



**Grand Jury Transcript
September 22, 2020
Recording #6¹**

¹ THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT; IT WAS PREPARED FROM AUDIO RECORDINGS OF THE GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS BY COUNSEL FOR THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC (“LDF”).

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Woman 1: Okay. We're back on record. It's 5:14 p.m., and Detective Hall, you're still under oath, so let's continue with your investigation. Did you interview Ms. Summer Dickerson?

Detective Hall: Yes, ma'am. I did.

Woman 1: And where does she live?

{Beep}

Woman 1: And could you point out where her apartment is?

{Silence}

Woman 1: It would be on the...

Detective Hall: It's over there.

Woman 1: No. It would be another....

Detective Hall: (Sounds like: Sure)

Woman 1: One of the other buildings down here, near the gate where we heard from the detectives following yesterday.

{Crosstalk}

Woman 1: She's over in that...

{Beep}

Man 1: (Inaudible)

Woman 1: Yeah.

Detective Hall: Yeah. Okay. Sure, if you want to point here.

Man 1: So, her gate is here?

Detective Hall: Her gate is here, and her townhouse is some of this building.

Woman 1: Yes.

Woman 2: Yes.

Woman 1: Okay. And we - yesterday we heard her 911 call...

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Detective Hall: Okay.

Woman 1: So...

Man: (Sounds like: Well, she's...)

Woman 1: You interviewed her when?

Detective Hall: June the 26th of this year, 9:53 hours.

Woman 1: And what did she tell you about what she saw and heard that night?

Detective Hall: She's lived at the residence with her husband for four years. Husband Curtis and three children. The children are 11, 12, and 13. On March the 12th of 2020, she was in her bedroom with the window open posting memes on her Facebook, being silly, her bedroom window was facing Breonna Taylor's apartment. She posted on Facebook "Okay. I'm done playing with you y'all." As soon as she hit post, she hears a pop and then hears a spray of bullets. Her daughter was downstairs making a sandwich and screamed. The scream was a bloody-murder-type scream. {Clears throat} Excuse me. Dickerson calls 911 and runs downstairs, checking to make sure her 11-year-old daughter {beep} is okay. Her husband, Curtis, was asleep, but all three children were awake when the shooting occurred. Her son was in his room—all the bedrooms are upstairs—her son was in his room watching something on his laptop, and her other daughter was in her room watching something on her laptop. The pop noise was a gunshot, and then she heard the spray of gunfire. There wasn't much time between the first gunshot and the spray of gunshots. She's familiar with gunfire because she's - she has a carry and conceal permit and has been exposed to gunfire in the past. On the 911 call, she identifies a second round of gunshot but believes it could've been the SWAT truck blowing off the parking lot gate. At the time of the 911 call, she believed the second round of gunfire was actually them shooting again. Later on, after the shooting is when she learns the SWAT blew off the gate, and she's assuming that was the second round of gunfire. When she heard the first gunshot, she didn't think much about it because it's not uncommon to hear gunshots from someone shooting in the air or messing with their guns. It's when she heard the spray of bullets and became concerned and dialed 911. On the 911 call, you can hear her run downstairs and grab her daughter. By that time, she looked out the window and she sees the SWAT truck approaching. She runs upstairs, is looking out, and by this time, there are tons of cops on Springfield Drive. She's still on 911 call and has her kids in the upstairs bathroom. When she was downstairs, she sees a light. When you shoot a gun, it makes a light. She's referring to muzzle flash. She assumed it was gunfire. Her townhouse apartment was positioned in a direction that she sees more of the back of Breonna's apartment building. It would be Breonna's backyard area, and she can see this area. The kids were in the bathroom, and she disconnects from the 911 call. About 10 or 15 minutes before the shooting, she had taken— {clears throat} excuse me—she had taken her puppy outside, and she did

not notice anything unusual in the neighborhood. She knows what an undercover police car looks like, but did not notice anything unusual that night. She's nosy, and the cops are outside, so she decides to go outside. Just as she was exiting her apartment, she heard the third bang or noise but was not on the phone with the 911 dispatcher at the time. It looked like they had just blown the fence off just before she went outside. She's standing between two vehicles, and she sees SWAT coming. Seeing the SWAT truck helped calm her down. She stands outside for a little bit. As she's standing, she notices one of the cops. He says "Hey, aren't you {beep} mom?" There had just been a dance at (sounds like: Toronto) Elementary School, and the only reason she noticed him is he was dressed in a suit, and his daughter had on a dress. She walked up to him at this point, recognizing him from the dance, and asked, "What happened?" He says, "Some drug dealing girl shot at the police." She asks, "Are you sure?" She had been recording everything on Facebook live, and this was on her live feed. He's like, "Yeah, that's what happened." She didn't know his name, but described him as a short, black officer. {Beep} He commented again, "Some drug dealing girl shot an officer." She estimated that the shooting occurred at 12 or 1 o'clock. The next morning, she and her daughters were walking around the apartment complex looking for her lost cat. She was noticing canisters—maybe flash-bang canisters—police use them, but she doesn't know exactly what they're called. She thought the canisters were off. The police are doing their investigation, and her daughter says, "Mom, that's Bri's apartment." Meaning Breonna's apartment. Dickerson didn't know Breonna, but her kids knew her. Breonna was a mentor to the - a lot of kids in the neighborhood. The kids were crying and upset, so they returned to the residence. She didn't walk the kids to the apartment.

