

MARCH 3, 2002 SHOOTING INCODENT

STATEMENT BY OFFICER LAWRENCE BRAD SPERRY COOKEVILLE

CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT MARCH 29, 2002

ON SATURDAY MARCH 2 MY WIFE CHRISTY SPERRY AND I TOOK OUR 3 CHILDREN TO MY FATHER AND MOTHERS HOME AND DROP THEM OFF FOR THE NIGHT SO WE COULD GO OUT TO DINNER AND A GET TOGETHER AT SGT YVETTE DEMINGS HOME . MY WIFE AND I WENT TO EAT AND RETURNED HOME TO GET A RIDE OVER TO THE GET TOGETHER SO WE DID NOT HAVE TO WORRIE ABOUT DRIVING LATER. A FRIEND OF MINE SGT RYAN ALLRED FROM THE OVERTON COUNTY SHERRIFS OFFICE STOPPED BY MY HOUSE JUST AS WE GOT HOME FROM THE RESTAURANT . I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD DROP US OFF AT SGT DEMMINGS, HE DID TAKE US OVER AND DROPPED US OFF AT AROUND 1930 HOURS. WHILE AT THE GET TOGETHER, WE DID EAT SOME FOOD AND HAVE SOME DRINKS, THE ONLY CONVERSATION THAT WAS RELEVANT TO THE EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED THE GET TOGETHER WAS ONE I HAD WITH , KENNY CLEMENT, ED PLEMING AND ZACK BIRDWELL WE TALKED ABOUT A MR RANDY CANTRELL FROM MY NEIGHBOR HOOD, MR CANTRELL HAS BEEN MAKING THREATS TOWARDS ME AND CAUSING SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE HOUSING PROJECTS TO HAVE CONCERN. IVE ALREADY ARRESTED MR CANTRELL ONE TIME FOR PUBLIC INTOXICATION AND RESISTING ARREST, THE REPORT DEALING WITH THAT INCODENT IS ON FILE AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. OFFICER KEN CLEMENT ALSO ARRESTED MR CANTRELL A DAY OR SO PRIOR TO THIS INCIDENT. MR CANTRELL CALLED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ADVISED THEM THAT HE HAD LEFT 40 DOLLARS UNDER MY WELCOME MAT BY MY FRONT DOOR AS A DONATION FOR THE DEAD POLICE OFFICERS FUND. DAY SHIFT OFFICER KENNY CLEMENT KNOWING IVE HAD PROBLEMS WITH THIS SUBJECT BEFORE WENT TO THE LOCATION THE CALL WAS MADE FROM AND FOUND MR CANTRELL OUTSIDE INTOXICATED AGAIN, MR CANTRELL WAS AGAIN ARRESTED. DURING OUR CONVERSATION AT SGT DEMMINGS HOME I SAID I HAVE ALREADY ADVISED HIM NOT COME TO MY HOME, HE IS NOT WELCOME AND IF FOUND AT MY HOME I WILL ARREST HIM FOR CRIMINAL TRESPASS, I TOLD THEM THAT I PLANNED ON TAKING OUT AN ARREST WARRANT FOR MR CANTRELL AND WILL ARREST HIM WHEN I GET BACK TO WORK FROM MY DAYS OFF. DURING THE GET TOGETHER, OFFICER ZACK BIRDWELL AND DISPATCHER JENNIFER CAMBELL GOT INTO A DRINKING CONTEST AND I NOTICED ZACK HAD ALOT OF WHISKEY AND VODKA TO DRINK. OFFICER BIRDWELL DID GET A LITTLE ROWDY IN SGT DEMMINGS GARAGE. SGT DEMMING ASKED ME IF I COULD HELP HER OUT AND GET HIM TO CALM DOWN AND TAKE HIM HOME BECAUSE HE AND I ARE GOOD FRIENDS I AGREED. I WENT OUT TO THE GARAGE AND ZACK WAS SITTING IN

