INTERVIEW WITH DEPUTY JASON PASERO

SRPD VCI Detective: Hector De Leon
SRPD VCI Detective: James Vickers
Interviewed: Deputy Jason Pasero
Present: Jonathan Murphy from law firm of Rains, Lucia, Sterns, St. Phalle and Silver

Legend:
**** Unintelligible

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: So today is July 5th, 2019. It is 4:25 p.m. My name is Hector Deleon. I'm a detective with the Santa Rosa Police Department.

DET. JAMES VICKERS: My name is James Vickers, also a detective with Santa Rosa.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: And, uh, Deputy Pasero, would you mind introducing yourself?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah. I'm Jason Pasero.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Sir.

JONATHAN MURPHY: Jonathan Murphy with Rains, Lucia, Sterns, St. Phalle, Silver here on behalf of Deputy Pasero.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, so we are just gonna get started here. Um, so Deputy Pasero, this is criminal investigation. Uh, you're being interviewed as a victim, uh, and a witness in this case. Do you understand?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay, we want to get a voluntary statement from you. Um, so along those lines, um, you're free to leave at any time you want to. Um, you are not obligated to answer any of our questions at all. That make sense?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, so have you had ample time to gather your thoughts and prepare for this interview?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right. Um, is there anything that would hinder you from giving a statement right now?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right. And then Deputy Pasero, I believe this is the first time you and I have met.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: We're not close friends. We don't hang out on the weekends or anything.

DEP. JASON PASERO: That's correct.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, and then are you sick or injured right now?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Uh, did you receive any injuries as a result of the incident that we're going to be talking about –

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – that occurred yesterday.

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, at the time of the incident, were you suffering from any medical conditions or taking any medication that may have impaired your abilities to perform your law enforcement duties?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay, um, when did you last sleep?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, I slept this morning, or I slept this morning from about, uh, 5:00 a.m. 'til about 8:00 or 8:30 this morning, and then I went back to bed and slept from 10:00 to about, maybe about 1:00.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. All right. So, uh, you work for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: How long have you been with the sheriff's department here?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, just shy of 5 years. It will be 5 years at this fall.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, what is your total law enforcement experience?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, just under 20 years.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right, um, can you tell me about your, other agencies you've worked for?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes, so I started in 2001 with the City of San Bruno as a community service officer and then, uh, progressed and took the exam and got hired as a police officer and went to the basic police academy and graduated in 2002.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Then I left the City of San Bruno in 2014 and became a sheriff's deputy in November 2014.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, can you tell me about, uh, some of the training you've had.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I did the, uh, the basic, 6-month police academy and, uh, obtained my basic, uh, post certificate from the police academy.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: And over the years, um, with the law enforcement training I've gone all the way through intermediate and advanced certificates with post.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, what do you want, just all of the training.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Uh, do you have any, um, like, uh, specialized training for special assignments or anything like that.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, so, uh, I was a, uh, for just under 3 years, I was a detective. I worked, uh, robbery, gangs and fraud. Um, I ran a, uh, police canine for almost 8 years, um, on the streets and on top of that I was certified as a, a canine SWAT handler, uh, which I was on the SWAT team with the San Bruno Police Department as well. Um, I was –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: How long did you do that?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, that was 2000 and I think '07 or so until about 2012.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, I did, I was a firearms, uh, instructor for our department. Um, I don't know the timing on that. Probably about 5 years.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, I'm sure there's something I'm forgetting but those are the main nuts and bolts.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, what is your –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Oh, I was a field training officer, sorry, and then I promoted to position of corporal which is a semi supervisory position before I lateral to the sheriff's office.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Uh, how long were you an FTO?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, I was in FTO for about 2 ½ years after my first dog passed away. 2012 to before I left for the sheriff's office.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay, and how long were you in the position of corporal?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, probably less than a year with the transfer.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, if you remember, have you ever gone to any like drug recognition classes, uh, outside of the academy.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I've been through 11550 school. Um, I didn't do a DRE school, um, I think that was just the main one.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, all right and what is your current assignment?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, I'm assigned to patrol and, uh, current resident for Bodega Bay with a canine.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right, what is your shift right now?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, I work a 5-day, 8-hour shift, uh, with some flexibility but typical hours are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right, um, so we're gonna talk in a little bit uh, about what happened yesterday evening. Um, yesterday, the Fourth of July, what time did you start work?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, I started at 7:00 a.m.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay and do you remember what, what is your call sign?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, King 3.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay, um, this is a uniform assignment.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: And, um, how long did you say you had in, uh, the canine handler ****.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, I just had lateral to the position, so I've been at the coast for about 5 weeks.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Five weeks, okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I've had a dog since 2016. I had one dog and then I transitioned to this other dog.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, and do you remember what vehicle you were using yesterday?

