

INCIDENT REPORT

DATE PREPARED: 05/03/2018

RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF CA0330000

INITIAL SUPPLEMENTAL

Form with fields: FILE NUMBER (JV180670133), 2. DATE/TIME REPORTED, 3. DATE/TIME ASSIGNED, 4. DATE/TIME INV. START, 5. DATE/TIME INV. TERM, 6. ADULT ARR, 7. JUV ARR, 8. OFFENSES - CODE SECTION (CRIME: Officer Involved Shooting- Fatal), 9. EDP CODE (13C7-N), 10. OFFENSES - CODE SECTION (Add or Change to), 11. EDP CODE, 12. OFFENSES - CODE SECTION (Add or Change to), 13. EDP CODE, 14. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE, 15. REP. DIST., 16. OCCURRED ON- DATE/TIME, 17. OR BETWEEN DATE/TIME, 18. BUSINESS NAME, 19. BUSINESS PHONE, 20. CASE STATUS/ CLEARANCE (OPN/ CR-2), 21. WAS THIS INCIDENT RELATED TO MARIJUANA? (YES NO)

VICTIM - REPORTING PARTY - WITNESS - OTHERS:

SEE ADDITIONAL PERSONS REPORT

Form with fields: 22. INVL, 23. NAME (Last, First, Middle), 24. SEX, 25. RACE, 26. DOB, 27. AGE, 28. HT, 29. WT, 30. HAIR, 31. EYES, 32. SKIN, 33. RESIDENCE ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, 34. EMAIL ADDRESS, 35. RES. PHONE, 36. BUSINESS ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, 37. EMAIL ADDRESS, 38. BUS. PHONE, 39. INVL, 40. NAME (Last, First, Middle), 41. SEX, 42. RACE, 43. DOB, 44. AGE, 45. HT, 46. WT, 47. HAIR, 48. EYES, 49. SKIN, 50. RESIDENCE ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, 51. EMAIL ADDRESS, 52. RES. PHONE, 53. BUSINESS ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, 54. EMAIL ADDRESS, 55. BUS. PHONE

SPECT: ADULT JUVENILE PAROLE PROBATION SEE ADDITIONAL PERSONS REPORT ARRESTED

Form with fields: 56. SUS# (01), 57. NAME (Last, First, Middle), 58. SEX, 59. RACE, 60. DOB, 61. AGE, 62. HT, 63. WT, 64. HAIR, 65. EYES, 66. SKIN, 67. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER / ID NUMBER, IN POSSESSION (YES NO), 68. STATE, 69. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, 70. MNI NUMBER, 71. CII NUMBER, 72. RESIDENCE ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, 73. EMAIL ADDRESS, 74. RES. PHONE, 75. BUSINESS ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, 76. EMAIL ADDRESS, 77. BUS. PHONE

Form with fields: 78. JUVENILE DISPOSITION (OTHER JURIS. JUV. CRT. PROB. WITHIN DEPT. DETAINED NOT DETAINED), 79. GANG DATA (GANG NAME(S), Member Associate Self-Admit Prior Knowledge), TATTOOS / SCARS / MARKS (Face Neck R. Arm L. Arm Hands Torso Back Legs), 80. TATTOOS/SCARS/MARKS/CLOTHING DESCRIPTION (Interview with RPD Ofc. Wright, 35420141)

VEHICLE: REFER TO CHP 180 FORM FOR STOLEN, RECOVERED, TOWED OR IMPOUNDED

Form with fields: 81. INVL, 82. LICENSE, 83. STATE, 84. YEAR, 85. MAKE, 86. MODEL, 87. BODY STYLE, 88. S/L/R/O AUTO VALUE Code: \$, 89. COLOR/COLOR, 90. VIN #, 91. OTHER IDENTIFIERS, 92. DISPOSITION OF VEHICLE, 93. REGISTERED OWNER, 94. ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP, 95. PHONE

PROPERTY REPORT ATTACHED FOR STOLEN, RECOVERED OR DAMAGED PROPERTY

101. DAMAGED PROPERTY VALUE \$

Form with fields: REPORTING OFFICER (Inv. A. Johnson), OFFICER I.D. (3542), REVIEWED BY/DATE (BER2343 05-04-18), ENTERED BY/DATE, ENTERED BY/DATE, COPIES TO, APR SENT, APR CANCELLED, DOJ-NCIC ENTERED, DOJ-NCIC CANCELLED

Law Enforcement Others:

Central Homicide Unit:

Investigator A. Johnson #3542	760-393-3500
Investigator N. Gomez #3018	760-393-3500

Riverside County District Attorney's Office:

DDA Chris Cook	951-955-5400
DA Inv. Campos	951-955-5400

RPD Officer Soria's Attorney:

Saku Ethir	Law Office of Saku E. Ethir	909-260-9220
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Attachment:

1. Transcription of interview with RPD Officer Wright.

Evidence:

AJ01	DVD of interview with Officer Wright	BCN2056495
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This item was entered into evidence at the Jurupa Valley Station.

Details:

On Friday, March 9, 2018, I continued with an Officer Involved Shooting investigation. The shooting involving officers of the Riverside police department occurred on 3/8/18, at 9931 Willowbrook St., in the city of Jurupa Valley where Ernie Saldivar was shot and killed by officers of the Riverside Police Department. At approximately 0022 hours, I interviewed Riverside Police Department Officer Evan Wright #1453 inside of the Captain's conference room at the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Jurupa Valley station. Present at the time of the interview were Inv. Gomez, Officer Soria with his employee representative Saku Ethir, Deputy District Attorney Chris Cook and DA Inv. Campos. The interview was audio recorded. The following is a summary of Officer Wright's interview. For additional details, refer to the attached transcription.

I advised Officer Wright that I was conducting a criminal investigation regarding the shooting and that a separate administrative investigation was being conducted by his agency. Officer Wright consulted with his counsel and agreed to give a voluntary statement.

