SRPD Case#: 22-8672
Date: 07/31/22
Time: 12:19 PM
Location: Sonoma County Sheriff DSA Hall

INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY ANTHONY POWERS (PART 2)

SRPD VCI Detective: Gino Rantissi (GR)
SRPD VCI Detective: Matthew White (MW)
Interviewed: Deputy Anthony Powers (Powers)
Also Present: Attorney [redacted] ([redacted])

Legend:
****: Unintelligible

GR: 'OK, this is, uh, Gino Rantissi. It's currently about 12:07 p.m. Uh, all the same individuals are back in the room. Um, just a couple quick follow-up questions here. Um, so the, there was two times in, uh, in particular where, uh, this suspect, uh, picked up a rock. Um, we mentioned those two times in particular; the first one when he had the one that was, uh, approximately the size of a volleyball. Uh, did you notice that he had anything in particular in his hand the first time he picked up that volleyball-sized rock?

Powers: I think he still had both the weapons in his hand. I can't specifically remember, but I think he had 'em maybe in his off hand.

GR: Okay, like maybe both of 'em –

Powers: I think.

GR: – in his hand?

Powers: I, but I can't say for sure.

GR: At least one of them in his hand?

Powers: Possibly.

GR: And you believe they were weapons?

Powers: Well, they were tools that were definitely weapons.

GR: Sure. Um, the second time, um, and this was when he picked up the rock that was a little bit smaller, um, and you described it as being capable of being thrown harder essentially –

Powers: Yes.

GR: – did you notice that he had anything in his hand at that time?

Powers: I think he still had the two ha, wood-handled weapons in his left hand.

GR: Okay.

Powers: And then he, once he had that rock – yeah, he had the, he had those two in his left hand I believe.

GR: Okay. Um, could you provide, um, an explanation on his body positioning when he picked up the rock like the, the very first time, uh, the approximate volleyball-sized rock? Was he facing you? Was he facing a different direction?

Powers: He had just come out of the water, and his back was turned to me, and I was coming in a little closer to try to get a Taser shot and once he, he might have, I assume he might've heard me splashing through the water faster at him, he turned around really fast, and that's when he picked up the, picked up the rock.

GR: Okay. Did he, like, face towards you with it?

Powers: Yes.

GR: Okay. And then the second time when he, describe when he picked up the smaller sized rock, could you provide a description of like what his body positioning was? Like, um, I'm sorry, like who was he facing I guess.

Powers: He was facing Dietrick.

GR: Okay. Um, at what distance did you, uh, attempt to deploy your Taser, um, the second time around when he picked up the smaller sized rock?

Powers: It was about 10 yards.

GR: Okay. Do you know what, uh, model Taser you carry?

Powers: Not off the top of my head. The T2 or something like that.

GR: Is it the X2?

Powers: X2.

GR: Okay.

Powers: Sorry.

GR: Um, do you know the distance of the cartridge that's installed there, um, how far the distance could reach?

Powers: Approximately, I think like 30 feet or so, approximately.

GR: Okay. So it sounds like you were probably at like the, do you feel like you were in, uh, firing range of the, would the Taser have been able to reach him if, if you would've?

Powers: I felt like I was right on the, like, cusp of what, uh, or what like effectiveness –

GR: Okay.

Powers: – range.

GR: Cool. Um, aside from like drowning, like in worst-case scenario if you were to be hit by rocks, you described the threat of being like drowning, um, were, did you have any other fears, um, involving any of the other, um, items that he had in his possession?

Powers: Yes. He – yes, I did.

GR: Such as?

Powers: Throwing 'em at me, running, rushing me with them, hitting me.

GR: Okay. Uh, describe does like the, the hatchet in particular –

Powers: Mm hmm, yeah.

GR: – um, if he would have thrown the hatchet at you –

Powers: Yeah.

GR: – would it have the potential to cause any damage to you?

Powers: Yes.

GR: Um, can you elaborate just a little bit?

Powers: Like could've stuck in my skull.

GR: Fair enough.

Powers: Or my neck.

GR: Um, how did you guys evacuate out of the area?

Powers: Um, we were lifted one by one by Henry 1 out of the area –

GR: Okay.