- Woman 1: You said that right before the moment she hit post on the Facebook, is when she heard the pop - the first shot?
- Detective Hall: Yes ma'am.
- Woman 1: And did you get a copy of that Facebook post?
- Detective Hall: I did.
- Woman 1: And that would be Exhibit 63? {Pause} And is that the Facebook post?
- Detective Hall: Yes, ma'am. It is.
- Woman 1: And what's the time on that up there under her name?
- Detective Hall: 12:40 a.m. March the 13th, 12:40 a.m.
- Woman 1: Okay. Questions with this interview? Okay.

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Man 1: You said that they saw some flash-bang canisters?

Detective Hall: That's what she said.

Man 1: We never saw any of that in the video...

Woman 2: (Inaudible).

Woman 1: Anything to...?

Woman 2: Didn't the police say they arrived around 12:40 a.m.? At the apartment?

Man 2: It was right about 12:30.

Woman 2: (Inaudible) they hadn't gotten there yet (inaudible).

{Crosstalk}

Man 2: The 911 calls were all around 12:43/12:44.

Woman 1: Okay. Detective Hall, have you discussed - or had a discussion and also a phone interview with Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield)?

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am. I have.

Woman 1: And who is he?

Detective Hall: Well, Lieutenant (Lacefield) is the supervisor of the firearms training unit for the local metro police department.

Woman 1: And did you ask him some specific questions in regard to discharging the firearm in response - respond to fire or responding fire, return fire? Did you ask him a list of specific...

Detective Hall: I did.

Woman 1: ...questions? And did you record his answers?

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am. I did.

Woman 1: We'll go ahead and play - and this was a telephone interview.

{Recording of phone interview plays}

Detective Hall: Today's interview is September the 21st 2020. The time is 14:37 hours. My name is Herman Hall. I'm a detective with the office of the Attorney General Department of Criminal Investigations. I'm conducting a phone interview with

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield) with the local metro police department. Sir, if you would, state your name for me.

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Lieutenant Steven (Lacefield).

Detective Hall: And who do you work for?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): The local metro police department.

Detective Hall: And how long have you worked for them?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Since March 24, 2018.

Detective Hall: And what's your current position?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): I am a lieutenant over the firearms training unit.

Detective Hall: And how long have you been in that position?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Since October of 2018.

Detective Hall: Relatively new position, then, isn't it?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes, sir.

Detective Hall: Now, how long have you been in the firearms position?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Since October of 2018.

Detective Hall: Okay. So, that was your - you came straight into that from your other position with the local police department?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: Okay. And I know we - we emailed you a series of questions, and I'll just go down that list and ask those questions, and you can just kind of give me your answers to them. What training does the community give the police department?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Our training center trains all of our recruits in handguns, patrol rifles, shotgun familiarization, and less-lethal weapon systems. In addition to that, we do biannual qualifications, loading bullets. Those qualifications occur in either spring or fall. More and more people are applying. The fall qualification is kind of more work to me. And some training is provided and the majority of the day is to qualify all of the officers in weapons systems to include patrol rifles, shotgun, off duty, secondary duty weapon, in addition to the service pistol—whatever they carry on duty. The spring qualification typically has been just an on-duty qualification with whatever weapon

system that the officer carries on duty. This year, in 2020 spring qualification, in the 400 Glock where an officer qualified with their duty pistol and received training in less-lethal weapons systems.

Detective Hall: I'm sorry. Did you have something to say after that?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): No, sir.

Detective Hall: Okay. Does your training involve men to shoot their firearm?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Well, I mean, I don't know about previous years. I've only been here through one fall and spring qualification thus far, and that is more of an in-service and - than it is a training when I'm covering use of force. We will review our use of force policy periodically, or at least excerpts that apply to firearms specifically for the lesson that is being put out. But none of the officers are faced with a threat or serious physical injury, and also, by statute, are (inaudible) themselves so as to - in defense of themselves.

Detective Hall: Okay. And I think you've answered Part A to that question: How many times a year do you give that training?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes, sir. The only time a year.