Officer Wright said he has been a police officer with the Riverside Police Department for approximately eleven years. At the time of the shooting, Officer Soria was assigned to the METRO unit and has been for the past two and a half years. Prior to being assigned to METRO, Ofc. Wright was assigned to the patrol division for eight years until he was selected for the PACT team where he served for about one year. Ofc. Wright started his shift at 0800 hours and works Wednesday thru

1 Saturday. Ofc. Wright said his work hours fluctuate depending on what assignments he has for the
2 day. On the day of the incident, Wright wore a black load bearing vest with the word, "Police" on
3 the front right breast and a subdued cloth Riverside Police Department badge on the left breast.
4 "Police" was printed across the back of the vest in block lettering. Wright was armed with his
5 Springfield 1911 .45 cal pistol. This was the only weapons system that was deployed by Wright
6 during the shooting.

7
8 On 3/8/18, at the start of his shift, Ofc. Wright received information from the RPD Gang unit
9 reference the whereabouts of Ernie Saldivar. Saldivar was an Eastside Riva gang member who was
10 wanted for questioning reference an attempt murder where he shot at his girlfriend in August of
11 2017. Saldivar also had an outstanding felony warrant for parole violation. Ofc. Wright said he and
12 his team have gone out on at least five occasions in an effort to locate and arrest Saldivar reference
13 the attempt murder investigation in the past. Ofc. Wright was informed that Saldivar was possibly at
14 9931 Willowbrook St., in Jurupa Valley with a relative. The gang unit obtained the information
15 from a confidential informant who also advised that Saldivar was also possibly armed.

16
17 Ofc. Wright was the case agent and contacted his team to assist with surveillance. Ofc. Wright,
18 Soria and Lopez were to respond to the location in an undercover surveillance vehicle while
19 Officers Park and Pap standby in a marked patrol car to conduct a vehicle stop in the event Saldivar
20 left the residence in a vehicle. Wright and his team arrived in the area at about 1600 hours. Wright
21 parked the van about five houses west of the residence on the south side of the street. Officers Park
22 and Pap were several blocks east of the location. On arrival, Wright saw that the garage door to the
23 residence was open.

24
25 After about twenty minutes of surveillance, Wright saw three subjects walking in and out of the
26 garage through the interior door leading into the house. Wright saw a Hispanic female and two
27 Hispanic males in the garage. Wright observed them through binoculars and believed one of the
28 males was Saldivar based on the tattoo across the front of his neck which was similar to a tattoo
29 Saldivar had. Wright had his partners in the van observe the subject and confirmed it was Saldivar.
30 Wright then had Ofc. Monreal take their position and continue surveillance while Wright and his
31 partners go to meet Park and Pap to prepare to contact the occupants. The officers made their
32 approach from the east side of the residence. Wright was first in the line-up as Ofc. Soria followed
33 behind. Wright did not know the positions of the rest of his team as they made entry into the garage.

34
35 Upon entering the garage, Wright saw Saldivar. He ordered him to show his hands. Saldivar then
36 began reaching for his waistband or pockets as if he were trying to retrieve something and began
37 running toward the interior door leading into the residence. Wright ordered him to stop, but Saldivar
38 continued running and reaching toward his waistband. Fearing Saldivar was arming himself with a
39 weapon, Wright fired at Saldivar twice with his pistol as he ran into the house. Once inside of the
40 residence, Saldivar fell to the ground face first but continued reaching toward his waist area.
41 Saldivar began to turn and face Wright as he followed behind. Wright then fired several more times
42 at Saldivar causing him to stop moving. At that time Wright's partners handcuffed Saldivar and
43 began rendering medical aid while Wright covered the interior of the residence. Minutes later

1 assisting officer arrived at the residence. Ofc. Park Told Wright to wait outside in front of the
2 residence while they cleared the residence. Ofc. Wright was then transported to the Jurupa Valley
3 station. Based on Saldivar's criminal history and his actions at the time he was contacted by
4 officers, Wright believed that Saldivar was arming himself and was going to assault him or his team
5 members.

6
7 I concluded my interview with Wright at 0100 hours. This report was generated to summarize my
8 interview with Officer Wright.

9
10 **Case Status:**

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12 OPN/ CR-2

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RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPT - Restricted Information
Public Records Act Request
JPEDROZA 12/16/2019 11:00 AM Unauthorized Release PROHIBITED



Riverside County Sheriff's Department

New Property / Evidence Report

Deputy Name:	JOHNSON, ANTHONY	Deputy ID:	3542	Incident Number:	JV180670133
Evidence Barcode:	Date Entered:	Item Description:	Mailing Address:	Tickler will be sent:	Entered By (ID):
2056495	5/3/2018	Item Description: AJ-01 - Ofc. Wright interview. This item is related to the following SUSPECT: Saldivar, Ernie.	4251 Langston Pl Riverside	8/1/2018	3542

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**ATTACHMENT # 1
AUDIO TRANSCRIPT
OFC. E WRIGHT**

JV180670133

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EVIDENCE RECORDING

JV180670133

Transcript of Interview with OFFICER EVAN WRIGHT
03/09/2018

Participants Key: WRIGHT: OFFICER EVAN WRIGHT

 GOMEZ: INVESTIGATOR NELSON GOMEZ

 JOHNSON: INVESTIGATOR ANTHONY JOHNSON

 ETHIR: SAKU ETHIR, ATTORNEY

 COOK: DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHRIS COOK

 CAMPOS: DA INVESTIGATOR JAMES CAMPOS

[BEGINNING; RECORDING IDENTIFIED AS: OFFICER EVAN WRIGHT, DURATION: 38:23]

JOHNSON: All right. It is actually Friday, March 9, 2018 at midnight, 0022, and we are here conducting an interview reference Jurupa Valley File #180670133. Present in the room to my left---I am Investigator Anthony Johnson, ID #3542, and to my left?

GOMEZ: Investigator Nelson Gomez, ID #3018 with the homicide unit---Riverside Homicide Unit.

