

Witness Statement

TT – Sgt. Tom Tatum

GB – Inv. Glen Bennett

LH – [REDACTED]

TT Ok the recorder is on. This will be a taped interview in reference to IA-11-017. Today's date is January 5, 2012 and the time is 3:40 pm. The location of this interview is the [REDACTED] right?

LH Yes.

TT Number one.

LH Yes sir.

TT Presently being interviewed is [REDACTED]. Also present is Inv. Glen Bennett with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit. I'm Sgt. Tom Tatum with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit. [REDACTED] are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

LH Yes sir.

TT As a Florida law enforcement officer and a Notary Public of the state of Florida I am empowered to take sworn statements. At this time I would ask you to raise your right hand and be sworn. Do you swear that the statement you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

LH Yes.

TT Ok, alright [REDACTED] like I said I just have some basic questions. A little bit of background on yourself first and then we'll get into the questions ok?

LH Ok.

TT And just for the record you are 17 years old?

LH Yep, 17.

TT And we've already talked to your mom.

LH Yep.

TT And she knows that we're here talking to you and she has no problem. She didn't want to be present even though she's in the other room.

LH Right she doesn't. She already knows, I already told her everything.

TT Ok. Alright so can you spell your first name and last name for me?

LH [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

TT And what's your date of birth [REDACTED]?

LH [REDACTED].

TT And like I said that makes you 17 years old?

LH Yeah.

TT Ok and where do you go to school?

LH Taylor Middle-High School, I'm a senior.

TT Almost over right?

LH Yep five months May 31st.

TT What are you planning on doing after school?

LH I'm gonna go to ABAC it's in Tifton Georgia. I'm gonna study there for two years and get my AS...

TT What is that?

LH ABAC? It's Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, it's in Tifton and then I'm gonna leave there and go to Ross University in the West Indies and study to be a veterinarian.

TT Wow, good for you good luck.

LH Thank you.

TT Alright [REDACTED] like I said this is an administrative investigation into Dep. Travis Deane. Some things have been brought to our attention so we're just looking for some answers ok?

LH Ok.

TT First of all do you know [REDACTED]?

LH Yep.

TT How do you know [REDACTED]?

LH We went to school together we're friends, we were in FFA together and a lot of things.

TT How long do you think you've known her?

LH Since I was probably in the 9th grade so four five years probably.

TT Ok. And your relationship with her is?

LH Close friend.

TT Just close friend?

LH Just close friend.

TT She's not in school anymore is she?

LH No she graduated last year.

TT Ok. Alright do you know Wade Hunter?

LH Yes I do he's my best friend. I've known him for four years I hang out with him all the time. I'm with him like almost 24/7.

TT Ok and Wade's 21?

LH Yeah he just turned 21 in October.

TT Ok. And you just know him from being around the area?

LH I met him in FFA, I met him FFA.

TT FFA?

LH When I was a freshman and we've been friends every since.

TT Ok. Alright, and do you know Dep. Travis Deane?

LH I met him one time at the Halloween party and that's it.

TT Ok.

LH I might have seen him in the restaurant a couple times but I never really knew who he was until I was introduced to him.

TT So you never had any conversations with him?

LH Until...

TT Don't know who he is?

LH Until the Halloween party no. I hadn't, I didn't know, I might have seen him but I didn't know exactly who he was until I went to the Halloween party.

TT Ok. Does he have any idea how old you are?

LH I don't know I mean he might. Wade and them might have told him but he didn't ask.

TT But as far as conversation with him you never said...

LH We didn't like have a conversation...

TT ...I'm 17 or that never came up?

LH We never really had a conversation we kind of just got introduced to each other and then I was kind of, he knew Wade and [REDACTED] so I kind of was behind the scenes. I was just there because we were all at the fair, I showed at the fair and (unintelligible) and Wade was like "oh do you want to ride with me?" and I was like "sure" so that's pretty much all.

TT Ok. Alright so I think you've already kind of touched on it. So you've been to Dep. Deane's residence?