DEP. JASON PASERO: I was using my patrol, uh, canine truck.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: That's assigned to you?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right, do you remember having any mech, uh, mechanical problems?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Defects?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay, um, can you, uh, briefly describe your uniform to me.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, I wear a, a green, uh, jumpsuit or DBU. Um, and on the front left, uh, left chest is an embroidered sheriff's office emblem or star.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Uh huh.

DEP. JASON PASERO: On the right side of my chest is a, it says, uh, deputy, or it say J. Pasero and canine on it. I have two shoulder patches, um, typical of what the Sonoma County Sheriff's deputies wear.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, and I was a green, uh, sorry a black hat also with the same sheriff's emblem on it.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Can you describe, uh, some of the equipment you carry on your uniform.

DEP. JASON PASERO: So, on my duty belt I carry, um, I'm just gonna try to work clockwise.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Sure.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, I have, um, two, uh, a holder carrying two additional magazines for my duty firearm.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: For the Glock 17. Um, I carry a canine, uh, remote control device for the E-collar for my dog. Uh, next to that is my keyring holder and then my, uh, department issued firearm with, um, uh, tactical light. Um, behind that is, uh, I carry a tourniquet in a holder. And then going around the backside, um, uh, it's a flashlight ring, a, um, taser, radio, and then, um, a double handcuff case in front.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, tell me more about the firearm that you carry.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, it's a Glock 17, 9-millimeter and it has 17 capacity magazine with the one in the chamber fully loaded would be 18 rounds total.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay and you typically carry all your magazines fully loaded?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. And do you carry any backup weapons?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, do you carry a body-worn camera?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: And do you have any other recording devices?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Audio recorders?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right, so we're gonna jump into the, uh, the, your narrative portion. So, the nature of this investigation concerns a significant incident you were in, recently involved in. It occurred, uh, in the general area of Pelican Loop in Bodega Bay. Please describe the events in as much detail as you can. Include the time of the event, the names of witnesses, the names of officers, uh, as best as you can recall. Include all the information you can remember relative to the circumstances.

DEP. JASON PASERO: So, I was, uh, dispatched on an agency assist, uh, call to help CHP, um, in the Pelican Loop, not Pelican Loop but in the, the complex, the South Harbor

complex on, uh, the initial report of a vehicle crash. Um, and I learned that the driver of the vehicle had been out of the vehicle and was exhibiting behavior consistent with, uh, punching the vehicle and uh, trying to assault people in the area where the crash occurred. Uh, so I responded to that location and, um, I, I scanned CHP in my car, so I could hear some radio traffic. They were aware of the call and responding but they were delayed. That's why I was called. Um, and some communication had occurred. I don't know in what form. I told dispatch based on the guy's behavior that I was gonna meet the CHP officers in the, um, the front of the complex that you enter and that we would all go in together, um, you know, since they were my only form of, uh, assistance. So, I was waiting at the top of the hill on Heron Drive at the entrance to the South Harbor complex and I heard what I believed CHP to be about 3 minutes out or something similar to that. So, I knew they were still a few minutes away and I has asked our, uh, dispatch if the person who was doing the assaulting or if this was still ongoing and if he was still trying to assault people, um, I don't know exactly what their answer was but gave me the impression this was still on-going, and he was still acting this way so I decided to go in. I told my dispatcher I was gonna go in and head that way. And the location is way in the back of the complex, so I knew it was gonna be a little bit to get up there, so I started heading that way. Um, –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: And Deputy Pasero, any time you want to take a break, let me know. We can step out.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Just give me a minute.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Sure.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I didn't think that was gonna happen so fast. So, I drove up on Heron and, and got around to the, um, to the location where the crash was, was reported. Um, there was a little flag on my computer with a map, so I knew it was, it was right off Heron there. For the life of me I can't remember the name of the street. But I saw the flag there. I had, prior to that I had, uh, asked them to stage medical not knowing what we had. So, I got to the location and I knew, I heard that CHP had acknowledged that I had gone in, so I knew they were coming. I went to the area where the crash was supposed to be and I didn't see anything. No people, no cars no anything. Um, and the street there is only houses one side of the street on the west side of the street and you know, I had nothing. So, I drove a few houses down and didn't see anything. I decided to turn around and go back up Swan, maybe it was Swan.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: And, uh, I drove up the hill and in, in the area where the crash should have been still on Swan, I saw, um, two CHP officers coming down and just for the purpose of this **** it's, it's Sean and Justin.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: And they were together. Justin was pulled up parallel to me door to door, and Sean was behind him and, you know, there's some traffic going on the radio. I

