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2 MINOR-NAME WITHELD- "JAMES J"

3 *****

4 LEGEND:

5 TEFFT: Detective John Tefft, San Diego Police Department

6 JAMES J: Minor-Name Witheld (JAMES J)

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8 JAMES J: Hello.

9 TEFFT: Hi, is this JAMES J?

10 JAMES J: Yes it is.

11 TEFFT: Hi, this is John Tefft, I'm a detective with San Diego Police.

12 JAMES J: How are you?

13 TEFFT: Good, how about yourself?

14 JAMES J: All right.

15 TEFFT: Good. Hey got a couple of minutes?

16 JAMES J: Hum yeah, I can -- yeah.

17 TEFFT: Okay.

18 JAMES J: For a little while.

19 TEFFT: Yeah. The reason why I'm calling you is um I got your name and number from um

20 Sergeant [Personal data deleted].

21 JAMES J: Yeah.

22 TEFFT: And he evidently was told by some friends of his, by the name of

23 JAMES J: [Personal data deleted]

24 TEFFT: ... that you may have witnessed this -- or witnessed or saw some of the part of that

25 officer involved shooting that happened down at Mission Beach about a month ago.

26 JAMES J: Uh yeah.

27 TEFFT: Okay.

28 JAMES J: A little bit of it.

TEFFT: All right. Well why don't you tell me a little bit about what you saw and what

happened down there, and what brought you down there.

1 JAMES J: Uh well, it was me, my friend Mike, and Joe and another guy named Mike, and we
2 went down there 'cause we were bored and we was gonna go cruisin' around the
3 beach and we were gonna go get something to eat.

4 TEFFT: Uh-hum. .

5 JAMES J: ... and we were driving by, and we drove past it and then when we turned around,
6 man, (unintelligible) so we turned around, we were on our way back up and uh we see
7 a helicopter flying around ...

8 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

9 JAMES J: ... "Hey, what's going on, there's a spotlight," you know, shooting down, we're like
10 ...

11 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

12 JAMES J: ... what's going on, so we drive up and we see a guy running around the corner like
13 totally resisting arrest, he was just uh, you know, running, and they were trying to take
14 him down, you know, and ...

15 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

16 JAMES J: ... he wouldn't do it and it looked like he pushed one of the cops on the ground and
17 then the other guy, I think, backed off. And then when uh they uh -- they -- when --
18 he had pushed them away, I think he got a hold of their nunchakus ...

19 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

20 JAMES J: .. and that's when, like he had picked them up and he had put his arms out and he
21 started to turn around and then he took one step toward the cop and the cop, it looked
22 it, you know, he had to fire on him.

23 TEFFT: Yeah.

24 JAMES J: And that's when we -- we were in a big four dually ...

25 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

26 JAMES J: ... and we were probably like 20 feet away from it and we were pretty scared 'cause
27 like the gun was kinda like pointed in our direction ...

28 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

JAMES J: ... so after all the firing happened we left like fast.

TEFFT: Okay, all right. Okay. Okay. Let me just -- and uh -- okay, you were with a guy
named Mike?

1 JAMES J: Yeah.

2 TEFFT: And what's Mike's last name?

3 JAMES J: [Personal data deleted]

4 TEFFT: Okay. And you guys were in a Ford Duelley pickup?

5 JAMES J: Yeah, big, it's a crewcab, it's huge.

6 TEFFT: Okay.

7 JAMES J: And it's got "Pure Andrenalin" on the side.

8 TEFFT: Who's car are is that?

9 JAMES J: It's Mike [Personal data deleted].

10 TEFFT: Okay, so [Personal data deleted] is the driver, was -- he's the owner, or his folks or
11 somebody?

12 JAMES J: Yeah.

13 TEFFT: Okay. Who was driving that night?

14 JAMES J: Mike.

15 TEFFT: Okay, so [Personal data deleted] was the driver?

16 JAMES J: Yes.

17 TEFFT: And where were you seated in this vehicle?

18 JAMES J: It's a -- it's a four-door.

19 TEFFT: Right.

20 JAMES J: I was in the back seat ...

21 TEFFT: Uh-huh.

22 JAMES J: ... sitting there and uh ...

23 TEFFT: Driver side or passenger side?

24 JAMES J: ... I was on the passenger side.

25 TEFFT: Okay, so you were in the right rear seat? Now when you guys were driving on
26 Mission Boulevard ...

27 JAMES J: Yeah ...

28 TEFFT: ... were -- were you going south, which is like towards the roller coaster, or were you
going away from the roller coaster, if you know?

JAMES J: Oh we were -- we were right next to it, we were like gonna go towards the roller
coaster.