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THE PASSENGER SEAT OF THE VEHICLE IN THE GARAGE WITH THE RADIO ON, I SAT DOWN IN THE DRIVERS SEAT AND TOLD HIM IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME. ZACK GOT OUT OF THE VEHICLE AND CLIMBED UP ON THE HOOD, I HAD TO PULL HIM BY THE BELT AND PUT HIM OVER MY SHOLDER TO GET HIM OFF THE CAR. SGT DANNY DYER WAS PRESENT AND OFFERRED TO TAKE MYSELF, MY WIFE CHRISTY AND ZACK HOME. SGT DYER DROVE US ALL OVER TO MY HOUSE WHERE ALL 3 OF US GOT OUT, I THOUGHT SGT DYER WAS GOING TO TAKE ZACK TO HIS HOUSE, BUT ZACK GOT OUT AT MY HOUSE. IM NOT SURE ANT WHAT POINT ZACK BROUGHT THIS UP BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT HE AND I GO OVER TO RANDY CANTRELLS HOUSE AND TAKE CARE OF HIM AND I IMMEDIATLEY SAID NO, I ADVISED ZACK THAT WE NEED TO ARREST HIM LEGALLY WHEN WE ARE ON DUTY. ZACK SEEMED VERY PERSISTANT ABOUT IT AND I FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET HIM HOME IN BED. AT THIS POINT I WAS SOBER, I HAD NOT HAD ALOT TO DRINK EARLIER, I KNEW I WAS NOT IMPARED, SO I TOLD ZACK TO GO GET IN MY CAR SO I COULD TAKE HIM HOME. WE GOT INTO MY CAR AND I BEGAN DRIVING TOWARDS ZACKS HOUSE. ON THE WAY TO ZACKS HOUSE HE ASKED SEVERAL TIMES IF I WOULD DROP HIM OFF AT RANDY CANTRELLS AND EVERY TIME I TOLD HIM WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF IT LEGALLY, I THINK IT WAS ONLY THE ALCOHOL TALKING BECAUSE THAT IS NOT ZACKS NORMAL CHARACTER, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY PROFESSIONAL AND MINDFULL OF LAWS. WHEN WE ARRIVED AT ZACKS HOUSE I WALKED HIM INSIDE, HIS GIRLFRIEND WAS THERE AND SHE CAME INTO THE LIVING ROOM, I TOLD HER THAT ZACK WAS REALLY DRUNK AND SHE MAY WANT TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. I WALKED BACK OUT TO MY CAR AND GOT IN TO GO HOME. ZACK WALKED BACK OUT OF HIS HOUSE WITH AN SKS RIFLE AND ONE LOADED MAGAZINE, AS HE GOT BACK INTO MY CAR HE SAID JUST DROP ME OFF AT CANTRELLS HOUSE AND I TOLD HIM NO, IT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. ZACK SAID YOU DONT THINK ILL DO IT, IVE DONE IT BEFORE ILL SHOW YOU WHERE THE DEAD BODIES ARE IN CLAY COUNTY. I THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY THE ALCOHOL TALKING AGAIN AND I SAID IM NOT INTERESTED IN GOING ANYWHERE OR ANY BODIES YOU JUST NEED TO GO IN AND SLEEP IT OFF. ZACK ASKED IF WE COULD JUST GO FOR A RIDE. I WAS TRYING TO APPEASE HIM TO GET HIM TO COOPERATE, SO I AGREED TO GO FOR A RIDE, WE LEFT HIS SUBDIVISION AND HEADED NORTH ON FISK ROAD, ONCE WE GOT UP TO ABOUT SHAG RAG ROAD ZACK PICKED UP HIS RIFLE AND POINTED IT OUT OF MY PASSENGER SIDE WINDOW. AT THAT POINT I HAD ENOUGH AND I TURNED AROUND TO TAKE HIM BACK HOME. WHEN WE GOT TO HIS