don't know what's happened but I'm talking to Sean, I'm sorry I'm talking to Justin. I'm telling him, hey, I, I can't find the crash and we're trying to figure out where this thing is. I said I don't have anything here. I don't have any updates, and he was listening on the radio. We chatted briefly. I said hey we gotta just spread out and start looking and see if we can find anything. So, I drive off and said I'm gonna go check up this way which is going back up the hill towards Heron and at that time I see the, um, Bodega Bay Fire guys there. It's one truck with two fire guys in it. I stopped at the top of the hill. They were parked at the corner. I got out of my car, truck, ran over and said hey, I don't know where this car crash is, so I need you guys to stay in the area. I don't know what's going on. Just sit tight, and as I'm doing that I start to, I was going to drive down Heron because Heron is the main loop to the complex and, uh, I didn't get very far. I only got like the length of the fire truck and I heard hey, somebody just got assaulted down on Pelican Loop. And I, you know, quickly looked at my map to just make sure I knew where that was. That was down the way that the CHP officers were going or had been pointed.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: How did you, uh, hear that somebody had been assaulted?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, that came across the, my dispatch.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Put it out on the radio, so I was separated from CHP, but I turned around and started going down Swan and I didn't see CHP there, so I just drove.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, I came down, uh, down the hill and I came around the corner. Off to my left I saw two CHP cars. Uh, there was one, they were both on the opposite side of the road. One before a driveway and one kind of past the driveway, and I looked in the driveway and I saw, uh, I saw Justin there in the driveway and he was standing in the area with the security guard for, uh, the complex, for Allied.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I had just talked to that security guard 2 hours earlier, so I knew exactly who it was. He was like face down, and there was, I think there was other people in the driveway, but I don't know who I saw, definitely Justin and that guy. So, Justin kind of ran towards my vehicle and pointed down the way and said hey, go, go, go. There's a, the guy took off in a white truck. Uh, so I, so I left, and I started driving and I'm just searching for this white truck or something. And I get around the curve. It's kind of a windy road, so I come up on another scene and there's, um, on the west side out in the grass or the golf link that's, uh, a subdivision around, um, golf courses, I see a, um, there's three or four, there's about three or four people, you know, waving their hands, screaming at me. And I see a, it looked a woman face down in the, in the, uh, grass and she's not moving. They were about 20 or 30 yards off the roadway. So I had my window down and while all this was happening, I was communicating and, uh, **** guys says, hey, the guy just took off in a white truck and, and I said, I, I verified he went that way down the street and, uh, he said, he, he said he's in the security guard's truck. I knew exactly what that truck looked

like. It's said Allied Security. It was a white pickup truck. So, I knew exactly what I was looking for, so I knew he was still outstanding. I mean I, I knew I wasn't, I didn't think I was that far behind him, so I took off and just, I think I had, I think I had radioed there's a second victim down, um. I think, backing up, sorry, I think I had radioed there's one sub, one sub, subject down and then a second sub, you know, second subject down. I'm continuing on looking for the suspect vehicle.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: So I come around **** around this kind of corner that turns right and as I pull up there's the security guard pickup truck and I'm on the right side of the road and the truck is perpendicular to me. Um, and I see the driver's door is open and I see the suspect and he's standing out on what would be my side of the roadway. He's probably 15 yards away from the driver's door. Um, and I get out of the truck and I start yelling at him, you know, communicating with him something and I don't know exactly what, but I'm addressing him, and I see that he's, he's got this blank stare, and he's like very, like robotic and he's like, he's like clenching his fists, you know. And I knew that prior to learning the call, I don't think I had said this, but they had said that somebody had mentioned that this guy had been taking LSD and I knew that that was somebody's statement and based on his behavior and actions and very altered state, I knew that he, I suspected he was definitely altered and possibly under the influence of something. Um, but he was just very blank and unresponsive to anything I was saying to him. I don't what, but I know I was communicating or trying to. It was a very short interaction because he was kind of pacing around. At that point my initial thinking with this interaction was that I was gonna get out of the truck, and I knew I was trying to go through what options I had. I don't. Uh, I knew the taser was not an option. I was too far away, and I had no, no cover. And I still thought CHP was way back there. I ****, I was like I'm on my own. So, I was trying to figure out how to deal with that. So, my next thought was, I didn't want him to get to the car. I couldn't close the distance, so I was gonna use my dog. So, he's still out there, kind of in that general area so, I turned around and my dog rides in a cage behind me. But as I turned, I was gonna go get him, the guy just starts walking towards the truck to the driver's door. And he's just staring at me. I mean our eyes are locked. He knows I'm there. So, I realize that's, the dog is not an option. I never even got to the door. I'm standing next to my door, my front patrol car door. Now I can't get the dog, and, uh, he just makes a beeline for the truck. And he's just still robotic, just going and the only time he takes his eyes off me is when he goes to get in the truck and he shuts the door. I'm still saying something and, uh, as soon as he gets in the truck, he looks up and just locks eyes on me again. Shuts the door. Throws that thing in drive and just, I just hear the truck just take off towards me. He turns the truck and I'm sitting by my door and I'm yelling something, stop and, uh, and that truck is coming straight at me and where I was in the roadway, where my truck was and where I standing, uh, you know, I'm just, he's still looking at me and just the truck is coming and, uh, he's making no effort to turn away and it just, it's coming straight at me and then, and then I just immediately think, you know, he's gonna just, he's just gonna mow me down. I can't get out of the way. I got nowhere to go. So, knowing I, I was running out of space and time, I, I mean I drew my gun and I shot multiple times through the front windshield. As that was happening, um, and I'm shooting. When I get done, when I get done shooting, the CHP truck like pulls up and, uh, and that was, uh, that was Sean. I didn't know it at the time it was Sean. And Sean pulls up on the left side of me