1 TEFFT: Okay, so you were on the side of Mission Boulevard that was right in front of the little
2 store where it happened?
3 JAMES J: Yeah.
4 TEFFT: Okay, all right. All right. Okay, and so you were in front of the store, okay. All
5 righty. And how fast were you guys driving?
6 JAMES J: Well actually we were -- when we were driving we -- we got there and then there was
7 a light and a lot of cars were stopped ...
8 TEFFT: Okay.
9 JAMES J: ... so we had to stop.
10 TEFFT: Okay, so you were stop -- stopped for traffic?
11 JAMES J: Yeah.
12 TEFFT: Okay.
13 JAMES J: And then once we heard the shots fired Mike got scared, floored it real fast ...
14 TEFFT: Sure.
15 JAMES J: ... and yeah.
16 TEFFT: Okay.
17 JAMES J: But we got out pretty quick.
18 TEFFT: So you saw a guy running, first of all you're driving down and you see a helicopter
19 and you see a spotlight on?
20 JAMES J: Yeah.
21 TEFFT: And then you look over on the sidewalk and you see uh -- what exactly did you see
22 when you looked over on the sidewalk?
23 JAMES J: I saw a guy running from the cops and the cops were trying to take him down.
24 TEFFT: Okay, hang on. I'm talking some notes here ...
25 JAMES J: Oh.
26 TEFFT: ... so I just wanna make sure I got it. You saw a guy running from the cops ...
27 JAMES J: Yeah.
28 TEFFT: Now this guy that you saw running, what can you tell me about him. Can you tell me
what race he was or anything?
JAMES J: Uh he looked African-American ...
TEFFT: Okay.

1 JAMES J: ... he was like 6 -- he looked like he was 6'5", this guy was huge.

2 TEFFT: Okay.

3 JAMES J: This guy was big.

4 TEFFT: Okay. You still there?

5 JAMES J: Yeah.

6 TEFFT: He's 6'5" and he's huge ...

7 JAMES J: Well I don't know about 6'5", but I'm ...

8 TEFFT: He's a tall guy?

9 JAMES J: Yeah he's big.

10 TEFFT: Okay.

11 JAMES J: And uh he was strong, I guess he was a football player or something, I don't know.

12 TEFFT: Right. But, I mean, you didn't know that at the time?

13 JAMES J: No.

14 TEFFT: We'll just talk about what you saw at that -- at that time.

15 JAMES J: Yeah.

16 TEFFT: Okay now, and you saw how many cops?

17 JAMES J: Two.

18 TEFFT: Okay. And you had no problem I.D.'ing them as police officers?

19 JAMES J: Um ...

20 TEFFT: I mean, you knew they were cops basically because ...

21 JAMES J: Oh yeah, I knew they were cops, yeah.

22 TEFFT: ... 'cause they had their uniforms on?

23 JAMES J: Uniforms and (unintelligible).

24 TEFFT: All right. Now, when -- was -- the guy was running from them?

25 JAMES J: Oh yeah, he was -- he was bolting.

26 TEFFT: Okay. And then which ...

27 JAMES J: He (unintelligible) around the corner and like they -- they weren't too far behind him

28 TEFFT: ... and when you -- he went cruisin' -- from like from a side street and went up on
Mission Boulevard?

JAMES J: Yeah.

1 TEFFT: Okay.

2 JAMES J: He came off like (unintelligible) around the corner like an alley.

3 TEFFT: Okay. All right. And then uh what happened when they got in front of that little

4 store?

5 JAMES J: Uh that's when the cop had finally -- like right then they got a hold of him and they're

6 trying to take him down, like -- like there's was -- kinda like hanging on him trying to

7 take him down, you know, he -- he was a big guy so these guys are kinda -- they're

8 like hangin' ...

9 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

10 JAMES J: ... kinda out of control and uh then that was when uh the -- like he had threw one cop

11 down, it looked like to me, unless the guy fell or jumped off ...

12 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

13 JAMES J: ... and then another cop backed off, but when -- I think that's when he got a hold of

14 his nunchakus.

15 TEFFT: Okay. Hang on just a second, and he backed up, and then he had a hold of the cops'

16 nunchakus?

17 JAMES J: Yeah.

18 TEFFT: Um ...

19 JAMES J: Both pairs.

20 TEFFT: Oh he had both pairs, okay.

21 JAMES J: Yeah he put his arms up, almost like he was gonna um surrender ...

22 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

23 JAMES J: ... but then he turned around and he wasn't gonna surrender 'cause he -- he took a

24 stop -- a step toward the cop.