COOK: Deputy District Attorney Christopher Cook.

CAMPOS: James Campos, Investigator, District Attorney's Office.

ETHIR: Saku Ethir, Attorney for Evan Wright.

WRIGHT: Evan Wright, Riverside PD.

1 JOHNSON: All right, Officer Wright. First of all, I appreciate you coming in. Again, we
2 are conducting a criminal investigation. We are not internal affairs. This is
3 not an administrative interview, but we'd like to talk to you a little bit about
4 the incident from the night---the previous night. I believe you've had a
5 chance to talk to Mrs.---your attorney about that, and we'd like to get a
6 statement from you if you're open to that?
7
8 WRIGHT: Yes, I am.
9
10 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and again nobody's given you an order that you have to talk to
11 us or anything like that?
12
13 WRIGHT: No.
14
15 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and just spell your full name for me?
16
17 WRIGHT: E V A N, W R I G H T.
18
19 JOHNSON: Okay, and what's your badge number?
20
21 WRIGHT: 1453.
22
23 JOHNSON: Okay, and how long have you been a police officer?
24
25 WRIGHT: A little over eleven years.
26
27 JOHNSON: Okay, and has it all been with the Riverside Police Department?
28
29 WRIGHT: Yes.
30
31 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. Any military time?
32
33 WRIGHT: No.
34
35 JOHNSON: Okay, and just in a nutshell, what was your---or what assignments have you
36 had over the years?

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WRIGHT: Patrol. I did patrol for eight years. I was on the PAC team for about a year, and then I got moved to metro, and I've been doing that for like maybe two and a half years.

JOHNSON: Metro. And from my---Metro is the SWAT team?

WRIGHT: Yeah.

JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and what time did your shift start yesterday?

WRIGHT: This morning I started at 8:00. 8:00 a.m.

JOHNSON: And what are your normal hours?

WRIGHT: We don't have normal hours, we like adjust just depending on what's going on for the day, you know what I mean, so if there's a guy we're looking for then we'll just adjust.

JOHNSON: Right. Right. But I mean like what's your scheduled hours, I guess just for payroll purposes? You work twelve's, ten's?

WRIGHT: It's kind of weird. Yeah, we work ten's. We work four ten's.

JOHNSON: Okay.

WRIGHT: Yeah, so we work Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

JOHNSON: Okay. What was your call sign for today?

WRIGHT: Metro 5.

JOHNSON: Metro 5. Okay, and then what were your duties for today? Was it just regular patrol or I guess, high visibility patrol or what?

WRIGHT: Today we were going to do surveillance.

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JOHNSON: Okay. Tell me about that.

WRIGHT: So basically we've been looking for this guy, Ernie Saldavar, gang member, wanted on parole violation. He shot at his girlfriend in August, 2017, and on that day we got called out---The SWAT team got called out to do surveillance and conduct probation/parole searches and search warrants to try to find him, but we couldn't find him. We couldn't find the firearm. So basically we just been looking for this guy ever since, and on Tuesday, I got information from a gang detective that his CI told him that Ernie was at this house, which was---What was the street, Meadow Brook or something. Yeah, he was over at that house.

JOHNSON: Yes.

WRIGHT: Where the shooting happened, so---

JOHNSON: Okay. Now, as far as this surveillance and trying to track this guy down, was that like something that you were assigned to or was it just kind of a group effort?

WRIGHT: Well, basically---Yeah, so before we went out there, I you know, briefed the whole team. The whole team knows about this guy, they've seen this guy before, so each person had you know, a role and responsibility to---for the surveillance.

JOHNSON: Okay. What I mean was were you like the case agent, I guess for your team?

WRIGHT: Yeah, I was going to handle it

JOHNSON: For your team.

WRIGHT: Yeah.

JOHNSON: You're trying to track this guy down.

1 WRIGHT: Yes.
2
3 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and what was the plan today with the surveillance?
4
5 WRIGHT: The plan today was three of us were going to be in the unmarked van, and we
6 were just going to conduct surveillance just to try to see if we can see him
7 outside the residence, and if we did we were just going to roll up and try to
8 grab him before he got in a car or got back inside the house.
9
10 JOHNSON: Okay.
11
12 WRIGHT: We had a marked unit in the area, so in case he happened to get into a car,
13 then we'd do a traffic stop on him. Yeah, so that's basically the plan.
14
15 JOHNSON: Okay. How many UC cars did you have in the area, was it just the van or---
16
17 WRIGHT: No, we had one more that came like maybe twenty minutes after we started
18 doing surveillance. So he showed up. So we had two unmarked UC cars,
19 and then a marked car.
20
21 JOHNSON: Okay. Now---and you were in the van?
22
23 WRIGHT: I was in the van.
24
25 JOHNSON: Okay. Were you initially on point watching the house?
26
27 WRIGHT: Yes.
28
29 JOHNSON: Okay, and where were you parked for your surveillance?
30
31 WRIGHT: I was parked west of the house on the south side of the street.
32
33 JOHNSON: Okay, and who was in the van with you?
34
35 WRIGHT: Able Soria, and Sancho Lopez.
36

1 JOHNSON: Okay, and in the van what was your---Were you the driver or were you
2 watching? What was your position in the van?
3
4 WRIGHT: I was in the driver's seat, and at that time I was just you know, watching the
5 house with binos, binoculars.
6
7 JOHNSON: About how far were you from the target location?
8
9 WRIGHT: If I had to guess---I'm not really good with distances---We were like---
10 They're pretty big houses, pretty big properties, so it would be like four or
11 five houses down west of---somewhere around there, I guess.
12
13 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and from your position, did you have a good visual of the---
14 What did---I guess, what did you have a visual of, of the house from that
15 position?
16
17 WRIGHT: I had a---There was two parked cars in the driveway, so I had a partial view
18 on those, and then I could see the garage, almost the whole inside of the
19 garage. The garage was open like two-thirds of the way.
20
21 JOHNSON: Okay.
22
23 WRIGHT: So I had a pretty good visual of that. I couldn't see the front door.
24
25 JOHNSON: Okay, and did you see anything in the garage?
26
27 WRIGHT: Yes.
28
29 JOHNSON: Okay. What'd you see?
30
31 WRIGHT: I saw a Hispanic guy, gray shirt, wearing a hat. I saw another Hispanic guy
32 wearing a black shirt, kind of walking back and forth inside the house, then
33 they'd walk back into the garage, and then there was also a female, shorter,
34 Hispanic female that was also in the garage. They kind of walked out of
35 view for you know, like probably five, ten minutes at a time. They'd walk
36 deep into the garage. I lost view, so---

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JOHNSON: Okay, and when you saw these people, what did you do?