and so I'm between his now SUV and my pickup truck after I've shot and the suspect's car crashes into the front right headlight of the CHP vehicle so they're like right frontend to right frontend. And it's, and, you know, I had stopped shooting and I can hear the engine of the truck revving like, like inconsistently, like you know, vroom, vroom, you know, like it's not just constant. It's like somebody's stepping on the accelerator and I see the truck shaking and, and I'm looking where I am and I'm, I know, I see that there's no way for me to get out stuck between these two trucks. And I think, and I see movement in the truck, you know, in the suspect's truck. I see the silhouette. The windshield is all, you know, um, all shot up, and so but I can see the dark silhouette, and he's moving. And, uh, so that with the revving of the truck I think like he's still trying to, he's still trying to fucking drive by. And I knew with how it was, I, I knew there was enough room and if that truck run free from the CHP car, I was, I was gonna get run over. So, when that revving kept happening and it was 1 to 2 seconds, it was very fast, you know, after I had shot the initial burst of shots, that I shot again into the same area, the windshield, and it was, it was less rounds than the first time. I know that, and, um, and then I didn't see any movement and that noise from the truck stopped. So, at that point I feel like I finally stopped him, and I didn't see any movement. That silhouette wasn't moving. And at that point I, I backed out of that area and I went around, um, and I don't know, I don't remember how I, um, I don't remember how I got to the driver's door. But I know, know Sean and I communicated somehow that we needed to get the, you know, get to the guy, and the next thing I know I, I don't, again, I don't know how I got there. I was at the driver's door and I see him in there and he's, he's sitting upright and I see his, you know, chest compressing and decompressing and he's breathing and he's all, you know, he covered in blood, but he's breathing so I knew we had to get medical and I, after I had put, after the shooting I know I put out over the radio, "shots fired, shots fired." I remember that. And at one point I told dispatch that, you know, suspect was down. Um, so I went over to the, Sean and I communicated, yeah, Sean and I communicated at some point trying to get the address out, because there was so much shit happening that I was like we gotta get, there was like three scenes. We gotta get this address out. And I remember looking at an address, but Sean said I got it. So, I went over to the driver's door and had to force the door open and I grabbed the guy's left arm and I yanked him out of the car, so we could start working on him. And it was, you know, I don't know 5, 6 feet or whatever. I just pulled him out of the compartment and he was on his back and, and then Justin was there, and he said he had a go bag. He had some medical supplies and, and then everybody gloved up and we started working on him. I could see he had some, you know, it looked a couple shots to the forehead maybe. There was just so much blood. I don't know how many times he got hit. I saw what looked like a, a shot to the upper bicep on the right side, but, and I could see that the concern for me was, on his forehead, I could just seek blood just fucking gushing. So, I'm still, you know, there's some delay and guys are glovin' up, and you know, it's all, Sean, we gotta get in the handcuffs. Um, and as we're cuffing him, we get the cuff on his right arm and, as we get his hand behind his back, we roll him over and it, it's just like, he's rig, super rigid, you know? And it's like, I feel like it's total resistance and I tell Sean, you fuckin' – and Sean had to help me get the other cuff on, 'cause I just was fuckin' strugglin' to get his hands back there and together. And so, we roll him back over on his back, and at this point, he's responsive. He's, he's saying things. He's talking to us, and, uh, he's, I, you know, his eyes are open and he's communicating with Sean and Sean's talkin' to him. I had stepped away to, you know, to get some, I went to go get some more medical supplies, 'cause the amount of bleeding on the head, I didn't know what, I didn't really know what the fuck Justin had.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: ****.

DEP. JASON PASERO: So, I decided I was gonna go get more gloves and gear and all that, 'cause I knew, we were gonna be delayed until we got help and, um, Justin and I are wrappin' him up. We put compression on his head and I just wrapped the hell out of his head and compressed it to stop bleeding, as best I could. And he's talkin' to Sean, and he's sayin', you know, take your gun and kill me, you know, uh, you know, finish me off, like some, something similar to that. I know he said, you know, shoot me, take your gun and shoot me. Um, I mean, he was, and he was talking, like I couldn't, I couldn't fucking believe that he's, like he's talking and, and he talked to Sean, like, I don't know even know how he was responsive with the, with the injuries he had. And, I was startin' having coordinate units and doing things and I left, went back and forth, started walkin' around and was, um, tryin' to coordinate medical personnel and people to get into the other multiple scenes, 'cause if they came down our way, they weren't gonna get the help they needed, so I was worried about getting that out, and letting people know that the scene was safe where I was. So, I stayed on scene for a while and then once everybody kinda got there and everybody showed up. At, at one point it, it was, uh, Lieutenant Cash, pulled up, um, and at that point he was bein' treated by fire and whatnot and was secured to a backboard and, I, I went to Lieutenant Cash, I said, you know, I walked up to him and I, and, came to me, and I just told him, I said, can I shut my camera off, 'cause it, it was over, and he said yeah, shut it off. And then, that, at that point I got sequestered away and just was, headed over to Deputy Falberg.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: And eventually you left that scene and came, uh, where'd you go? To the main?

