

## Witness Statement

TT – Sgt. Tom Tatum

GB – Inv. Glen Bennett

WH – Wade Hunter

TT Alright the recorder is on. This will be a taped interview in reference to IA-11-017. Today's date is January 6, 2012 and the time is 1500 hours. The location of the interview is Chipper Jones Park in Pierson. Presently being interviewed is Wade Hunter. Also present is Inv. Glen Bennett with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit. I'm Sgt. Tatum with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit. Wade are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

WH 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?

WH I do.

TT Ok, alright Wade. Like we said this is going to be, this is an administrative investigation in to Dep. Travis Deane and some issues that have been brought to our attention ok?

WH Ok.

TT Alright so for the record it's Wade W-A-D-E?

WH Yes sir.

TT And Hunter?

WH Yes sir.

TT What's your date of birth Wade?

WH October 22, 1990.

TT Alright. And you're currently employed?

WH At Pierson Family Restaurant.

TT How long have you worked there?

WH Close to three years I want to say.

TT Ok. Alright so you work at Pierson Family Restaurant. Do you work with [REDACTED] [REDACTED]?

WH I do.

TT How long have you known [REDACTED]?

WH Oh gosh, probably since I went to, started at Taylor in 10<sup>th</sup> grade so that would have been probably at least, I've known who she was for five years. I've known her well probably for about a year anyway or more.

TT And how long has she worked at the restaurant with you?

WH I'd say at least probably about a year, somewhere around there.

TT Alright. Do you know how old she is?

WH 18 I believe.

TT Alright and you're 21 right?

WH Yes sir.

TT Alright. Do you know [REDACTED]?

WH Yes.

TT [REDACTED].

WH [REDACTED].

TT I'm sorry [REDACTED]. Do you know how old she is?

WH She's 17.

TT 17? Ok, alright. And the questions I'm going to ask you it's geared towards an administrative investigation which is an internal...

WH Right.

TT ...investigation that we do within the sheriff's office so I want you to speak to me freely about the questions that I'm going to ask you.

WH Right.

TT Don't feel like we're trying to jam you up on anything because that's not what we're doing ok?

WH Ok.

TT We're not doing that at all. So, alright so do you know Dep. Travis Deane?

WH Yes.

TT How long have you known Dep. Deane?

WH Oh goodness, maybe probably no longer than six months. Well I don't know probably when he started working Pierson pretty much I started talking to him at the restaurant probably so between six months and probably no longer than a year for sure.

TT Ok so before that did you know who he was?

WH I had no idea I had never met him before to my knowledge.

TT Ok so you'd classify your relationship as?

WH Work friend I mean I don't know.

TT He's just an acquaintance...

WH Right.

TT ...that comes into the restaurant.

WH Pretty much. Talk to him there that's pretty much it aside from going to his house the one time.

TT Right, ok. Alright, does he come into the restaurant quite a bit?

WH Not recently but he was pretty much a daily customer so.

TT Ok. Alright, so you already kind of touched on this. Have you been to his residence? His private residence?

WH Just one time yes sir.

TT And the location is?

WH Um...

TT City?

WH Deltona'ish, Debary somewhere I don't remember.

TT Ok alright and do you remember the date that you went to his house?

WH It was the weekend after Halloween a Saturday I want to say. We were at the fair and then we went there and it was the I want to say the Saturday after Halloween but it was the weekend after Halloween I know that much.

TT Ok and I understand he was having a Halloween party?

WH Uh huh, something to that effect.

TT Alright. So how did you get invited?

WH He just mentioned something to me when he saw me at the restaurant one time I think is how it was or probably he just mentioned something to me at the restaurant.

TT He mentioned that he was going to have a Halloween party?

WH Yeah, uh huh.

TT And that you were invited?

WH Uh huh.

TT Ok. Now when you went to the party did you take [REDACTED] with you?

WH [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] rode with me.

TT Ok so where did, where did you guys meet up or?

WH [REDACTED] was with us at the fair and then [REDACTED], I picked [REDACTED] up from somewhere right there in Deland. I think it was the TJ Maxx McDonalds parking lot there across from the Chevy dealer on 17.

TT Alright so you were driving?

WH Yes sir.

TT Alright so you meet with [REDACTED] at the TJ Maxx parking lot then you guys go over to Dep. Deane's residence?

WH Right.

TT Do you remember about what time that was? Roughly.

WH 9'ish, 10'ish.

TT Ok and did you know where you were going? Did he give, how did you know where his house was?

WH I just GPS'd it he gave me his address.

