stand. So,
2 over the evening, you can't talk about your testimony with
3 the solicitor's Office.

4 okay?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: All right. Anything else we need to deal
7 with before we break for the evening?

8 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Not from the State, Your Honor.

9 MS. NEYLE: None from defense.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Thank y'all.

11 I'll see you at 9:30 in the morning.

12
13 (WHEREUPON, Court was in recess for the evening.)
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Thursday, June 23rd, 2022

THE COURT: Okay. We ready?

SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You want to put the witness on the stand---

SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: ---now or wait till the jury gets in here?

SOLICITOR FINNEY: Now.

THE COURT: Okay.

(WHEREUPON, the witness returns to the stand.)

(WHEREUPON, the following takes place within the
presence of the jury.)

THE BAILIFF: All jurors are seated, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Solicitor.

SOLICITOR FINNEY: Morning, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Morning.

SOLICITOR FINNEY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY SOLICITOR FINNEY:

Q. Detective Wilson, yesterday when we stopped you were giving us information about an interview you did with Daunte Johnson on August the 8th, 2019.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would you -- let's just refresh a little bit.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 You were at the police station when you did this
2 interview?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And this was not the first time you had met
5 Mr. Johnson?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. All right. And this interview was recorded?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. All right. And after talking with him, you, you have
10 gotten him to talk about what happened that night, that
11 Sunday night, Monday morning at the apartment?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. All right. I want to pick up with another clip, Number
14 21, and play the clip for the Court and then ask you to
15 comment on it.

16 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

17 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
18 was played for the jury this time.)

19 THE COURT: Can you turn that up a little bit?

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: If any of y'all can't hear, now let me
22 know.

23 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
24 was played for the jury at this time.)

25 Q. Detective?

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I might need to finish the
3 clip.

4 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
5 was played for the jury at this time.)

6 Q. Right there, right there at the end of that clip, what
7 did Daunte ask you for?

8 A. Water.

9 Q. okay. Did you bring him some water?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And right before that you told him you were gonna take
12 a break and go to the restroom?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And right before that y'all were talking about a
15 picture of who?

16 A. Minor 1.

17 Q. Did you have a picture in the interview with you?

18 A. Yes, sir, I did.

19 Q. I want to show you State's Exhibit No. 1 and ask you is
20 this the picture that you had?

21 A. Yes, sir, that's the picture. That's Minor 1.

22 Q. And you showed this to Daunte?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And y'all were talking about her?

25 A. Yes, sir.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 Q. All right. And he, he asked you for a copy of the
2 picture?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And when you came back from the bathroom, was the
5 picture where you left it?

6 A. No, sir, my picture was not where I left it.

7 Q. Where was it?

8 A. Mr. Johnson already took -- taken my picture, and
9 folded it up, and placed it in the pocket of, of the jail
10 jacket that he was wearing, the -- and I actually had to ask
11 him can I have my picture back.

12 Q. Before you left the room, didn't you tell him what you
13 were gonna do?

14 A. Yes, sir, I advise him that I would ask my captain,
15 Captain Rayburn, if it was okay if he were to have a copy of
16 the picture.

17 Q. All right. Now, after you came back from the bathroom,
18 did you -- you, you had -- you gave him some water?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. All right. And the interview continued?

21 A. Pretty much at that point we just talked a little bit
22 and then the interview pretty much ended right there. He
23 didn't do any -- kind of backed off a little bit.

24 Q. So, let's play Number 23.

25 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 was played for the jury at this time.)

2 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Play the next clip.

3 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
4 was played for the jury at this time.)

5 MS. NEYLE: Objection, Your Honor.

6 May we approach?

7 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

8 Can you stop that?

9 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held out of the
10 hearing of the jury at this time.)

11 Q. Detective, the next (indiscernible) coming up.

12 A. Okay.

13 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
14 was played for the jury at this time.)

15 Q. Detective?

16 Detective, in the conversation you had when you asked
17 him about what happened to Sharee and the baby, what was his
18 response?

19 A. Mr. Johnson stated it was, it was demons, you hear me,
20 and I, and I say that to say, you know, as far as him
21 pausing, what you just heard, this -- and I, I -- and I
22 pretty much just kind of came down and I just asked him, you
23 know, and I wanted to just -- him to just tell me in his own
24 responses, you know, is demons, you hear me, and --.

25 Q. Demons, you hear me?

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 A. That was it, sir. Demons, you hear me.

2 Q. All right. Let's play the last clip.

3 Twenty-seven.

4 (WHEREUPON, another portion of State's Exhibit No. 60
5 was played for the jury at this time.)

6 Q. In the process of talking to Daunte Johnson that day
7 you brought up whether it was an accident.

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Did he give you any information that it was an
10 accident?

11 A. No, sir.

12 Q. Did he give you any information that, that Sharee
13 brought on the difficulties that they were having, that
14 she -- he had to protect himself in some way to stop her
15 from fighting with him?

16 A. No, sir, he never did.

17 Q. When you asked him about what happened, tell me what
18 you know, did, did he ever say I can't tell you?

19 A. Yes, sir, he did.

20 Q. Is -- in that clip right there that we just played?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And can't telling somebody, is that different from I
23 don't know?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 MS. NEYLE: Objection. Calls for speculation.

Buford Wilson - Direct examination
By Solicitor Finney

1 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing further.

2 Answer any questions---

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 SOLICITOR FINNEY: ---the lawyer might have.

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: I'll overrule your objection.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. NEYLE:

9 Q. Detective Wilson, after you met with Daunte, did you
10 prepare a report in this case?

11 A. No, ma'am.

12 Q. Okay. And these recordings that have been played to
13 the jury, those are clips, correct?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. It's not the full statement that Daunte gave you?

16 A. They're snippets of the -- from the full recordings.

17 MS. NEYLE: Okay. Your Honor, I have no further
18 questions. Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further, solicitor?

20 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Nothing further for this witness.

21 THE COURT: You can step down.

22 SOLICITOR FINNEY: Thank you, sir.

23 Call Mr. Lee Reed.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 THE BAILIFF: Face the Bible please. Place your