DEP. JASON PASERO: They flew me in Henry 1 over to the, uh, to the airport.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: And, uh, somebody picked me up and took me to the hotel.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. And then, um, some people from our agency took photographs of you and collected some equipment –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, you're, uh, evidence tech came and, at the hotel room, and uh, took photos of all my, um, uniform and took all that equipment from me.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, so when you, I'm gonna go back, in your statement.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: When you first, uh, got dispatched towards the beginning, uh, you were getting information about a car crash initially, um, and then you got information that this person that you're looking for had assaulted some people?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, do you remember a description of him? Getting a description?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, not off hand, I don't –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – I know there was, I think something was put out, but I don't know.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I can't remember.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, did you, um, did you see him, did you see any of the assaults that he committed, this person that you're looking for?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: ****

DEP. JASON PASERO: Came on him as they rolled. I was just behind 'em.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right. Um. Okay, so I'm gonna move forward in your statement to, uh, when you finally located the white pickup truck –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – the Allied, uh, Security, I think you said, uh, which you were familiar with, and you saw it, um, in the road in front of you. You saw him outside of the truck, this person, a ways off, and you said, uh, to me, that you didn't want him to get back to the truck –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Right.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – something like that.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Tell me about that. Why not?

DEP. JASON PASERO: So, where he was standing in the roadway, and since he had already, and obviously wasn't his truck, I mean, I knew the security guard was down, I just knew that, you know, he had stolen that truck and, and based on kind of the events that occurred with the crash and the assaults and the violence that erupted with the security guard and this female that I knew he did something terrible to, my feeling was that if, well, first of all, I didn't want him to get in the truck and get that and, you know, get into that with a pursuit and all that, and I knew that based on his behavior and his alter state, that that, you know, that rampage of violence was going to continue if I were to let him get mobile, um, and I,

and I, the way his truck was positioned was concerning, 'cause, you know, he wasn't faced in a direction to flee the area, he was perpendicular to where I was, and so, it, you know, my concern was that, you know, he'd taken off in that truck and is he gonna go back –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – so I just, I didn't know what direction he was gonna go from there, but I just, I, I didn't have an option to get to him to keep him from getting into that vehicle, 'cause I didn't have enough information about, I knew some bad stuff had happened, but I just, just didn't want that to turn into a big pursuit in the area.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Do you remember hearing anything about the person having weapons?

DEP. JASON PASERO: I don't.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, so, uh, I think you, you described that you didn't see the CHP officers with you. Uh, at some point, you see the suspect or this person going to get back in the truck, you described that thoroughly, and then you saw that person driving towards you.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, tell me a little bit more about what you were thinking when that vehicle started moving towards you?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Well, based on his, you know, his state of mind and his lack of responsiveness, I just, what really stuck out before he drove to me was that, like, as he's walking to the truck, he's just locked on me. You know, he's just staring, like, through me. Like, he's, you know, it was just like very cold and, you know, just matter of fact and then, you know, it's like, and then the only time he really ever looked away from me is when he got into the truck, like he had to look in the vehicle and sit in there, and then it's like, when he got in the truck and the door closed, it's like, he looked straight up and then he locked eyes on me again.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Do you remember, uh, when this person's out of the car or, actually, any time before, uh, he drove towards you, do you remember him saying anything or yelling anything?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Didn't say a word.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. You mentioned, uh, as he started driving towards you, you thought he was gonna mow you down, and that you felt that you couldn't get out of the way.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yep.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, that's when you drew your gun, and you said shot through the

front windshield?

DEP. JASON PASERO: I shot right into the, through the windshield in the driver's area.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay, you were outside of your –

DEP. JASON PASERO: I was –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – patrol truck –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – and you were shooting through his windshield?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: You, you may have covered this already, um, when is the first time that you noticed, uh, sorry, so, after what I just described, um, you're outside of your, uh, truck, and you're shooting towards the windshield, uh, towards this person who's coming at you, uh, when is the first time that you notice Sean, or this first CHP officer that pulled up –

DEP. JASON PASERO: After the shooting? As the shooting was going on?