TT He gave you the address?

WH Uh huh.

TT Alright. Alright, so you guys get to the residence, what did you do when you got there?

WH He introduced us to a few people. I didn't know anybody else there besides him and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] obviously. I think there was a football game on, had a few snacks or something that's pretty much, so.

TT Ok how many people do you think were at the party roughly?

WH I would say no more than 30, 20'ish.

TT 20-30.

WH Somewhere in that neighborhood I would say.

TT Ok. Alright so at any point during the party did you see [REDACTED] drinking anything?

WH We tasted, I don't remember, cider or something? And maybe might have had a jello shot.

TT Alright now when you're saying the cider was it alcohol?

WH Yeah it was like a I don't know exactly what it was but it was an alcohol cider.

TT Alright so how do you know that it was an alcoholic beverage?

WH I tasted it too and...

TT Did you see anybody pour it? Did you see what kind of container it came out of?

WH It was, I think it was in a keg of some kind.

TT Was it like a regular big keg that's on the floor?

WH Right.

TT Alright. And did you, did somebody serve you a cup?

WH I got, I either picked one up or somebody handed it to me I can't I don't remember exactly. I didn't pour it myself I know that.

TT And you can't remember who handed it to you?

WH No I can't, I couldn't say for sure.

TT Ok. What about [REDACTED]?

WH Same thing, she might have I don't know if there was poured ones already there and she tasted it or if somebody handed one to her.

TT Where was the keg located?

WH I want to say in his garage area. It was under, under cover in other words but it wasn't in his house I don't believe.

TT Ok so at any point did you see Dep. Deane pour a beer of alcohol or pour a cup of alcohol...

WH Right.

TT And give it to [REDACTED]?

WH I can't say for sure that I did see that. I mean I couldn't say that he didn't but I did not personally see him.

TT So you didn't witness him handing her a cup of alcohol.

WH Right, right.

TT Ok what about [REDACTED]?

WH Same, same thing. I know we tasted that stuff and that's to my knowledge. We might have had a jello shot as well but I couldn't, I couldn't for sure say if somebody, who handed it to us or if we picked it up or what exactly the context was.

TT So you don't remember where you got the jello shot from?

WH They were in the refrigerator I remember that much. We did, I picked one of those up and I can't remember for sure. I know a group of people did a jello shot. I couldn't swear that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] did they might have though.

TT But you didn't see them doing a jello shot?

WH They, I couldn't swear to it in other words. They might have but I can't remember for sure if they did.

TT Ok well keep in mind too Wade you know like I said we're not looking to jam anybody up as far as the alcohol and...

WH Right.

TT ...you know drinking and stuff like that. I mean if you saw him doing it you saw him doing it...

WH Right.

TT ...if you didn't that's fine too.

WH Right, right.

TT Ok so I just don't want you to...

WH I know, like I said I know they did taste or have a you know cup of the cider or whatever that was. I know for sure they did have some of that so besides that I can't for sure remember anything else besides that.

TT Ok. So have you ever had jello shots before?

WH Uh huh.

TT And you tried a jello shot at the party?

WH Right.

TT Did you taste the alcohol in it?

WH I could taste it but it didn't, I mean it didn't do anything to me.

TT Do you think it was like strong or was it weaker compared to ones you've had in the past.

WH It wasn't the weakest, it wasn't the strongest but you could taste it in other words so, but it was you know it didn't keel me over but you could taste it so.

TT So from what you're saying you didn't feel the effects of the alcoholic beverage.

WH Right, right you would have had to do you know multiple of them to have an affect off of it.

GB Were they in the open? I mean were they free to be...

WH They were, they were in the refrigerator or on the table or both I'm not sure exactly which. I mean pretty much you could have helped yourself to them.

TT Now at any point did Dep. Deane say or did you hear him say have whatever you want? Did he make any comments like that?

WH To the effect of you know help yourself to what's here I don't know obviously you know if that was referring to you know someone who is not of age drink but he made the effect of you know what's mine is yours kind of deal.

TT Did he actually say that?

WH I couldn't you know quote him on what he said exactly but you know something to the effect of you know help yourself to anything I believe is how he said it.

TT Uh huh.

GB You had the assumption; you were led to believe that you could go in the refrigerator and...

WH Right, right that's, right, that's yeah that's how it was.

TT Ok.

WH There was chips and dip and soda and you know jello shots, it was beer and I want to say I know the one keg anyway but there was stuff you know pretty much out and about on the counters and everything.