LH Yes.

TT Do you know where that is?

LH It's in Deltona somewhere.

TT Deltona? Ok.

LH I think.

TT Alright and what was the purpose of you being at his residence?

LH Halloween party that he was throwing that Wade and [REDACTED] were going to.

TT Alright and do you remember the date of that Halloween party?

LH No because I was showing at the fair so it's all running together but it was sometime during the first probably, maybe the second week I don't remember because it was during the fair time.

TT Alright so you were at the fair and then you...

LH Yeah I was at the fair I show.

TT Went out to the party?

LH Yeah I show at the fair, I show pigs at the fair and I was there taking care of my animal and Wade happened to be there and he said that he had made a commitment that he told him he would go and would I like to ride with him and I was like sure. Then we met [REDACTED], we picked her up and then we went.

TT Ok so where did you guys pick [REDACTED] up from?

LH Um, the like shopping complex in like when you're on the end of Deland, TJ Maxx and all that, Bealls and all that.

TT Oh on the south end there?

LH Yeah.

TT Ok.

LH Like by the McDonalds we met her there.

TT Alright did she drive herself there?

LH No me and, she drove like Wade, no wait, no, no, no yeah she rode with me and Wade.

TT She rode with you and Wade.

LH Yeah.

TT But you picked her up...

LH She drove herself, yeah she drove herself to McDonalds and she left her vehicle there and then we picked her up and we drove to Deltona in Wade's vehicle.

TT Ok got ya.

LH Yeah.

TT Ok do you remember about what time it was that you got to Dep. Deane's house?

LH Got to his house? Probably like, it was so long ago but I just remember like it was like maybe 9 maybe, maybe a little bit earlier that I don't really remember I just remember I don't really remember what time we got back either. I just, it was so long ago everything started to run together after the fair but it was...

TT Ok so did Dep. Deane invite you to the party?

LH He didn't invite me personally he invited Wade and [REDACTED] and Wade just asked me to come and I was like "sure that's fine"

TT Because you guys are just close friends.

LH Yeah we're just, we're best friends so.

TT Ok. Alright so we already covered you didn't drive.

LH No.

TT Wade drove right?

LH I left my car at the fair.

TT Ok, alright. So you guys got there to Dep. Dean's house and there was a party going on?

LH Yeah there was probably 15-20 people there when we got there.

TT Did you know anybody else there?

LH No I didn't know anyone else. I didn't even really know him.

TT Was that a costume party?

LH Yeah, yeah.

TT Because it was like an after Halloween...

LH Yeah it's was like, yeah.

TT ...even though it was like a week after or so?

LH Yeah it was like a week after yeah. I didn't really have a costume I just took Kelli's Pierson Family Restaurant shirt and I was [REDACTED].

TT You were [REDACTED]?

LH That was my, yeah because she was like.

TT That was your costume?

LH Yeah she was like a cowgirl and so she's like "here you can have my shirt you can be [REDACTED]" so I was [REDACTED].

TT Ok, alright. So when you guys were at the party did you drink any alcohol?

LH I took a sip of whatever he like gave us. I don't know I don't really remember what it was but I took a sip of that and then I might have had like one jello shot because everyone in the whole entire party was taking a jello shot and we had like one jello I had one I think. If, I think me and [REDACTED] like split one actually because they were really strong.

TT Ok so who actually, did somebody hand you a cup?

LH I think it was him or he handed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] handed me like because we were like oh I'll taste and then we gave it back to him because it wasn't very good.

TT Do you know what was in the cup?

LH I think it was, don't hold to this I think it was a Yeager or not Yeagler um, Yuengling and like apple cider or something like that I don't really remember what it was but he had it on like tap, it was on tap in his garage in like a big cooler thing.

TT Alright did you see who poured the beer?

LH I think he did it.

TT He being?

LH Travis Deane.

TT Travis Deane? Ok at any point did he ask for your identification?

LH No.

TT To see how old you were?