WRIGHT: I looked at them with my binoculars and tried to ID if Ernie---if one of those males were Ernie.

JOHNSON: Okay, and at that time were you able to ID Ernie?

WRIGHT: Not 100%, but I know Ernie has a Riverside across his throat, a tattoo, so I was just far enough where I couldn't you know, actually make out the writing, but I did see that he had a tattoo on his neck. He had some tattoos on the left and right side of his face that I was able to see. I just couldn't tell if it was Riverside or not, so I mean I had a good feeling it was Ernie, the guy we were looking for.

JOHNSON: Right.

WRIGHT: So I passed the binoculars to my partner and had him check and he felt like it was him. You know, it was a good chance it'd be him.

JOHNSON: Okay, and then what did you guys do at that point?

WRIGHT: Basically the other officer in the UC car, he was---When he showed up, he parked just east of---or hold on, let me think about this for a minute. He parked, yeah, east of the house. We were west of the house, so he parked east of the house to try to get a view of the front door. So the plan was he was going to park behind us, take our spot, I was going to go drive the van past the house, meet up with the unit, and that way we can roll in together and kind of stay hidden. So we parked just short of---The plan was just to park short of---One guy was going to be with the less lethal, and then we were just going to kind of turn that corner undetected, and you know, try to catch Ernie off guard if it was him, just try to ID him.

JOHNSON: Okay, and who was the other officer that came to relieve you?

WRIGHT: Robert Monreal.

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JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. So after you guys were relieved, what happened after that?

WRIGHT: From our point spot?

JOHNSON: Yes.

WRIGHT: So I just---I met up with the two officers in the unit, and then from that---
Well, we just discussed what the plan was going to be.

JOHNSON: Okay, and who were the two officers in the unit?

WRIGHT: Pap and Park. Henry Park and Jeff Pap, P A P.

JOHNSON: Pap and Park. All right, and that's when you guys came up with a game plan to try to---you had one person with the less lethal. Did anybody deploy a long rifle or anything, or was it just handguns?

WRIGHT: I'm not sure if one of the guys had a long rifle. I mean they were---Basically they were sitting in the car when I was---We were in our car, I was---they were in their car and I was talking to them. We never got out at that point, so---

JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. What was the less lethal just out of---that you guys had deployed?

WRIGHT: A 40 millimeter.

JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. After you guys discuss your plan, what happened?

WRIGHT: I led them up to the house. I parked just short of. I kind of---We kind of crept up to the house, and as we were doing that, Monreal said hey---I think he said they're coming out of the garage or they're walking out to the car, something like that. I can't really remember. So we kind of picked up the pace a little bit, and as soon as I turned the corner, then I saw Ernie.

1 JOHNSON: Okay, and then what happened?
2
3 WRIGHT: Well, my gun was out, and I was pointing my gun at him telling him to put
4 his hands up, and basically he kind of like got spooked, caught off guard, and
5 then as soon as he did---He was holding a beer or he was holding something
6 in his hand, and basically he just started going for his waistband or his
7 pockets. He just started digging, and as soon as he did that, he turned around
8 and ran towards the door, which is on the, I think north side of the garage that
9 led into the house. So he started running. We chased after him. He was still
10 digging in his shorts, and so I mean at that point just based on my training
11 and stuff, I thought that he might have a gun, and just based on---Let me back
12 up. The CI that this gang detective had said that he was armed.
13
14 JOHNSON: Okay.
15
16 WRIGHT: So I mean that's just---I just felt that he was armed, you know.
17
18 JOHNSON: Okay. Now, when you initially contacted him, do you recall if he said
19 anything?
20
21 WRIGHT: He didn't say anything. He just got caught off guard, and as soon as he saw
22 us, he just---I mean he knew. He just started reaching in his pants, and then
23 he just---he booked it towards that door.
24
25 JOHNSON: Okay.
26
27 WRIGHT: That led into the house.
28
29 JOHNSON: Now when he reached into his pants, you know, just kind of paint the picture.
30 Was it a quick movement or was he just kind of staring you own? Describe
31 that a little bit for me.
32
33 WRIGHT: It was immediate. He was facing me, you know, so we were like face to
34 face, and as soon as he saw me, he just you know, started digging in his
35 pockets, and then he took off. Turned around and ran.
36

1 JOHNSON: Okay.
2
3 WRIGHT: Immediately.
4
5 JOHNSON: And obviously all of you guys when you arrived at the house, you were in---
6 had your LBV's on, or the load bearing vests.
7
8 WRIGHT: Yeah.
9
10 JOHNSON: Black in color, clearly said police across the front, correct?
11
12 WRIGHT: Correct.
13
14 JOHNSON: All right, and then when you---I guess when you came around the corner into
15 the garage, did you make any announcements at the time or was it just
16 immediate that he had fled?
17
18 WRIGHT: Yeah. I---We were---I was giving him commands, you know, hands. I'm not
19 sure what anybody else was saying as soon as we turned the corner.
20
21 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. So once he got into the house, then what happened?
22
23 WRIGHT: Well, as soon as he started---He was running towards that---the door, I fired
24 two rounds.
25
26 JOHNSON: Okay.
27
28 WRIGHT: I believe it was two rounds.
29
30 JOHNSON: Okay, and at that point what made you fire those two rounds?
31
32 WRIGHT: I believe that he had a firearm, and he was trying to get the firearm out or he
33 was just going to shoot from his pocket or his waistband.
34
35 JOHNSON: Okay. You say---What made you think he was going to fire on you?
36