Detective Hall: As part of that training, are the officers trained to shoot and at the threat?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes, if I understand that question correctly. The officers train to utilize their sights, have sight picture, and sight alignment. Oh, and, I'm sorry or for (sounds like: trying) to press the trigger.

Detective Hall: Okay. Should they be shooting to suppress, or do they shoot and assess?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): The officers are not trained to shoot suppressedly. We don't want them not necessarily shooting and assessing but assessing as they're shooting. We're training - our training is shoot until there's no longer a threat. So, whether the threat is eliminated by the gunfire, through injury, or (inaudible) or if the threat leaves and the danger no longer exists.

Detective Hall: Okay. That goes along with: Did you ever shoot and the target goes away?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes, it does go along with that.

Detective Hall: So, the officers have their target in sight to shoot?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: Okay. And are the officers trained on trigger control?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Do you want to elaborate on that one?

Detective Hall: Trigger control: when you keep your finger outside the trigger guard until...

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes, yes, yes. I'm sorry. Trigger control (inaudible), so officers are trained not to place their finger on the trigger until they can make the mental decision to shoot. And also, trigger control as far as accuracy. You know, we're trained to press the trigger appropriately, so as not to lean into the weapon and drag your sights off of the target.

Detective Hall: And Glock 22, we're talking about your question here. That trigger can be reset without depressing the trigger completely?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes. It's called trigger reset. So, when you pull the trigger all the way back, the gun fires; after the slide recoils - the slide operates the reset mechanism, you can just move your trigger - trigger finger forward until you hear or feel a click as it resets. So you don't have to take your finger completely off the trigger and go through all the travel in order for it to fire again.

Detective Hall: Now is the trigger pull the same?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Every time.

Detective Hall: Does it change? From a fully engaged trigger or from a reset position? Does trigger pull change or is that the same?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): As far as weight, no, it does not. Just in the distance travelled.

Detective Hall: Okay. Now, do you happen to have a visual idea of the person before you proceed in that direction?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: And does there have to be a target in sight for you to shoot?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes. That sounds like - the target is standing right - the same thing.

Detective Hall: Right. Maybe go back to the suppression - in the beginning, you said the officers are not trained to shoot suppression fire.

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Correct.

Detective Hall: Are you trained to account for every shot - I guess, let's reword that. Are the officers trained to be accountable for every shot?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

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Detective Hall: And what is the trigger pull on the Glock 22?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Approximately five pounds per the manufacturer statement.

Detective Hall: Now, can that vary?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: And what's the variance on that?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Based on my experience, within a pound.

Detective Hall: Okay. And...

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Typically much less than a pound. But it can be up to a pound. A lot of that also depends on the trigger gauge.

Detective Hall: And you know what? I asked you this. I remember our interview several months ago I asked you this: does the agency - does your department have a policy on altering the trigger pull of a service weapon?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: And are they allowed to alter that trigger pull?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): No.

Detective Hall: And if the trigger was altered, what kind of permission would they need to alter that trigger?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): We wouldn't even permit to alter the trigger. The only case that that would be applicable, there's what's referred to (inaudible) puts a call into the Jefferson County NYPD, (inaudible) and then takes the trigger and - an eight pound trigger. So, if an officer has purchased a firearm from a private individual or it came with an eight-pound trigger, we would want the (inaudible) dialed down in that trigger and we would change that out.

Detective Hall: You brought up something interesting, and I know that I'm asking questions, but you brought up something interesting. Does the department supply service weapons to the officers?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes and no. Prior to the merger of the City of Louisville Police Department and the Jefferson County Police Department, the city of Louisville provided them. The merger had been in 2003.

Detective Hall: Okay.



Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Prior to merger, the city issued weapons, and they carried Glock .22s at the time of this merger. The county police had three models of Sig Sauer pistols that they purchased themselves. Our policy when officers come on - it's my understanding that, at merger, when we were the Louisville Metro Police Department, officers cannot purchase their own weapons since then. The only instances that an officer would be issued that pistol from us is - another pistol is - there's one that is broken and we were working on it. All it means is that an officer would be able to shoot (inaudible) from us (inaudible) we were working on it and (inaudible) to shoot (inaudible) evidence and (inaudible) Or, a certain SWAT team issues an additional pistol as well.

Detective Hall: Now, those are agency-issued, correct?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: And new recruits that you currently have (sounds like: flights going out) - the new recruits, are their weapons supplied? Are they owned by the local police department?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): No. They purchase their own.

Detective Hall: But it's got to be an approved weapon by the department?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: And what is the approved weapon?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): We just switched the class - switched over to - it has to be a nine-millimeter Glock 17, 19, 45, 34 - those are the four preapproved service pistols for them.

Detective Hall: You're talking about model?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes.