LH No.

TT Ok and he knows [REDACTED] obviously right?

LH Yeah he knows [REDACTED] and Wade.

TT Ok. So you only had the one sip of the cup of beer?

LH I just had the one sip, yeah.

TT And then you had a jello shot?

LH Yeah probably half of one actually I didn't have a whole one.

TT Do you know what kind of jello it was or what color they were?

LH He had like every different flavor. There was every flavor like the whole fridge was full of them.

TT Ok were they in big cups or little cups?

LH Like just a little like sauce cups that you have at a restaurant. Just a little one, they're just little and they have like the caps on them.

TT Uh huh. Do you remember what color you drank?

LH I think it was blue maybe, blue or green. I probably would have picked blue because blue is my favorite color. I don't know though.

TT Alright, so when you took that jello shot you said it was pretty strong?

LH Yes, not that great. I think me an [REDACTED]...

TT Have you had jello shots before?

LH Like here and there like with my mom probably one time or something like that but yeah not very often.

TT So you recognized when you put it in your mouth that it was alcohol.

LH Strong like yeah it, yeah it was like too like too strong yeah.

TT Ok, were you drinking anything before you got there?

LH No because I had just come from the fair.

TT Ok. And there's a picture of you and [REDACTED].

LH Yeah.

TT Wade took that picture?

LH Yeah on her phone, or my phone yeah.

TT Ok, so in that picture [REDACTED] is standing there with a cup and then you're standing there with a cup also.

LH Yeah.

TT What was in that cup?

LH Sweet tea.

TT Just sweet tea?

LH Yeah just from, I just had it from the fair.

TT Ok. Alright did you feel any of the effects from the jello shot when you took it?

LH No because it, I didn't really eat, I took like a half of one so it didn't really affect me at all.

TT And who was around you when you took that jello shot?

LH Like everyone at the party. [REDACTED] and Wade were on the other side of me and I think Travis was like on the other side of Wade. But everybody way...

TT So was Travis in close enough proximity so that he can see you doing the jello shot?

LH Yeah. I think he might have actually like handed it to us out of the fridge so he probably knew that we were doing it.

TT Are you sure that he did or you're not sure that he handed you the shot?

LH I'm pretty sure like I'm not 100% but I'm pretty sure he opened the fridge and was like "oh what color" and we said and he gave it to us. And I know he was right there like he definitely saw me take it.

TT Ok. Alright, and was Wade drinking also?

LH He wasn't drinking like in his cup he wasn't drinking he, because we were at the fair he had I think he had a sip of that he (unintelligible) because it was like us three and we passed we had the sip of whatever that drink was and then he might have had one jello shot too.

TT So were the three of you splitting the one cup of the beer or did each...

LH Yeah it was just one, he had just like a little, Travis just put like a little of the two. He combined like two drinks that were on tap and we just like took a sip of it and passed it like [REDACTED] had it then I had it then Wade had it then he handed it off to Travis.

TT So when he poured the beer out of the tap who did he hand it to first?

LH [REDACTED]

TT [REDACTED]?

LH Because [REDACTED], because he was telling [REDACTED] about it and like initially he was like "oh" or she was like "what are you drinking?" and he was like "this" and he made it for her and then it was like not good so we just handed it back to him.

TT You gave it back to him?

LH Yeah.

TT After you all tried it?

LH Yeah [REDACTED] tried it and I tried it and then Wade tried it and he gave it back to him.

TT Ok. So you think Wade did a jello shot?

LH I'm pretty sure, we all because like literally everybody at the party was taking one and I think, yeah we all three took one and I didn't finish mine I sat mine on the counter because it wasn't good and neither did [REDACTED]. We didn't even finish one I don't think.

TT Ok. How long do you think you were at the party?

LH Probably not even an hour because there was people at the fair waiting for us so we didn't want to stay there very long. Wade just promised he would come so we just stayed up there for a little while.

TT Alright. Alright, so in the front yard did you see his patrol car?