1 WRIGHT: Just because of his criminal history, his past. The guy's a gang member, shot
2 at his girlfriend. According to the CI he was armed. Yeah, just because of
3 his actions you know, at the scene that I saw.
4
5 ETHIR: His hand in his pocket, everything you've already described?
6
7 WRIGHT: Yeah. Yes.
8
9 JOHNSON: Okay, and after you fired the two rounds, what happened?
10
11 WRIGHT: I can't remember if the door leading to the house was opened or closed, but
12 he made it in there, and it's kind of like a small hallway that led into the
13 rooms that were deep into the house, and he fell and I fired a few more
14 rounds. I can't remember how many rounds. He was still moving around.
15 He---At one point he almost turned around, you know what I mean. He was
16 facing---He was face down, so at one point he almost turned around while he
17 was still digging in his pockets.
18
19 JOHNSON: Okay. Was he turning towards you?
20
21 WRIGHT: Yeah, he was turning towards me. He was just kind of like you know,
22 turning around while he was on the ground.
23
24 JOHNSON: Okay, and it was at that point that's when you fired the two additional
25 rounds?
26
27 WRIGHT: I'm not sure how many rounds. It was another volley, I'm not---
28
29 JOHNSON: Or---
30
31 WRIGHT: Several.
32
33 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and after you fired the second volley, what happened?
34
35 WRIGHT: Sorry guys, I'm just trying to remember, you know what I mean.
36

1 JOHNSON: No, no, take your time, you know, just---If you don't know, you don't know.
2
3 WRIGHT: Yeah. Well, he was---Basically he was---He was moving a little bit, and then
4 we told him to put his hands out to his sides, and he didn't do it, and then I
5 mean I---he just stopped moving at one point, you know what I mean, and
6 then we came up with a plan. There was Able Soria was to my left, and
7 Robert Monreal and Henry Park were behind me, so we came up with a plan
8 to handcuff him and give him some sort of medical aid. So basically I
9 stepped over Ernie and just held you know, on the house, the rest of the
10 house that hadn't been cleared, and I wasn't really looking behind me, so I'm
11 not too sure of what went on, but yeah, my job was just to focus on the
12 house.
13
14 JOHNSON: Okay. You don't know who I guess, eventually cuffed him or anything?
15
16 WRIGHT: I'm not sure.
17
18 JOHNSON: Okay, but your responsibility was just to kind of watch---have the long eye
19 basically and watch the hallway if there's any other folks going to jump out
20 or anything?
21
22 WRIGHT: Yes.
23
24 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and then---
25
26 WRIGHT: Well, can I back up a second?
27
28 JOHNSON: Sure.
29
30 WRIGHT: Something just came to mind.
31
32 JOHNSON: Go ahead.
33
34 WRIGHT: When we were---This isn't really that important, but---While we were
35 coming up with that plan, there was a female that kind of emerged from
36 inside the house. We---She said she had like six kids in the house, so

1 basically we told her just to you know, walk out the front door to the officers
2 that were outside.

3
4 JOHNSON: Okay.

5
6 WRIGHT: That was it.

7
8 JOHNSON: Okay, and if you know, which officers were outside still?

9
10 WRIGHT: I don't know.

11
12 JOHNSON: Okay.

13
14 WRIGHT: I know that shots fired, it was being broadcast or it had been broadcast, so I
15 don't know who was out front at that point.

16
17 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and then what happened after you had the female and the rest
18 of the folks leave the house?

19
20 WRIGHT: Well, like I said, I stepped over and I just held on the house that hadn't been
21 cleared yet. The rest of the house hadn't been cleared, and then Park told us
22 that Able and I---Able Soria and I were to you know, holster up and walk
23 back out front, and two more bodies supplemented, I guess, and they cleared
24 the rest of the house.

25
26 JOHNSON: Okay. So at that point is when they took you out of the equation?

27
28 WRIGHT: Yeah, they just brought us---We just walked ourselves out to the street.

29
30 JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. After your partners finish clearing the house, then what
31 happened?

32
33 WRIGHT: I got driven here by Zakowski(sp?).

34
35 JOHNSON: Okay. From the time, I guess that you initially made contact with the suspect
36 to the time you fired the---your first shots, about how much time would you

1 say elapsed in your best guess? I'm not going to hold you to you know,
2 hundreds of seconds or anything like that.
3
4 WRIGHT: Yeah. If I had to guess, I don't know, a few seconds. Seconds.
5
6 JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Nelson?
7
8 GOMEZ: Real quick. Obviously this is a daytime operation when you guys set up,
9 right?
10
11 WRIGHT: Yeah.
12
13 GOMEZ: How long do you think you were doing your---conducting your surveillance
14 before the additional member showed up and you guys put your plan into
15 action?
16
17 WRIGHT: You talking about the time we just made the decision to walk up on the
18 house?
19
20 GOMEZ: Well, from the time that you---What time is it that you land on the residence,
21 on the street, and then start conducting your surveillance?
22
23 WRIGHT: I think it was around like 4:00, somewhere around there.
24
25 GOMEZ: Okay.
26
27 WRIGHT: Yeah.
28
29 GOMEZ: So from 4:00 up until Monreal gets on scene, how long was that, if you can
30 recall?
31
32 WRIGHT: It was like twenty minutes after we landed, he showed up.
33
34 GOMEZ: Okay, and---
35
36 ETHIR: Best estimate, right?

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WRIGHT:

That's my estimate.

GOMEZ:

Okay. So twenty minutes after you initially arrive, he shows up and then how long was it from the twenty minutes---How much additional time happens before you make your decision, you know what, that's him, let's go with the additional of moving on now to making contact with the residence?