TT Ok so when you guys got there did Dep. Deane ask for identification or ages or anything like that that you know of?

WH Not, no, not to, he didn't ask the age or anything.

TT Ok. What's the relationship between [REDACTED] and Dep. Deane? You work with [REDACTED] so.



WH Same as mine pretty much. I mean they you know they're social at work, if they saw each other they'd probably talk to each other but as far as I know that's the only time out of work that they have hung out as well.

TT Ok.

WH As far as I know.

TT Alright.

GB Did [REDACTED] have a jello shot?

WH I can't swear to seeing her have a jello shot. I know she did taste the beer or cider or whatever that was she did taste that with us.

TT Alright. So did you notice the patrol car in the driveway when you pulled up?

WH I saw it once I got to the house, I couldn't see it from the road there was vehicles everywhere pretty much.

TT Alright. At some point did you notice any red cups on the vehicle?

WH Yeah.

TT Did you see what was in the cups?

WH Oh gosh, you know could assume. I did not walk up to them and see what was I it. It could have been you know it could have been beer, could have been water I don't know, I couldn't swear as to what was in the cups.

TT Ok so was it set up like a beer pong game?

WH Right.

TT Was anybody playing beer pong?

WH At one point uh huh.

TT And you saw these people playing beer pong?

WH Right.

TT Can you describe that to me, how was it set up?

WH As far as I remembered it was on the hoods of two cars, the two cars closest to the house.

TT One being a patrol car?

WH Right and the other I'm not sure what the other one was. And they were playing it was all people four people I didn't know.

TT Was Dep. Dean outside with you when you saw the people playing beer pong?

WH Goodness. I'm sure he was out there at one point or another when they were playing. I couldn't you know...

TT But when you were out there do you remember seeing him?

WH I want to say at one point he was out there when they were playing yeah.

TT Ok.

WH But I, like I said what was in them I didn't see them fill them up or anything so.

TT I'm going to show you a picture.

WH Uh huh.

TT Does that look familiar to you?

WH Yeah.

TT That's obviously the Volusia County Sheriff's Office patrol vehicle.

WH Right.

TT And then there's some cups laying up here on the hood.

WH Right.

TT Is that accurate of what you saw that night?

WH As far as I remember that's how it was.

TT And the beer pong game was played between this car and another car?

WH Correct.

TT Alright. And just for the record you didn't actually see what was in the cups?

WH I did not. I didn't see them filled and I didn't...

TT You didn't play the game?

WH Huh uh.

TT You didn't taste what was in the cups?

WH Right.

TT Ok. Did you take this photo?

WH No I did not.

TT Did you take any photos? With a camera phone or anything?

WH I think I took one of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] together.

TT Would that be it?

WH That one probably.

TT And where was that photo taken?

WH That was in his living room.

TT Do you remember if he was standing near by when you took this picture?

WH I want to say he wasn't actually but I'm not 100% sure. I don't think he was right there when I took that picture I think that was right, he went to go talk to someone else or something to that effect.

GB That cup that [REDACTED]'s holding in her left hand in the picture.

WH Yes.

GB Does that look like the cup that was, that may have had that cider in it?

WH It could be but I don't, I don't...

GB I know you can't taste it thru the picture.

WH I don't remember exactly what that was in.

GB Is that cup the same, similar cups that were on top of the patrol car?

WH Yes. But those were pretty much the cups, as far as I remember those were pretty much the cups used for whatever you were drinking.

GB Ok.

WH And that, you know so I didn't see, I don't particularly know what was in that when that picture was taken.

GB Ok.

TT And do you know what [REDACTED] was drinking in that green cup?

WH That was our lemonade from the fair I believe.

TT Ok.

WH So.

GB Did [REDACTED] have any comment about how the cider tasted at all, did you guys talk about it?

WH I don't think any of us particularly cared for it so I don't really think it was pretty much like a taste and that was about it so.

TT Alright so, but you saw [REDACTED] taste it?

WH Right.

TT And did she have a comment after that?

WH Pretty much just to the effect of none of us particularly cared for it.

TT I didn't like it, ok.

WH That was about it.

TT Alright at any point did you see Dep. Deane try to prevent [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] from drinking any alcohol?

WH To prevent them?

TT Uh huh.

WH No.

TT Did he ever make any comments that you heard to the effects of it's probably not a good idea that you guys are drinking alcohol or anything?

WH I know he for sure did ask who was driving at one point and you know.

TT Who did he ask, I mean out of the three of you?