LH It was the first car parked on like when you're looking at the driveway on your left. It was parked up in the front and there was cars all behind it.

TT Was it backed in or was it facing forward?

LH No it was, no it was facing forward like towards the house.

TT Ok. Was there anything on the car?

LH There was cups when we walked up.

TT So the cups were there when you guys walked up?

LH Yeah.

TT Did you see what was in the cups?

LH I didn't see, we didn't play or like I guess they were playing beer pong but I don't think there was beer in there. There might have been just water. We didn't ever, I didn't ever go over there and look. We didn't really play.

TT Was there anybody playing beer pong during the time that you were there?

LH Yeah like a lady dressed as a nun was playing, I just remember like and then I think it was his sister's husband and her were playing on one side where like the cups because there's two cars and there's two sets of cups and they were playing over here on the other car and then there's other people were playing on the other side.

TT So there were like two games going on?

LH No it was like...

TT Or was it...

LH ...beer pong so there's like, there's like you know the two people shoot at the (unintelligible) thing and then these two people shoot at those. It was one game but it was just two sets of cups on two different cars.

TT On two different cars.

LH Yeah.

TT Ok.

LH On somebody else's car and then the patrol car.

TT Did you see Dep. Deane playing that beer pong.

LH He wasn't playing.

TT He wasn't playing?

LH Because he was standing next to us when it was happening like he never played because right when, after that he walked up and the cups, no one was playing when we walked up and then we walked in the house and like (unintelligible) to the bathroom then we took the jello shot then we come back out and he gave us the drink and we got done with that and we walked over towards like his like towards where they were playing and somebody was playing it and then we left, like we weren't there for very long.

TT Ok. So where the cars were parked, would you be able to see I mean is it in plain view from the street? Could you see up there?

LH Well I mean probably if you were like driving really slow and you looked but like there was all, there was cars all behind his car like blocking the view directly and there was cars parked all along the street so like you might have could, like I didn't see when we first drove up if that makes a difference. But I also wasn't like staring up there.

TT Uh huh.

LH We parked over in the neighbor's yard so.

TT Ok. Have you ever played beer pong?

LH No. I don't drink beer I don't like beer.

TT You don't like beer?

LH No.

TT Alright so you said you don't know for sure what was in the cups?

LH No because I never went like up to the cups I never saw, or looked in the cups.

TT But there were people playing?

LH Yeah.

TT And you [REDACTED] and Wade...

LH Wade.

TT ...and Dep. Deane were in the area of the cars where you could see people playing?

LH Yeah we were like in a semi circle kind of thing like sitting there watching, talking.

TT Ok and just to clarify at any point did you tell him how old you were?

LH No.

TT And did he ever ask you how old you were?

LH No.

TT Ok. Anything Glen?

GB Did he make any statements, he being Dep. Deane, about playing this beer pong on top of the car? Was he there....

LH Well me and [REDACTED] took pictures because it was funny. I think, well I took pictures I know that but I don't know if she did. But we, but he was just like you know of course don't be sending them or posting them on facebook that's kind of what he said.

GB He asked you not, did he...

LH He didn't like, he didn't physically Wade was just like you probably shouldn't post those on facebook because we'll get in trouble or whatever.

GB Ok.

TT Dep. Deane said that?

LH No Wade said that.

TT Wade said that?

LH He never like he really didn't ever say anything he was just like we were all laughing kind of about it and he never really said like don't post those on facebook it was just kind of a you kind of know like not to because we'll obviously get in trouble.

TT Did Dep. Dean know that Wade was taking pictures?

LH I took pictures, I took pictures and I think [REDACTED] might have took pictures, I don't know if Wade did. I mean I would assume because we were all right there and I had my phone out taking them so I would assume that he would know.

TT Alright.

GB Did anybody, did at any time did you feel that you could grab any alcohol beverage in the residence? Did you feel that you could walk up at any time?

