

BILLINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

VICTIM STATEMENT HEADING

VICTIM: Justin Bickford

C & O NUMBER: 20-76444

DETECTIVE: David Raschkow #383

PLACE: Billings Police Department
3rd Floor City Hall
Detective Division
Billings, Montana

START TIME: 14:12 Hours

END TIME: 15:59 Hours

DATE: October 19, 2020

This is Detective Raschkow with the Billings Police Department referencing case 20-76444. Today's date is October 19th, 2020. The time by my watch is 14:12 hours. Currently speaking with Mr. Justin Bickford of the Billings Police Department.

Q. Justin can I have you say and spell your first and last name for the recording?

A: It's Justin Bickford, J-U-S-T-I-N, B-I-C-K-F-O-R-D

Q: Okay, Justin, I have your date of birth...

A: (CLEARS THROAT)

Q: ...as [REDACTED] is that correct?

A: Yep.

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- Q: And your phone number is [REDACTED], is that correct?
- A: Yep.
- Q: And you are a resident of the City of Billings, is that correct?
- A: Yes.
- Q: And you are currently employed by the Billings Police Department?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Kay, how long have you been employed by the Billings Police Department?
- A: Uh, three years.
- Q: Okay. So we're just gonna go through your, your work history a little bit.
- A: Mm Hm (Affirmative).
- Q: Uhm, do you have any military or security experience prior to law enforcement?
- A: So I enlisted in the army, uh, it was 2007 and then I got a general discharge in 2007 for medical. I have a hypo plastic kidney. I only have one kidney.
- Q: Okay.
- A: So I got sent home for that and then I worked private security for...
- Q: Okay.
- A: ...pfft. Long time.
- Q: Okay.
- A: Lemme try ta do the math quick in my head. (WHISPERS) Three, three. Uh, twelve years...
- Q: Kay.

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- A: ...Probably twelve years' experience in private security field.
- Q: Hm, and in private security who did you work for?
- A: I did, uh, three years at Saint Vincent's here in Billings and then I did, uh, armored currier for Sundown Security in Billings for two years, and then I did, uh, three years for a company in Kersey, Colorado called Union Colony Security.
- Q: Was that another armed position?
- A: Mm Hm (Affirmative). It was an armed position.
- Q: Okay, so, what, what was that company? I'm sorry.
- A: Union Colony Security out of Kersey, Colorado and that was, that one was armed.
- Q: Okay.
- A: And I did three years as a high school campus monitor in Greely, Colorado. That was an unarmed position. Glorified babysitter.
- Q: (CHUCKLES)
- A: And then I did one year of security at the hospital in Greely, Colorado. Northern Colorado Medical Center. NCMC and that was unarmed. I think I did five years of armed security.
- Q: Okay.
- A: Between the currier and Sundown.
- Q: Okay, and then at Saint Vincent's, you, while you're not armed with a handgun, you have a Taser...
- A: A Taser.
- Q: ...and other?
- A: Taser. We did Taser, baton...
- Q: Mm Hm (Affirmative).
- A: ...uh, OC, carried handcuffs. Wore, uhm, armor.

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Q: Okay.

A: So.

Q: Pretty, pretty significant use of force...

A: Yeah.

Q: ...training?

A: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

Q: Kay. Uhm, now in, in your time in the army did you have any type of combat training or anything like that?

A: So I enlisted infantry, had been going through infantry basic...

Q: Okay.

A: ...and then the kidney, I think we were on red phase, so we were half way through infantry training, so I'd done some weapons training and...

Q: Okay.

A: ...little bit of hand to hand and then did a lot of, obviously, land nav cuz it's the army and, uh, some medical field first aid type stuff.

Q: Understood...

A: Was all basic.

Q: ...So you, a portion of basic training then?

A: Mm Hm (Affirmative). Yeah.

Q: Okay, and then you've got twelve years of private security. Now, maybe not necessarily with the armored, but uh, at your time at Saint Vincent's, have you had the opportunity to deal with uncooperative, combative people?

A: Yes.

Q: How often would you say that that was an occurrence?

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A: Once a week. Once every two weeks.

Q: Okay.