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yes.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I, I didn't, I didn't, I didn't notice the truck, the CHP truck until the, the white pickup, like, hit it. Like, you know, I'm shooting and then all of a sudden, like, impact, you know, so, um, yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: So, uh, you talked about, um, the shooting and then somehow getting to the driver's side door of the white pickup. You don't remember how you got there?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, you described getting the person out, the driver, um, and then you described his condition. You saw some, uh, I think you said a couple of, uh, shots to his forehead or holes and you said you saw blood gushing from his forehead, and you were concerned about that?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, and –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Tell me more about that.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – that, and that, I, there, I could definitely see that he had been shot in the top of his forehead, kind of near his hairline –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – and when he was laying down, you know, there was a lot of blood, but I could see active blood, like, spirting out, you know, and other than, you know, he had trauma everywhere else. I ****, his, his shirt was drenched in blood. I hadn't even checked his body. I saw the visible one in the arm, but like, to me, that was the most prominent, like, it's gushing, and it's, it's just spurting, and I was just trying to get compression on it, and get that like, do the best I can to make that stop.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, you described a little bit about, uh, trying to get him handcuffed and the rigidness and, and the resisting, uh, do you remember him doing anything else besides what you described, just kinda –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, when I was ha, when, when I, like he was like moaning, so he was becoming more responsive –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – um, you know, so it's like, when I went to put his hand behind his back, it was like, **** felt this tensing up, like when somebody doesn't want their arm moved, so I felt resistance in that way.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, and, and I just, on a note, not, se, separate to the handcuffing, is once he was handcuffed, and this, I just remembered this, was that he, um, at one point when he was talking to Sean, and he's handcuffed and laying on his back, at one point, he tries to, I mean, he's now active and moving around, he tries to kick Sean in the head, and, um, while he's laying down, and I do, I did have to go to my truck and I got my, um, my max cord, and, uh, and basically had to tie up his, tie up his ankles and just so that they were, his legs were together and he couldn't kick Sean.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, so backing up just a little bit to when you were still handcuffing. Were you able to handcuff him yourself?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay, so you and –

DEP. JASON PASERO: I got the, uh, I got the handcuff on his right arm, the wrist, which I was holding, and um, he was, he wasn't totally, I don't 100 percent remember. I don't think he was totally on his, um, stomach. He was kinda still on his side, but, Sean was near his left arm, but I couldn't, I was having a lot of resistance getting that arm back with a cuff on it, and it was very, like, tight, and when I had him, I just wasn't able to manipulate enough 'cause I was able to get the top of the cuff over, and I, I had, I told Sean to help me out and get it locked, 'cause it just, it was just, it was, there was some type of strength or something that was happening there.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. All right, and then, uh, really briefly, back to the shooting.

So, uh, you told me about, uh, the first burst, um, you thought he was gonna mow you down, um, and then you saw the truck, uh, the white pickup truck collide into Sean's CHP vehicle –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – um, and then you heard that revving and consistent revving and stuff, um, and then tell me again, at that point, I don't remember if you said that you thought the truck was gonna be able to go through –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, like, the truck –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – where you were –

DEP. JASON PASERO: – with the revving, the sound of the revving of the engine and still kinda seeing that movement in that compartment, I thought that he was still with it and, and that revving, it sounded like he was just trying to get, I remember the truck was like shaking –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – what and with the revving, and so, based on all that, I thought for sure, like he was gonna, he's still trying to get through, like, he's still going for it –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – and he's still coming, gonna come after me.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: And I just, I knew, with where I was standing now, between the two patrol vehicles, I said, I just knew that if that car had broken free from that CHP car, that if that truck got traction with that revving, that, there was no way I was getting outa there. I was definitely gonna get run over.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. All right. Um, tell me if you remember, tell me what the lighting conditions were like? I think this happened at, uh, I think you said 8 something in the evening.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, it was still, I mean, you know, it was still very much light out. I didn't have any, I didn't even have, have my headlights or anything, I mean, it was very visible, could see well, um, and since we're on the coast, you know, right there in that community, it's, uh, up in the hills, and you're right on the by the ocean, so it's like, it's very light out, you know. I didn't need a flashlight, I didn't need, uh, lights on my car or anything. Sorry.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Uh, you were able, once you started to, um, try to wrap this guys head up and stuff, uh, did you recognize this person from ever dealing with him before?

DEP. JASON PASERO: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Uh, James, follow up questions?

DET. JAMES VICKERS: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: All right. You guys have anything right now? All right, Deputy Pacerro, we're gonna step out for a minute. Um, I, I'll stop this recording, um, and we'll step out for a minute and see if there's any follow up questions, and then we'll be back.

DEP. JASON PASERO: All right.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. I'm on. Deputy Pasero, I got some, uh, just a few follow-up questions. Um, I'm gonna take you back to a couple points in your statement, so, when you went into the, um, the neighborhood, uh, at one point you told me that you came upon a scene where there was a woman face down.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: And I think you mentioned there were some people around her, do you remember stopping and having a conversation with anybody, like, somebody telling you what had happened to this person?

DEP. JASON PASERO: The only thing I remember is I, I did stop when that guy flagged me down, um, he was kinda running out towards my vehicle, and I, the only thing I can remember is that he said that the, the guy took off in a truck and pointed that direction, like, he's that way, he's that way.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I don't remember anything else.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: You don't remember any, somebody saying something about what had happened to this lady that was face down. And, and I'm just asking, if you don't remember, that's fine.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I, I, I, I can't remember.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. So, after, um, after the shooting has taken place, uh, there was a couple of different, uh, points of shooting and then, uh, you went around to the driver's side of the white pickup, and you pulled the, the person out that had been the driver, you mentioned that right after that you attempted to handcuff him and then you, and I think it was Sean, handcuffed him.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Mm hmm.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Um, why did you handcuff him?