WRIGHT:

Yeah, if I had to guess again, like maybe twenty more minutes.

GOMEZ:

Okay. So a total of forty minutes?

WRIGHT:

Yeah, something like that.

GOMEZ:

Of surveillance. You're picking out the guy, you believe it's him, now you guys are moving forward, and when you roll up is it a rapid deployment of going up into the house now?

WRIGHT:

Basically as we were walking up to the house and as soon as we turned that corner, it was just you know, try to ID if Ernie was in the garage, and you know, make---put those guys down on the ground or make them put their hands up.

GOMEZ:

No, I'm saying---I mean when you pull up on the car and you deploy from the vehicle, obviously there's a distance between the curb and getting up into that garage. Was it a rapid deployment? Did you guys stack up in a line to make a tactical approach, or is it just let's go up and make contact?

WRIGHT:

Yeah, it was---That's kind of like a planned thing. Our SWAT team, we have kind of like a set stack. In this case since I was leading them up to the house, I was going to be point, and then Soria with the less lethal. So yeah, it was Able and I were in front, and then the rest of the guys just---I mean we're all SWAT guys, so we know what to do, you know what I mean, we fall in the stack, we fall in line. That's just how our team operates.

1 GOMEZ: Okay, and like you said when you were already breaking that threshold to the
2 garage, you're already---your firearm's out right?
3
4 WRIGHT: Yeah.
5
6 GOMEZ: Because you have word now from a gang detective that his CI's telling you
7 this guy's armed?
8
9 WRIGHT: Yes.
10
11 GOMEZ: You have the past history, you've chased him---not chased him, but you've
12 conducted investigations, operations into tracking him down---How many
13 operations prior to this one, do you believe?
14
15 WRIGHT: You know, I'm not sure, maybe five if I had to guess.
16
17 GOMEZ: Okay. So you knew who your person of interest was, your focus?
18
19 WRIGHT: Yes.
20
21 GOMEZ: You knew that he had a tendency for violence?
22
23 WRIGHT: Yes.
24
25 GOMEZ: Okay. So obviously you went prepared. You had less lethal with you in the
26 event that you needed it, and it's daytime, right?
27
28 WRIGHT: Yes.
29
30 GOMEZ: So---and you're clearly in uniform that's clearly identifiable.
31
32 WRIGHT: Yes.
33
34 GOMEZ: Especially to him, since he is ESR, so he's going to know you guys, right?
35
36 WRIGHT: Yes.

1
2 GOMEZ: He's going to know what RPD looks like because it's your guys' uniforms.
3
4 WRIGHT: Yes.
5
6 GOMEZ: All right, so---and you said you guys break that threshold of the garage, and
7 the garage flows immediately to your right, right?
8
9 WRIGHT: Yeah, it just like opens up deep, you know what I mean, into the house, and
10 then off to the left is a door that leads actually into the house.
11
12 GOMEZ: Okay. The first subject you guys make contact with, and this is the guy in
13 the gray shirt, do you remember where he was standing?
14
15 WRIGHT: As soon as I wrapped the corner, all I saw was Ernie. I didn't see where that
16 guy in the gray shirt was at. He was---I think he was somewhere off to my
17 left, but as soon as I wrapped the corner, he's the only person I saw.
18
19 GOMEZ: Okay, and you said wrapping---He's immediately to your left?
20
21 WRIGHT: He's going to be---As soon as I kind of like---Basically we---I paralleled the
22 house. We all paralleled the house, so he couldn't see us coming up, you
23 know what I mean. So as soon as I kind of wrapped the corner, he was
24 standing like a couple feet in front of me if I had to guess, yeah.
25
26 ETHIR: He being Ernie?
27
28 WRIGHT: Ernie.
29
30 GOMEZ: Ernie.
31
32 WRIGHT: Yeah, inside the garage.
33
34 GOMEZ: Okay. Is he in the center of the garage? Is he in the deep corner of the
35 garage, or is he closer to that garage door?
36

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1 WRIGHT: He's like, if I can remember right, he was---He wasn't deep into the garage,
2 he was you know, like---It seemed like he was like kind of walking out.
3
4 GOMEZ: Okay, and it's lit in the garage?
5
6 WRIGHT: It's what?
7
8 GOMEZ: Lighting conditions?
9
10 WRIGHT: Yeah, it was clear as day.
11
12 GOMEZ: Very good?
13
14 WRIGHT: Yeah.
15
16 GOMEZ: Okay, and you could definitely see what he's doing, right?
17
18 WRIGHT: Oh yeah.
19
20 GOMEZ: And he can definitely see you guys?
21
22 WRIGHT: Yes.
23
24 GOMEZ: There's no way he could mistake you for any---He had to have known that
25 you guys were law enforcement?
26
27 WRIGHT: Correct, yes.
28
29 GOMEZ: Without a doubt.
30
31 WRIGHT: Without a doubt.
32
33 GOMEZ: Okay, and his initial reaction is to do what?
34
35 WRIGHT: What did---Are you asking what he did?
36

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1 GOMEZ: Yeah, what did he do? When he saw you, what did he do?
2
3 WRIGHT: Yeah, basically he got spooked. He kind of like raised up a little bit, then he
4 just started digging in his pockets.
5
6 GOMEZ: So his immediate reaction is kind of like oh shit?
7
8 WRIGHT: Yeah.
9
10 GOMEZ: And then let me dig into my pocket or my waistband?
11
12 WRIGHT: Yes.
13
14 GOMEZ: Okay. Do you know which hand he reached for?
15
16 WRIGHT: I can't remember.
17
18 GOMEZ: Okay. Do you know if he's left handed or right handed?
19
20 WRIGHT: I don't know.
21
22 GOMEZ: Okay. So he immediately starts reaching into his waistband. How far away
23 from the garage door is he do you believe?
24
25 WRIGHT: Basically well I'm right at the garage door, so he's like you know, a few feet-
26 --
27
28 GOMEZ: The interior garage door, the one that leads into the house?
29
30 WRIGHT: He's probably like maybe ten feet away.
31
32 GOMEZ: Okay.
33
34 WRIGHT: Maybe less than that if I had to guess.
35
36 GOMEZ: Do you recall if that garage door was closed or was it opened?