LH I guess I could have walked up to the and opened the fridge and got a jello shot but there wasn't, there wasn't like liquor bottles like present like on the counter or anything. There wasn't, there was just the beer on tap and I guess I could have got a cup myself and walked over there and done that but there wasn't like you know it wasn't out there like clear you could just pick it up and drink it like you had to go thru a lot so no.

GB To get the cup and pour yourself one?

LH Yeah you'd have to get the cup and pour the thing or go in the fridge and get the, it wasn't just like open to you and he wasn't just like pouring drinks and handing them out he just like it was kind of like you get your own alcohol.

GB Did he offer you specifically "would you like a drink?"

LH No he never asked me if I wanted a drink.

GB Did he say you're welcome to have whatever?

LH Yeah I guess he was just like "oh if you want a jello shot you can have it" pretty much he didn't like he never like poured me a drink and was like here you want this and I was like no. Like that never happened.

GB Did he say that "If you want one you can have it"?

LH He, yeah he just like you know have whatever you want or because there was food and everything he was like "everything's open"

TT So he was just talking in general terms, help yourself?

LH Yeah like drinks, yeah drinks everything he was like "you can have whatever. Drinks food there was like pizza, cookies, everything so I guess he was talking about both. I took it as food because I'm not 21 so I didn't really think about it.

TT There's a picture of a patrol car and the cups that were on it.

LH Uh huh.

TT Do you know who took that picture?

LH [REDACTED] or I don't know how you would get mine but either [REDACTED] or me but I definitely I mean mine I think was more like over because I was here and [REDACTED] was here so mine were like, I probably got some of the people in my picture.

TT I want to show you one more here real quick. Do you recognize those people?

LH It's me and [REDACTED].

TT Ok. So did Wade take that picture?

LH Um, yeah.

TT Alright did you post any of these on facebook?

LH I post, I'm pretty sure that [REDACTED] posted that one. I don't think I did but I think [REDACTED] did.

GB Where was that picture taken?

LH In his, in Travis's living room.

GB It was in the living room.

LH Yeah.

GB Ok and that other one (inaudible) police car was taken in front of Travis's house?

LH Yeah like we were kind of in the garage and the garage door was open and it was right there.

GB You had said that you didn't think you were able to drink because you weren't 21. What was, did you, were you surprised or taken back that you were offered alcohol at all? What was your...

LH Kind of just because he was a cop, that's kind of, it was kind of it was almost just like I didn't think he would even invite [REDACTED] or me or like Wade was 21 by then but like I didn't think about like you know you don't really think about it but I guess I was a little taken back because he was a cop and I know my brother's a cop and he would never do that so it's just something that kind of was shocking.

TT Now did, Did he did Dep. Deane actually invite [REDACTED]?

LH I'm pretty sure he invited Wade and [REDACTED].

TT Or like do you know how he invited her? By what means?

LH Like I'm sure he was in the restaurant and he probably told them about it when he was working up here because Wade and [REDACTED] work at PFR so he probably like told them while he was in the restaurant that he was having a party.

TT Ok and as far as you know personally do you, does Dep. Deane know how old [REDACTED] is?

LH Yeah I'm pretty sure he knows.

TT How so?

LH I'm like, I think they've talked about it when she like...

TT Were you actually present when they discussed age or anything like that?

LH No I wasn't there but I think he knows because of the like they're pretty good friends, not friends but they talked a lot in the restaurant and stuff and he knew how old Wade was and I'm pretty sure he knew I wasn't 21 but I don't know if he knew I was 17 but.

TT So you don't really know anything about the relationship between Dep. Deane and [REDACTED] other than they're friends and she works at the restaurant?

LH Besides like what he did with her and Stephen not really. And I just know that like they're not, they're close friends like because she he invited them and stuff. That's just because he met them in the restaurant. Other than that I don't think they have any (inaudible)

TT Do you have any direct knowledge about what happened...

LH With?

TT ...with [REDACTED] and Steve as...

LH Stephen?

TT ...far as I mean were you there whenever it happened?