A: Fairly, fairly often. We'd, uh, especially like in emergency room, and I worked night weekends for the most of my time there (CLEARS THROAT). So we get called down to assist nurses with people that were just combative or, or have patients that have been discharged leave that didn't wanna leave, so we would help with, in the medical restraints, there were occasions where we'd have to put somebody in handcuffs and usually...

Q: Mm.

A: ...to detain them till we called BPD to come and handle the situation. Get em off the property. Charge em there or trespass em or whatever was necessary for...

Q: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

A: ...that particular call.

Q: Okay. So when did you begin law enforcement?

A: Two, uh, so, I reserved in Laurel for two years. One year each. The first year was, uh, I'd started the reserve program January of 2009. Did the training, so the training was from January to May, uh, I believe it was a hundred and eighty-eight hours of training. Uh, everything from, just some basic law, covering basic law and then we did, uh, defensive tactics...

Q: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

A: ...handcuffing, firearms training, uhm, and I have the full itinerary still. I kept all that paperwork and all the training certificates and everything and so I did that. The, the training program was January to May of 2009...

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Q: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

A: ...graduated the, the reserve academy...

Q: Mm.

A: ...in May of 2009 and then I reserved until, it woulda been June of 2010, and then I resigned my reserve position cuz I took a job striping highways, so I was gonna be gone and on the road and wasn't gonna be able to fulfil my, uh, requirement. Per month you have to work so many hours a month to maintain your status. So I'd resigned at that point, uh, thought for a minute maybe I wasn't gonna do the law enforcement thing...

Q: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

A: ...didn't enjoy the highway striping, so I came back and then got the job at Saint Vincent's Security and kinda...

Q: Okay.

A: ...kinda got my, my, caught the bug again.

Q: Yeah.

A: And they had a, they had a thing where if you were out of the reserves for less than three years, you could come back into the program and by the time I decided I wanted to go back it was just over three years so it...

Q: Okay.

A: ...would have been January of 2014, was it, yeah, I think it, I think it was January 2014 I went back into the reserve program and did the, the academy again, and so, again, January to May of 2014, did the hundred and eighty-eight hours of training. Same, same training criteria. All that, had, had already done all that. Had

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all the certificates, but because I was out of that three-year window...

Q: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

A: ...I went through the whole thing again.

Q: Was there any significant differences between your first academy and...

A: Same...

Q: ...same academy...

A: ...same program.

Q: Okay.

A: Yep.

Q: Then, then we...

A: Yeah.

Q: ...kay, so in '14 you went back into that reserve...

A: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

Q: ...program...

A: Yep.

Q: Okay.

A: Graduated that in May of 2014 and then, uh, fall of 2014, uh, they announced they were gonna have an opening in Laurel so I applied for it and got hired with the Laurel Police Department in...

Q: Uh, which, what month did you say? I'm sorry.

A: Uh, I got hired in November.

Q: Okay.

A: My, my official start date was November 3rd, 2014. So I reserved from May to November, and then, yeah, got to the, the full time spot in November.

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Q: Okay, so you, so you did another reserve sta – basically, till the point you got hired?

A: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

Q: Then once you, once you were hired, then you're a full time...

A: A full time officer.

Q: ...officer. Okay. Uhm, did they have you work the road for a while as a full time officer and then send you to the academy?

A: Yeah. So I did, uh, my 14 weeks FTO. Uh, I remember I got off FTO Valentine 's Day of November, or of, 2015. Not November, obviously, and then went to the academy, uh, September of 2015. So I was...

Q: Okay.

A: ...I was on the road, on my own from February to September.

Q: So, in your FTO program in Laurel, which again, you, you had some law enforcement experience as reserve...

A: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

Q: ...you know, security experience, uhm, what was your training like as, as a trainee in FTO.

A: So, the – the big thing that sticks out with the FTO program in Laurel, at the time we had, uh, you know, Laurel's such a small department, and we had one guy who was a Navy Reserve but he was deployed...

Q: Mm Hm (Affirmative).

A: ...so he was out and then we had another guy that had a pretty wicked back injury so he was out, so I remember, the big thing that stuck out is, instead of three four week phases, I had two six week phases and then...