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DRIVEWAY HE TOSSED THE RIFLE INTO MY BACK SEAT AND PUT THE MAGAZINE INTO MY GLOVE BOX, ZACK SAID YOU CAN GIVE ME MY RIFLE BACK TOMORROW, NOW TAKE ME TO MY JEEP. AT THIS POINT, I THINK HIS GIRLFRIEND MAY HAVE LET ZACKS DOG OUT BECAUSE ZACKS ROTTWEILER JUMPED INTO THE PASSENGER SEAT WITH ZACK AND ZACK SAID TAKE ME AND CHEWY TO MY JEEP. I TOLD ZACK NO GET THE DOG OUT OF MY CAR AND GO INSIDE AND GO TO BED, I TOLD ZACK THAT HE IS TOO DRUNK TO DRIVE AND I WAS NOT GOING TO DRIVE HIM BACK TO SGT DEMMING'S HOUSE TO GET HIS JEEP. ZACK SEEMED TO GET PISSED OFF AT ME AND I ASKED, WHAT THE DEAL WAS, I ASKED HIM IF HE WANTED TO FIGHT ME OR SOMETHING AND ZACK SAID YES AND GOT OUT OF THE CAR. I GOT OUT OF MY CAR AND SAID WERE PLAYING RIGHT. ZACK DIDN'T RESPOND HE JUST SMILED AND I TOOK THAT AS A YES. I TOLD ZACK WE NEED TO GO IN YOUR BACK YARD OR SOMETHING OUT OF SIGHT. WE DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE WE JUST BEGAN TO WRESTLE IN HIS FRONT YARD. I TOOK ZACK TO THE GROUND AND PUT HIM IN A SUBMISSION HOLD FROM THE GUARD POSITION AND ZACK TAPPED OUT (LIKE SAYING UNCLE). WHEN I LET GO HE PUNCHED ME TWO TIMES IN THE EYE SO I PUT HIM BACK INTO THE SUBMISSION HOLD A SECOND TIME AND HE TAPPED OUT. WHEN I LET GO HE BECAME AGGRESSIVE AGAIN SO I PUT HIM INTO THE SAME SUBMISSION HOLD A THIRD TIME AND HE TAPPED OUT AGAIN. I ROLLED HIM OVER AND LET HIM UP, ONCE WE WERE BOTH ON OUR FEET I SAID, ZACK THIS IS STUPID. THEN I SAW HIM REACH BEHIND HIS BACK WITH HIS RIGHT HAND. I SAID, ZACK WHAT YA GOT AND I HEARD THE GUN SHOT AND FELT THAT I HAD BEEN HIT IN THE NECK. TIME SEEMED TO SLOW DOWN AS IF EVERY THING WAS IN SLOW MOTION. I COULD TASTE SMOKE IN MY MOUTH AND I THOUGHT I SAW SMOKE COME OUT OF MY MOUTH, ALSO I COULD FEEL MY AIRWAY CLOSING OFF. I BEGAN TO RUN SOUTH AND I TURNED AND LOOKED BACK TO SEE IF ZACK WAS BEHIND ME. I COULD SEE ZACK IN THE PASSENGER SIDE OF MY CAR, I KNEW THERE WAS A RIFLE IN MY CAR, I WAS WORRIED THAT HE WAS GOING TO GET IT AND COME AFTER ME, SO I KEPT RUNNING UNTIL I REACHED THE CONNOCO STATION ON TENTH STREET. ONCE I REACHED THE GAS STATION I WENT INSIDE AND TOLD THE FEMALE CLERK, I AM A POLICE OFFICER AND TO CALL 911, TELL THEM IM BRAD SPERRY AND ZACK BIRDWELL SHOT ME IN THE NECK, BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED I WAS GOING TO PASS OUT AND I WANTED THEM TO BE AWARE OF THE SITUATION. I GOT INSIDE THE OFFICE AND TOLD THE CLERK TO GET SOME COVER. WHEN I SAW SHANNON SMITH ARRIVE, I MOVED OUT TO WHERE HE COULD SEE ME AND I WALKED

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TOWARDS HIM. I TOLD HIM ZACK SHOT ME AND HE MAY STILL BE AROUND WITH A RIFLE.. WE
GOT INTO SHANNONS CAR AND SHANNON TOOK ME TO COOKEVILLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL..

END OF STATEMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Sperry", followed by the date "4/1/2002" written in a similar cursive style.

OFFICER BRAD SPERRY

03/29/2002