Powers: – by direction of our sarge.

GR: Okay. Um, my last question is this suspect, um, if he would've encountered another citizen, um, along his course, what were some of your concerns?

Powers: That that suspect may have been shot and killed by another, uh, citizen or the opposite of that or this person might have injured or killed a person.

GR: Your concern would be that if he would've continued on his course, he could have killed another person?

Powers: Well, he didn't kill a person. I'm saying he potentially – I don't know for sure, but the way his demeanor was this like this, his demeanor of like this meth kind of thought process or whatever he had going on is that he was kinda seemed, uh, like he was getting, like – I don't know how to, I don't know how to word it – like he was becoming more and more desperate to get away, and he just, there, there was, it seemed like desperation.

GR: Okay. I don't have any additional questions. Do you, Matt?

MW: Uh, no.

GR: Attorney?

Ganz: Um, so when you say to get away, again, um, if you knew – let's just, this is a hypothetical which are tough – if you knew all he was gonna do was like get away and go home and sleep, would you have let him if you knew that that was the only thing that was gonna happen?

Powers: Well, he committed several felonies, and I had an obligation to detain him, so I don't, I wouldn't have let him go.

Ganz: Right, so I, so I just want to clarify like you were trying to detain him and take him into custody for crimes that he committed, correct?

Powers: Yes.

Ganz: But sort of similar to that but, uh, a little bit differently, you also had a concern about other people's safety, correct?

Powers: Yes.

Ganz: That was based on what he had done and the different locations he had been at.

Powers: Yes.

Ganz: Did you have any idea what he was doing when he threw a rock into some stranger's house, like what he was actually planning on doing?

Powers: I don't.

Ganz: Okay. Um, but whatever it was, it was enough from what you knew for that homeowner to come out with a gun, correct?

Powers: Correct.

Ganz: Okay, so just in terms of this question about, like, what you were – the larger boulder, earlier situation, what concerns you had so, um, one of the, I think the first thing you said when you were asked about that is it could, like, incapacitate you or knock you unconscious.

Powers: Mm hmm.

Ganz: Um, even if you were, um, rendered, like, for lack of better word, woozy for a moment, did you have concerns about him being able to get close to you and cause you harm?

Powers: Yes.

Ganz: And was part of that because of these other objects that he had?

Powers: Yes.

Ganz: And, um, by the way, if he had either gotten close enough to you and tried to start using either of those tools or even thrown one, you talked about kind of the most awful scenarios having a hatchet in your skull or neck, if any of those things either a hammer or a hatchet hit any of your other part of the body, could it have, um, broken a bone, sliced you open?

Powers: Yes.

Ganz: Okay. Um, and then I just, you said, um, the cusp of being in range with your Taser ultimately when you deployed it, um, were you trying to get as close as you could safely to where you would have less of a distance to cover?

Powers: I was trying to get into what I perceived as a, like max effective range of this Taser, and I was also attempting to pick up my laser on my Taser, and that's what I was doing as I was trying to, like, close the distance on him before he picked that rock up.

Ganz: Okay, so I, it sounds like what you're saying is it's the action of picking the rock back up that caused you – and I don't want to put words in your mouth – that caused you to then take the Taser shot from what may have been the maximum distance? Like why not get closer? Why not wait another second or 2? What was –

Powers: He had dropped, he had a rock the second time. He dropped the rock. I felt like that was my opportunity as he was, like, preoccupied by looking like, like he, as he was picking up the rock again, and I took the opportunity to attempt to, to decapacitate him with the Taser, but he still came back up with it quickly.

Ganz: So if you would have waited and thereby gotten another couple feet or so, uh, closer to him, what were you concerned would happen if you waited?

Powers: He would've hit me with the rock.

Ganz: Okay. That's all.

GR: Ok.

MW: I think we're good.

GR: I think we're done. Uh, currently, it's about, uh, 12:17 p.m. and, uh, I shut down the recording.

END OF AUDIO

SpeakWrite
www.speakwrite.com
Job Number: 20220803_070644_pip
Custom Filename: Deputy_Powers_Interview_part_2
Date: 08/03/2022
Billed Words: 1756