LH I was never there when like it happened but I, my brother's pretty good, my older, my older not Trevor but my other brother is pretty good friends with Stephen he lives in the same neighborhood with him so I knew about that that way. Even [REDACTED] of course told me because we're pretty good friends and Wade told me because we're pretty good friends.

TT What did [REDACTED] tell you about it?

LH She was just upset because whatever he put in the investigation wasn't fully true and like causing Stephen to go to jail basically having to go thru all of that to be like you know it's not true.

TT Did she tell you what happened that night?

LH She didn't tell me everything like to the T but she just said like the stuff that, because it was on Pierson clean up facebook page and like it was a whole lot of stuff. She just said that all that stuff wasn't true that only a couple things of that happened.

TT Did she tell you directly what happened at the house, how they got into an argument or anything?

LH She didn't tell me what they argued about she said they were both arguing they were both screaming they both had been drinking or he had been drinking and that all he really, all that was true was he slapped her phone out of her hand but that was it when she was calling Travis who she I think she was actually calling.

GB And the incident was posted on what?

LH Pierson clean up, it's there's like Deleon Springs clean up Pierson clean up it's a facebook page and they post like sex offenders that are in our area or people that are driving without a license or something like that. It's posted on there.

GB The, what the actual arrest or the...

LH It's like the mug shot and your charges.

GB Oh.

LH Yeah like if there's, if there's a sex offender that moves into the town like to help the parents out they post it or like if someone's you know committed a crime that lives in the like town they post it or if there's an accident like there was an accident in Pierson last night they posted it and stuff like that just to help.

TT So is it like a private citizen that's posting this stuff or is it?

LH You don't know who it is but yeah I, yeah it's like a citizen.

TT So everybody has access and they can put whatever they want on it and like relay it to the...

LH Yeah I mean you can, I think I know for Deleon Springs you have to be friends with them like you, they have to add you and I think Pierson because I'm not friends with Pierson, my mom is and she's the one who actually saw it and asked

me about it and then we pulled it up me and Wade pulled it up and looked at it. And he just said that all that stuff really wasn't true and then I talked to [REDACTED] about it and she said that the only thing that was really true was the phone that he like hit the phone out of her hand but nothing else was really, not true.

GB Do you have, you said you took some photos is that the...

LH That's not the phone, I just got a brand new phone but I mean I have the, I have the SD card that they're on but.

GB (Inaudible)

LH Yeah you pretty much have them because that's the almost the exact same pictures I took.

GB You took like two pictures?

LH Yeah I took two. I took one like a long ways (inaudible)

GB Ok.

TT So you don't have any other pictures from the house and the party that night?

LH No. I just have the two pictures of the cop car and then I think [REDACTED] might have sent me that other picture that's it.

TT Ok so you weren't at the house the night that they got into the argument?

LH No, no, no.

TT Did she say anybody else was there?

LH She didn't say but I mean she didn't say exactly who was there. I mean I assumed other people were there because she said they had been drinking and I don't think they would just sit home and drink but I don't know he has a roommate so like he might have been there? I'm not really sure.

TT Do you happen to know what the roommate's name is?

LH Dustin Blackwelder. And there's another one his name's Mikey but I don't remember what his last name is.

TT Ok. Is there anything else that you can think of?

LH (Inaudible)


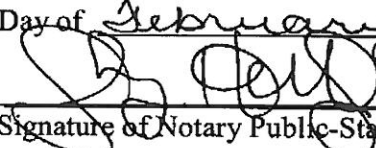
TT Alright do you wish to add or delete anything from the statement?

LH Nope.

TT At this time this concludes the interview with [REDACTED].

I, Sgt. Tom Tatum, swear that the forgoing is an accurate transcription of the sworn recorded statement of [REDACTED] taken by me on January 5, 2012.

(Signed)


#2405
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th
Day of February, 2012.

Signature of Notary Public-State of Florida



(Print, type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Number is:

Personally Known

Produced identification

Type of Identification Produced