DEP. JASON PASERO: I didn't, I didn't know if he, you know, had any weapons or anything on him, or, you know, what he was, obviously still breathing and all that, um, I, I just, knowing that we were kinda by ourselves and nobody else was there and we had other scenes going on, I just, I wanted to get him as secure as I could because after the car thing, I didn't know what he could have had on him, so I just wanted to get him secured, and some of that was based on, too, the kinda the altered state, his behavior, and it just wasn't normal, so there was still, in my mind, there was something really wrong and I just didn't want anything else to erupt.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, and then also along those lines, uh, after you guys had him handcuffed, um, you started to provide first aid. You described it as, uh, uh, trying to stop the bleeding, bandaging his head –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – uh, and that kind of stuff, why did you do that?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Uh, because, I mean, he was still showing, you know, signs of life. He was breathing and responsive and, you know, that's, that's our job, I mean, I mean, even if in the circumstances, I just, I'm not gonna sit there and let him die, you know, um, I knew I was remote, I knew that I had already lost, um, I only had two, uh, Bodega Bay guys there, and I knew that help was far away, and so, that was, that just came natural. That's the next step. You've gotta preserve life in any form, so that's what I was trying to do.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Have you, um, ever received training in, you know, after a situation like that that could happen, uh, securing a person by handcuffing them –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yes.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – and providing first aid?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: I've been, uh, I've been in, not in the position I'm in now, but I've been involved in some, you know, near critical incidents or active situations where suspects are injured heavily or still, you know, given the level of threat that was thrown out there, they are secured and handcuffed, um, and with the SWAT background and stuff like that, I've also been trained that, you know, that, the medical portion of, you know, preserving life and doing that ****, allows me to at least work on him and his arms are secure and he's, well, I don't know what level of threat he still is, he was still awake and active and if I'm trying to do medical training, and his hands are free, he could disarm me, you know, my sidearm was back in the holster and if, and it showed later that he was still responsive and active and still wanted to die with his statements, **** the handcuffs were a valuable

resource because he wasn't able to reach and disarm me and continue to fight 'causing me to want to shoot him more.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, do you remember, um, having any concern for, uh, I don't know how to ask this, for any, uh, rounds that maybe you couldn't account for or that could have gone down, you know, down range, do you remember having any concern about that?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, I wasn't, um, I felt, you know, after looking at the windshield and, um, I, I, you know, there's always concern of what your backdrop is, and um, and that was very rapid. I, I knew there was a house there, um –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – and that's just what it was. Um, I knew that based on the fact that I already had three scenes there, and I had really no, there was no medical resources that, that I, you know, I did wanna make sure I was checking, you know, nobody was gonna tell us something was happening in the house if any rounds had gotten there, so I think it was just a matter of fact that I knew we had to check down range and, um, what was behind the scene of the shooting, um, and also more if there was a concern that rounds had gone inside the house as I was directing people to the various scenes I, I if I had thought that something were significant to happen behind the truck then I, I wanted to get resources there. Again, we had two, uh, two guys from the fire department and one truck, and it's like, I knew that's how Bodega Bay is, I mean, nobody was coming anytime soon.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um, then I just, time wasn't on my side, so I just at least wanted to have a better feeling if more needed to be called.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah.

DEP. JASON PASERO: And I think, um, uh, with, uh, Justin, um, I remember Justin looking, um, at the back window of that, uh, truck, um, and seeing that it looked like, I don't know what the conversation was. He gave me the impression that one of the rounds had gone through the back window, and it just, like, was trying to figure out the angle and thinking about if it had gotten, could it have reached that house –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – that was, that was the concern.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, you talked a little bit about some of the, uh, statements from the, um, the suspect in this case, the driver of the white pickup. I believe that some of the things that you remember him saying were shoot me. Um, along those lines, do you remember anything else that he said, um –

DEP. JASON PASERO: Um –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – right at that moment?

DEP. JASON PASERO: – I mean, I know he had, um, I know he was saying, like, you know, I, I don't know directly, it was, you know, along the lines of, you know, end it and, I think, take your gun and shoot me or finish me.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Uh huh.