25 TEFFT: Okay now ...

26 JAMES J: I heard four shots fired.

27 TEFFT: Okay. So he has both pairs of nunchakus ...

28 JAMES J: Uh-huh.

29 TEFFT: ... and he turned away from the officers first?

30 JAMES J: No -- he -- one of the cops had lost his, like a few feet back ...

31 TEFFT: Uh-hum.

1 JAMES J: ... and the guy looked over ...
2 TEFFT: Uh-hum.
3 JAMES J: ... bent over, picked up a pair of nunchakus and put his arms out.
4 TEFFT: Uh-hum.
5 JAMES J: And then he started to turn around and uh that's when like there was four shots fired.
6 TEFFT: Okay. Now when you say "Put his arms out" what do you mean by that?
7 JAMES J: He put 'em up like he was on the cross , kinda like thing.
8 TEFFT: Oh he put 'em up parallel to the ground but out from his body?
9 JAMES J: Yes.
10 TEFFT: Okay. Like on a cross, okay.
11 JAMES J: Yeah.
12 TEFFT: And then he -- he stepped -- you said he stepped towards the officers?
13 JAMES J: I'm pretty sure he did, yeah.
14 TEFFT: Okay. Okay.
15 JAMES J: There's a lot of panic going on, so.
16 TEFFT: All right. And then you heard four shots?
17 JAMES J: Yeah they're -- they're like, I heard people saying there's, you know, eight and stuff,
18 like that.
19 TEFFT: Yeah.
20 JAMES J: There was not, so.
21 TEFFT: Well I mean, I'm just -- I'm just more concerned about what you heard as opposed to
22 ...
23 JAMES J: There was an echo and that's -- I think that's why people think there was so many
24 shots.
25 TEFFT: Uh-hum, okay.
26 JAMES J: I'm gonna say there's four.
27 TEFFT: [Personal data deleted]
28 JAMES J: Told my parents and I -- um, I told my friend that was about it.
TEFFT: Okay. I mean, that's fine. I'm just curious. I mean, and what did you tell your folks
the next day?
JAMES J: No, I was pretty excited, I told them that night.

1 TEFFT: That night, okay. Okay. And um did you guys think about maybe getting' a hold of
2 the cops about this or -- or anything like that?

3 JAMES J: Yeah um I -- I left a message on Williams ...

4 TEFFT: Right. But that was about a week-and-a-half ago, right?

5 JAMES J: Well, yeah I did it like last week too, but ...

6 TEFFT: Okay.

7 JAMES J: ... yeah.

8 TEFFT: Okay Alrighty. Uh okay, and I just need to get some information from you. Now
9 how is that you spell your last name?

10 JAMES J: It's [Personal data deleted]

11 TEFFT: Okay. Alrighty. Okay, well thanks for uh giving 'ol [Personal data deleted], I mean,
12 [Personal data deleted] a call, and thanks for taking a couple of times, a few minutes
13 out and talking to me and uh I'll probably be giving uh Mike [Personal data deleted]
14 and Joe a call, just 'cause I need to talk to them as well so uh ...

15 JAMES J: Yeah. [Personal data deleted]

16 TEFFT: Great. Let me just go over this one time before I get you off the phone so I make sure
17 I have this all correct.

18 JAMES J: Yeah.

19 TEFFT: It was four of you in the car; there's Michael [Personal data deleted], Joe [Personal
20 data deleted], and Mike [Personal data deleted]. The four of you were driving in a
21 Ford Crewcab and -- and [Personal data deleted] was the driver ...

22 JAMES J: Yeah.

23 TEFFT: ... and you were in the right rear passenger seat.

24 JAMES J: Yeah.

25 TEFFT: You guys were southbound on Mission Boulevard, you were right in front of that little
26 store. You guys were stopped in traffic for the signal light. You saw a helicopter and
27 you saw a spotlight and you saw a guy run from one of those little side streets onto
28 Mission Boulevard, and he's in front of this little store. He was a Black male, he was
tall, 6' plus and you described him as being huge, and there were two cops after him.
And the cops got a hold of him and then there was a struggle that occurred and that
the -- he threw one of the cops off, one of the cops backed off, then you saw the

1 person had uh two pairs of nunchakus, and he had them in his hands, and he put them
2 out, he put his arms out similar to being on a cross, which would be somewhat parallel
3 out and parallel to the ground, and then he stepped towards the officers and you heard
4 four shots.

5 JAMES J: Correct.

6 TEFFT: And then you guys sped away 'cause you guys didn't wanna be, you know, hung up in
7 some cross-fire, sort of speak, and you went to the taco shop and then from there you
8 went home and then you later shared what you saw with your mom and dad?

9 JAMES J: Yes.

10 TEFFT: Okay. Is that -- is there anything else that I've left out or anything that I told you --
11 that I read back to you that's uh an error?

12 JAMES J: That sounds all right.

13 TEFFT: Well thanks for taking some time out of your day [Personal data deleted], I appreciate
14 it.

15 JAMES J: All right.

16 TEFFT: Take care of yourself.

17 JAMES J: Bye.

18 TEFFT: Bye.

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