WH He asked out of the three of us who was driving and you know to make sure obviously we were ok to drive but as far as preventing drinking...

TT And what was your response to that?

WH I told him that I was driving.

TT And then what did he say?

WH He said something you know something "ok" you know "I'm gonna you know make sure you're ok before you leave you can stay here if you need"

TT Ok. Alright have you talked to him since the party?

WH Oh yeah.

TT Has he said anything to you?

WH In reference to the party?

TT Uh huh.

WH Right after it you know I'm sure we talked about it roughly but nothing, nothing that I particularly remember, in concrete nothing.

TT Nothing out of the ordinary?

WH Nothing, yeah nothing.

TT Ok. Alright, now you know that [REDACTED] and her boyfriend got into a disturbance right?

WH Right.

TT I'm sure you probably heard about that.

WH Yeah.

TT Were you there that night that they had the argument?

- WH I was not. She called me but I was asleep already. And then I...
- TT She tell you what happened?
- WH Yeah, she said, the way I understood it this was all well I called her the next day I believe is when it was because it was out of the ordinary for her to call me at 3:00 in the morning.
- TT So you didn't answer the phone because you were sleeping?
- WH No I was asleep. I called her the next day and I said you know "what's up is everything ok?" I said "I saw you called in the middle of the night" and she said something about you know she was looking for a ride to leave; her vehicle had broken down recently. So she was there and didn't have a ride to leave and then when I saw her at work I think it was probably the following day on Monday, I think that happened on a Saturday night, and I saw her Monday I talked to her pretty in detail about it. And the way I understood it is that they were pretty much having a heated discussion, I think she said that he was you know close and but she stressed the point that he did not strike her you know he did not hit her. And [REDACTED] if you touch [REDACTED] there'll be a red mark. And my friend one of my good friends I talked to saw her right after the incident happened and said you know that there, she looked ok, she was you know upset but she didn't have marks on her or anything but and the, a friend ended up coming and picking her up because I know she had called Travis as well and a handful of other people how I understand it so.
- TT Ok but you didn't independently witness anything that took place that night?
- WH I did not, I did not see it no sir.
- TT Ok. Alright. Do you have any independent knowledge of what the relationship between Dep. Deane and [REDACTED]'s boyfriend Stephen is?
- WH They've seen each other in passing at the restaurant that, I mean that's pretty much it as far as I know.
- TT Has he ever made any comments to you that you know in reference to him not liking the kid or anything like that?
- WH I think he said something about he had an attitude one day but as far as you know he never made any effect of oh you know I'd like to rough him up or you know anything to that effect.
- TT Ok so he's never made any statements saying that I'm not, you know I'd like to rough him up?

WH No I'm not gonna get him I'm not gonna...

TT If I get the chance to arrest him?

WH No, nothing, nothing ever like that.

TT You know if he's doing something wrong in his car I'm going to cite him?

WH Huh uh.

TT None of that?

WH none, huh uh. I think he said, Stephen said something cocky one day or something and I think that that's pretty much the only words they've ever had I don't remember exactly what Travis said back but said something to the effect of you know has an attitude or he's cocky or something but besides that he never said you know oh I'm gonna go arrest him when I can or anything like that.

TT Uh huh. Ok.

WH That I heard anyway.

TT Alright so he hasn't, Dep. Deane hasn't been to the restaurant since recently...

WH He's been, he's not been that I have seen real recently. He has been since Stephen got arrested he was there a couple times I believe afterwards.

TT Did he ever talk to you about the arrest?

WH He said one time he asked me something to the effect of what I thought of the situation and I just said, said you know...

TT This was after the arrest?

WH I said you know pretty much from what I heard you know he, he potentially had his hands on her you know I said I kept telling him I said "I wasn't there so I can't say one way or the other"

TT Uh huh.

WH I said "but you know I understand you're doing your job, at the same time I don't know that he particularly hit her but you know" and that's pretty much all he just said "oh ok"

TT Ok. Alright Wade is there anything else that you can think of that might be important?

WH Not particularly. Not that I can think of right off hand.

TT Ok, alright do you wish to add or delete anything from the statement?

WH No sir.

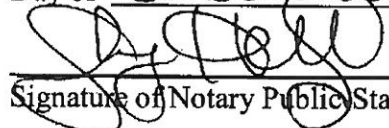
TT Ok the time is now 1522 hours and this concludes the interview with Wade Hunter.

I, Sgt. Tom Tatum, swear that the forgoing is an accurate transcription of the sworn recorded statement of Wade Hunter taken by me on January 6, 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