Detective Hall: Now that's not the caliber - that would be the model number that's approved?

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): Yes, those are the model numbers approved in 9 mm.

Detective Hall: Okay.

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): (Inaudible) those model numbers are 9 mm - it's the caliber of it. As far as an off-duty or back-up gun, that would be 26, 27, 19, 23 (sounds like: R-24) off-duty carrier - off-duty or back-up carrier.

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Detective Hall: Okay. All right, sir. Well then, I believe that's all I've got for you, Lieutenant (Lacefield).

Lieutenant Steve (Lacefield): All right. Well, I appreciate it.

Detective Hall: I appreciate your time. I'll turn this recorder off. The time is 14:50 hours.

Woman 1: Okay. Detective Hall, you had mentioned in that conversation with Lieutenant (Lacefield), that you had contact with him earlier this summer...

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am.

Woman 1: ...Did you actually see him at the Louisville Metro Firing Range?

Detective Hall: Yes, ma'am. I did.

Woman 1: Did you actually observe him in the range with the low-light conditions...

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am

Woman 1: ...firing the Glock 9 mm?

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am.

Woman 1: And at your request - did you request that he fire 16 rounds?

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am.

Woman 1: And did you time the length it took him to shoot those rounds?

Detective Hall: I did not. Sergeant Culver timed him, but it was five seconds.

Woman 1: And Sergeant Culver is another firearms instructor?

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am.

Woman 1: Okay. Do you all have any questions for Detective Hall on this?

Man 1: What was the reasoning for asking about the altered trigger?

Detective Hall: I'm sorry?

Man 1: What was the reasoning behind asking about the altered trigger?

Detective Hall: The trigger pull?

Man 1: Yeah, the trigger pull.

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Detective Hall: Sometimes officers will alter those trigger pulls to make it a less weighted pull. They may take the manufacturer's pull of five pounds and reduce it down to a three and a half—makes that trigger easier to pull.

Man 1: Is there something you can answer as to whether any of the weapons used on March 15 were altered?

Detective Hall: I cannot. I can answer that they have never given them permission to alter those triggers.

Man 1: Were those weapons confiscated?

Detective Hall: Yes.

Woman 1: There's nothing to ever indicate in any of your investigation or Louisville's or anybody's investigation that any of those trigger pulls were altered?

Detective Hall: That's correct.

Woman 1: Any other questions? Yes, sir.

Man 2: So, in five seconds he fired 16 shots. You're saying it takes five seconds?

Detective Hall: It took him five seconds.

Man 2: Right. Five seconds.

Woman 2: Did you say he was shooting in a dark space?

Detective Hall: Yes ma'am. It's an indoor range setting.

Woman 2: And, with that simulation, were you able to confirm the questions we had earlier about if you were in a luminated space shooting into a dark space - if in the dark space show flashes of lights?

Detective Hall: There is muzzle flash that will emit from the end of any discharged weapon and that would be a "flash." I don't know exactly - when you say "light," it's not a light. It's just a flash.

Woman 2: And it would be where the bullet is.

Man 1: Where it exits.

Detective Hall: It's basically burning the gunpowder and you know gunpowder...

Woman 2: It would be at the place of the gun.

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Detective Hall: ...I'm sorry?

Woman 2: It would be at the place of the gun. Not at the place of the shot.

Detective Hall: The barrel.

Man 2: The end of the barrel.

Detective Hall: The end of the barrel is where you are going to see that flash, and the flash - it depends on the gunpowder load and that specific bullet. As to what kind of flash you're going to get, if I discharged a .357 hollow point with 180 grain, you're going to have a bigger muzzle flash, but if I'm discharging a 9mm Glock .22 with 155 gunpowder weight, that's going to be a smaller flash. And, also, inside that room, you have to take into consideration the size of the room also dictates the light or the flash that will emit. You know, the reflection of that flash.

Woman 2: Okay.

Man 2: If the room was smaller would it (inaudible) more encased with (inaudible)?

Detective Hall: I'm really not qualified to answer that question because there are several variables that play into that - I mean, if it's got a hard - let's say you have a concrete surface and the walls are concrete and they are painted white. You know, you would probably see a larger flash or more of a light then if it was softened by carpet, furniture, dark colored walls and stuff of that nature. So, I'm really not qualified to answer. I can only give you my experiences and some of my trainings that I had as far as what we discussed in trainings and so forth. It would take a firearms expert to really give you the specific answer to that question.

Man 2: One more question. Did the officer who was doing the demonstration, did he mention anything about spots or blind (inaudible) at the firearm (sounds like: that went away that quickly)?

Detective Hall: No, sir.

Man 2: Last question. Thank you.

Woman 1: Okay. That concludes Detective Hall's testimony today, and it's 5:43 and we are going off the record.