DEP. JASON PASERO: He didn't want us to treat him.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: You know, he was resistive **** maybe resistant is not the right word, but he was not wanting us to do anything. Uh, I think at one point he said, uh, he was like, you know, DNR and, you know, he didn't want us to do anything and that's when he became more, um, animated and was talking to, uh, to Sean.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. What is DNR?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Well, I know it as, you know, do not resuscitate, like, don't treat me, don't do anything –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – and that was coupled with, you know, you take your gun and shoot me, and –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Right.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – finish me or s, something to, I don't know exactly, but it was –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – along those lines which gave me the impression that he still wanted me to, to, to, um, to continue and, and kill him.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, I think you told me early in the interview that you had had some DRE training, um, is that right?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, for being under the influence.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah. So, um, can you tell me, uh, about some of your experiences dealing with people under the influence of a control substance or drugs.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah, I mean, depending on the types of drugs, you, you noticed, um, altered states and their, and behavior, um, and, and with the initial information I had received, that this person had possibly done LSD or some type of drug, although I didn't

take that for granted it was that drug, that he was gonna be possibly altered, um, that coupled with kinda the, a series of events that happens after a car crash and getting out and being violent with people, it seemed that he was possibly delusional or something was going on in his mind as it was altered and then just the mere, you know, people that, that are on, that are sober and not under the influence of any type of drug, typically don't, um, don't get out of, of, of a vehicle or drive through a neighborhood and just randomly assault people and steal cars and drive off and flee the area and hurt people. Um, and then when I drove up upon him, and he's out in the roadway. He's barefoot, and he's, um, you know, he's rigid. You know, that's not a normal behavior. It wasn't like a, you know, he's just kinda animated and walking around and, but he was, and like I said, it was like catatonic. He wasn't, he didn't respond to anything I said, um, that stare at me that was like super blank, and he's just kinda like, looking through me and not res, you know, nonresponsive and just had the **** you know, and he's, and he's in the middle of the street, and so it's like ****, you know, that's, that's not normal, so it was clear some, some, something going on with him.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay. Um, you talked about some of the concerns you had when, uh, the white truck, the white pickup was in front of you and was driving towards you. Uh, one of things, well, you mentioned that you were, um, concerned about being mowed over, obviously, run over, um, that you didn't have any place to go. You also, I believe you mentioned that you were concerned about a possible pursuit, like this person getting beyond you, um, so, can you tell me a little bit more about that, so if he didn't run you over and mow you down, and somehow got past you, what were some of your concerns?

DEP. JASON PASERO: Well, I know that, you know, when I had, when I had gone by the scene of the security guard, I knew that that was the last time I saw the two CHP officers, and they were out of their cars, and they were with the security guard, and I, like I said, I think it was one or two other people there. There was that scene, and then as you went down the road, there was a whole 'nother scene with the, the, the woman lying down in the grass and other people over there, and just how fast everything evolved, um, and then the way the truck was positioned, you know, and him getting in the truck and driving back to the scene, my feeling is that, he first came and with the eye contact and his behavior, he locked eyes with me, he deliberately drove straight at me, and I had no way of escape. It was too fast and, um, it just happened. It was, he was, the truck was like so close that I wouldn't have been able to get all the way to the back of my pickup truck, um, to hide for cover, and if I had done that, knowing what he had done, I, I believed I knew that there was still gonna be people out there at those scenes, and that if he was gonna try to run me over, then, I mean, he was gonna go and try to run over all those people, and I knew medical was coming, I mean, there coulda been, I knew that was probably, based on just what I told you, it was probably eight to ten people with the, and the two CHP guys, so, it's like, all those houses on 4th of July are oc, you know, occupied and rented out. I mean, there coulda been god knows how many people, and if I didn't stop that threat, I didn't, I didn't, if he had run over me, there was a good chance he was gonna go and go do more –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – and if I didn't stop that, which I had no choice. I couldn't get outa the way, it, I wouldn't be able get anybody 'cause I don't share a channel with CHP. They

couldn't have heard anything if I even told them on the radio the truck was coming, and it woulda been too fast, and, you know, who knows how many more people would have been run over.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: 'Cause if he was gonna do it to me, why wasn't he gonna do it to somebody else.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah. So, along those lines, this pickup truck, that's coming towards you, um, as you described and your concerns for it running over people, how did you view this vehicle, this pickup truck?

DEP. JASON PASERO: I don't really know what you're asking me.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Your concerns are that, uh, this person would run over these other people, did you consider that this, uh, pickup truck would be a weapon that he could use –

DEP. JASON PASERO: I thought, yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: – against you or others?

DEP. JASON PASERO: I, I thought for sure that after that interaction we had, and what was behind me, that the way he st, steered that truck, I mean, he wasn't facing me to begin with, he was perpendicular, and he purposely turned the wheel and revved the engine and came straight at me –

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Mm hmm.

DEP. JASON PASERO: – and that, I was, I was afraid that he was gonna kill me. I just, I was stuck. I had no way to get out, and that was my option.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Yeah.

DEP. JASON PASERO: And if the CH, the CHP truck wasn't there, even with the, even with the shots, the truck was still going. I still probably woulda been run over, you know. Uh, god.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: James, do you have any add, additional questions?

DET. JAMES VICKERS: No.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: Okay.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Sorry.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: That's okay. Um, I don't have any other questions for you, but thank you very much for talking to us.

DEP. JASON PASERO: Yeah.

DET. HECTOR DE LEON: I'm going to turn this recording off.

END OF AUDIO