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WRIGHT: I don't remember.

GOMEZ: Okay, and you said at one point in time there were at least three people in that garage, right?

WRIGHT: Yes.

GOMEZ: All right. When you guys are now in the garage, how many people are in there?

WRIGHT: Well, all I saw was Ernie, you know what I mean, so I don't know---For me, I trust the guys on my team that if I'm dealing with him, you're going to be dealing with them, you know what I mean. So I know that I trust them, so they're---I know they're going to be dealing with those other two or you know, the other guy in the gray shirt. So my focus was him. I'm not---I wasn't worried about what you know, they're doing or where they're at. Yeah, he's the only person I saw as soon as I wrapped that corner.

GOMEZ: Okay. So he starts reaching in his waistband. Is it an immediate reaction for him now to go to that door, because obviously he can't go forward, because the only other avenue of escape for him is either going through you guys or going back into the house?

WRIGHT: Yeah, it was like immediate. I was like almost at the same time. He just started reaching in his pockets, in his waistband, and then he just took off. He turned around and he booked it to that door.

GOMEZ: Okay, and when you say he booked it obviously now his back is towards you?

WRIGHT: Yes.

GOMEZ: Right. Are you see---Can you see what he's going with his hands, or are they still in front of him?

1 WRIGHT: Yeah, they're---It's like he's trying to get something out. He's you know,
2 just digging in his pockets, in his waistband. Yeah, I just thought that he was
3 going to you know, pull that gun out or pull a gun out and---or shoot me from
4 you know, his pants, grab a hold of that thing and turn around and fire a
5 round.
6
7 GOMEZ: Are you guys giving him commands at any point in time during that time?
8
9 WRIGHT: Initially I told him put his hands up, if I remember right, and then I don't
10 know if I said anything after that, after he took off.
11
12 GOMEZ: And obviously he didn't comply.
13
14 WRIGHT: Yeah, no.
15
16 GOMEZ: Okay. He makes it to the garage---to the interior garage door and you can't
17 remember whether that door was closed or opened?
18
19 WRIGHT: I can't remember.
20
21 GOMEZ: Okay, but he makes it in there, right?
22
23 WRIGHT: Yes.
24
25 GOMEZ: At any point in time do you lose sight of him?
26
27 WRIGHT: No.
28
29 GOMEZ: No. You're behind him the whole time?
30
31 WRIGHT: Yes.
32
33 GOMEZ: As he's basically breaking that threshold of that door and going in, you're
34 following up behind him?
35
36 WRIGHT: Yes.

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GOMEZ: Okay. You don't remember that door coming at you or did it stay open?

WRIGHT: You know what, it---Well it stayed open, because we went in after him.

GOMEZ: Right behind him.

WRIGHT: Yeah.

GOMEZ: Okay. Is he turning around? Is he looking back to see where you guys are at?

WRIGHT: Oh yeah. He turned around a few times, to check where we were at.

GOMEZ: Do you know if it was from his left or from his right?

WRIGHT: I can't remember.

GOMEZ: Okay. Outside of the information that he's possibly at this house, what other information did you have about that residence?

WRIGHT: We had a picture of a female that might have lived there, but the intel we had that---was that Ernie's cousin was living there. We pulled the house up on some of our databases, one of my partners did. He couldn't find really a tie to Ernie. He did find a female that might live there. That address is on her driver's license, so we printed up a photo of her, put it out over the group text so everyone was aware.

GOMEZ: So you don't know if there was any additional threats in that house?

WRIGHT: No.

GOMEZ: Or how long he had been there, what he had inside the house?

WRIGHT: No.

1 GOMEZ: All right. Once you get into this space, what's the first thing you see when
2 you get into this? I know what it is now going there, but what do you guys
3 see?
4
5 WRIGHT: Well, I see him on the ground and then it's just kind of like---it just opens up
6 deep into the house, you know, a big room. I think the kitchen was off to the
7 left somewhere.
8
9 GOMEZ: Okay. So obviously he's on the ground. What leads him to get on the
10 ground? Obviously there was---you fired, right?
11
12 WRIGHT: Yes.
13
14 GOMEZ: Okay. When is it that you fire as he's entering the garage, or prior to that?
15
16 WRIGHT: I fired one volley prior to him getting to that door.
17
18 GOMEZ: Okay.
19
20 WRIGHT: And then I know I fired a second volley, I just don't know when, but he was
21 already past the threshold.
22
23 ETHIR: At the second volley?
24
25 WRIGHT: Yes.
26
27 GOMEZ: So your first volley is before he even enters in, and that's because he's failing
28 to follow your directions. You're giving him commands to show you his
29 hands and he's not. His hands, as far as you know, are in front of him, yes
30 or no?
31
32 WRIGHT: Yes. Yes.
33
34 GOMEZ: Okay, and he's not comply with what you're directing him, right?
35
36 WRIGHT: Right.

1
2 GOMEZ: All right, but he's---and then you said he was turning around to see where
3 you guys were at?
4

5 WRIGHT: Yes.
6

7 GOMEZ: Okay, and once he's inside, the next time you see him now he's on the
8 ground?
9

10 WRIGHT: Well, he's still standing, and then I think he just---I don't know if I fired my
11 second volley while he was still standing, or when he fell to the ground and
12 he was---he kept moving. I don't know when I fired the second volley.
13

14 GOMEZ: Okay. What was he doing at that point in time? Was his back still towards
15 you guys? Was he turning back towards you?
16

17 WRIGHT: Yeah, he was.
18

19 GOMEZ: Could you see his hands?
20

21 WRIGHT: He was kind of---I couldn't see his hands. All I knew that he was trying to
22 get something out of his pocket or his waistband, and he was just kind of like,
23 I don't know, making a whole bunch of different movements, you know what
24 I mean, kind of turning back towards us. He wasn't just completely you
25 know, faced the opposite direction. He was moving.
26

27 GOMEZ: Okay. How much time do you think between the first volley and the second
28 volley once he's inside the house?
29

30 WRIGHT: If I had to guess, seconds.
31

32 GOMEZ: Plenty of opportunity for him to basically raise his hands if he had to?
33

34 WRIGHT: Yes.
35

36 GOMEZ: Okay, but he never did anything like that?

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WRIGHT: Never.

GOMEZ: This whole time you can't see what he's doing?

WRIGHT: Correct.

GOMEZ: His hands are in front of him?

WRIGHT: Yes.

GOMEZ: And you still don't know what he has, if he has anything?

WRIGHT: Correct.

ETHIR: Well, I think he's said a few times so we're clear that he sees him digging in either his waistband or his pocket, so it's more than just his hand being in front of him.

GOMEZ: No, no, he's making---

ETHIR: He's actively digging---

GOMEZ: He's making an a movement---

ETHIR: Correct.

WRIGHT: He's making sudden movements.

ETHIR: Correct.

GOMEZ: There's something here, you don't know what it is.

ETHIR: Yeah, and he's trying to get it.

GOMEZ: Okay.

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JOHNSON: Have you ever had any personal contact with the suspect, like either from patrol or you know, from some of the other teams that you had worked?

WRIGHT: Never.

JOHNSON: Okay. Have any of your partners? I mean have you heard of this guy before, this---the attempt 187?

WRIGHT: Yeah, oh yeah.

JOHNSON: Okay. Okay, and I'm pretty sure you've answered this, but I---you know, we're all---getting a little loopy, but in your estimation, about how far behind the suspect were you when you had fired your first volley of shots?

WRIGHT: If I had to take a guess, I don't know, feet, less than five feet.

JOHNSON: Okay.

WRIGHT: Yeah.

JOHNSON: Okay, and I mean was he in a---For him, I guess was he in a full, like a sprint trying to get into the house, or just kind of a jog, trying to acquire where you guys are?

WRIGHT: Yeah, he was just---I mean I don't know how to describe it. I mean he was just---He saw us, he got spooked, he knew we were the cops, and he wanted to pull that gun out, and he just---It wasn't a full on sprint, but he was getting---trying to get to that door and try to get into the house.

JOHNSON: Right. Okay.

GOMEZ: I just got a couple. Once he's inside and he's on the ground, where are his hands?

WRIGHT: His hands are underneath him still.

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GOMEZ: Okay, and obviously you guys are giving him commands, and is he complying at all?

WRIGHT: No.

GOMEZ: Is he saying anything to you guys?

WRIGHT: No.

GOMEZ: Did he say anything at any point in time from the time you guys entered the garage all the way up until now he's in the house? Did he ever say anything?

WRIGHT: Not that I heard, no.

GOMEZ: Okay. Did you hear any other noise or any other verbalization from anyone in the house?

WRIGHT: Just when that female walked, you know, when she came into my view, and she said she had the kids, you know what I mean. That was the only other time.

GOMEZ: Okay. No mention about anybody else being in the house other than the kids?

WRIGHT: No.

ETHIR: Just real quick, I mean I just want to make sure he's being clear, because obviously he's been up a long time, but was there any doubt in your mind that what that individual was grasping for or had a hold of in his pocket was a gun?

WRIGHT: There---I didn't have any doubt, no.

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1 ETHIR: Okay. Was there any doubt in your mind at both of the instances where you
2 fired your weapon, that he was trying to kill you or your partner?
3
4 WRIGHT: I didn't have any doubt, no.
5
6 COOK: You mentioned that the C---the gang detective told you that his CI had
7 informed him that this guy was armed, potentially armed?
8
9 WRIGHT: Yes.
10
11 COOK: Okay. Did you relay that information to the members of your team?
12
13 WRIGHT: Yes.
14
15 COOK: Okay, and also when you came around the corner, you mentioned that when
16 you were using the binoculars, that you were pretty sure you were dealing
17 with your suspect. I know it happened rather quickly, but he has that large
18 Riverside tattoo over his neck, did you notice that when you first laid eyes on
19 him? Did you know oh, I have the right guy?
20
21 WRIGHT: That's the first thing I noticed was that tattoo.
22
23 COOK: Okay, thank you. That's all I have.
24
25 GOMEZ: And I was going to ask that. Obviously this guy got taken into custody at one
26 point in time. Do you remember who put him in cuffs?
27
28 WRIGHT: I don't really remember. I---If I could take a guess, it would be Monreal, you
29 know what I mean, but I mean I wasn't for sure.
30
31 GOMEZ: When he was taken into custody, was anything found on him at that point in
32 time?
33
34 WRIGHT: He had mentioned that there was a gun on him, but---
35
36 ETHIR: Who's he, just so the record's clear.

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WRIGHT: Robert Monreal mentioned that, and he was trying to get it out of his pocket or figure out how to get it out of his pants or his waistband.

GOMEZ: And all that's happening behind you, because you already had moved up at that point in time to basically---for officer safety reasons, because you don't know what else is beyond the point where you guys are at, right?

WRIGHT: Yes. I'm just trying to at least cover them you know, while they have to do whatever they need to do, and yeah, I never---I just--As soon as they told me to you know, go out---walk out to the street, I did. I didn't--I just holstered up and walked back out, so---

GOMEZ: Which way did you go back out?

WRIGHT: I came back---I went out the same way I came in, through that door.

GOMEZ: Through the garage back out into the street. Okay.

JOHNSON: I don't have anything else at this time. Anybody else? No?

GOMEZ: 1:00 a.m.

[END; RECORDING IDENTIFIED AS: OFFICER EVAN WRIGHT, DURATION: 38:23]

AJ/BOS/Bkc
Job N#: Document N#:2986017
Rec.: Tran.:03/21/2018 14:34:30

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