

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

Q. Alright and it's, not a shock that you're being sent there, we'll say.

A. No.

Q. Okay. Ah, and so the call was that they were, that, someone was siphoning gas, (YAWNS) excuse me. Ah, and they believed it was ah, 2, 2 women and a man, did you say that?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Okay. I'm trying not to interject too many things here but I've been doing a lot of these interviews.

A. Yeah.

Q. Ahm, was there anything else in the dispatch information given to you about, about the call?

A. Not that I recall, eh, not that I recall. It was a, didn't ah, seem like a pretty routine call that I would get. Ahm.

Q. So, now I'm go, I'm just gonna fill in a couple blanks here. My, my understanding of the dispatch was that this was occurring in the covered parking area in the alley between Avenue C and Avenue B. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Ahm, describe that covered parking area for me.

A. Just a description of it?

Q. Just a description.

A. Ahm, there's parking spaces with a, overhang to cover the vehicles. Ah, pretty tight quarters. It's in a alley, those cars pull in to get into the parking. Ahm, it's, it's a lighted area.

Q. So within, (INAUDIBLE) within this covered area, ahm, how do vehicles park in there?

A. How ah...

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

- Q. What's their...
- A. ...once they pull in?
- Q. ...what, right, right. What's their orientation in reference to how they come in from the alley?
- A. Ahm, they're coming in either east or west.
- Q. Okay. And how did you access this area?
- A. I came in, ah, heading westbound. Off of, is that 22<sup>nd</sup> I believe?
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative). Now when you arrived was, were any other units with you?
- A. Yes, there was one right in front of me.
- Q. Okay. So you get in and then there's another patrol unit right in front of you. Do you know who that was?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Who was it?
- A. It was ah, Officer Nelson.
- Q. Okay. So when you arrived at the spot where the suspicious activity was taking place, just kinda run me through your actions at that point.
- A. I ahm, drove up right behind Nelson, he was still moving up to, ah, the people that I could see. I could see a guy standing out in front of a car with the hood open.
- Q. And when you say he's standing in front, ahm...
- A. Yes.
- Q. ...where would he, where was the car position at, that he would be in front of it?

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

A. It was parked in a parking spot, ah, facing north. And then there was also that, red vehicle right next to it. Kinda parked at an angle.

Q. If I give you, just for the purposes of, illustrating. Do you just wanna kinda roughly sketch this out?

A. Okay.

Q. And that'll, I think help. (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

A. So, this is kinda the alleyway. Ahm, pull in here, let's see, should've made that a litte wider. Ah, these are the parking spaces here. Ahm, I don't know how many far in it was but there was some vehicles over here. What I could recall was, ah, this looked, appeared to be black vehicle here with a, the hood was open. Ahm, and then there was, like a red car, but it was kind of angled a little bit.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. It seemed kind of out of the normal. Ahm, from where I saw the guys standing about, right here and I could see as I pulled up, so Nelson pulled up about right here, when I was coming down the alley but then he stopped for a second and I was waiting for him and then he pulled up a little bit further, ahm, I'm gonna say yeah, he, got behind here. And then I pulled up right behind and then I could see 2 people in there, but yeah, ahm. And then Grommes came in behind me.

Q. And how far behind you was Grommes?

A. Ahm, I think he was spaced back a little further than, me and Nelson were a little closer together.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

Q. Okay. Was he immediately there or did it take him a few minutes to get in?

A. I think he was a little bit behind. Not, I can't recall an exact timeframe. But yeah, I don't even think it was a full minute. Behind yeah.

Q. Okay. So what happens after you pull into the alley?

A. I, see ah, Nelson exit his vehicle, so I got out and I saw him come around this way so, I wanted to, ah, talk with the individuals in the other car, cuz I saw him approaching, the man that was standing in front of the vehicle.

Q. Okay. Now when you're heading up here to this car, if I recall correctly there's another car here, in this...

A. Yeah it's...

Q. ...parking space. This is pretty tight for you to get into?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. So as Nelson's going to address the guy that's standing in front of the car with the hood up, your coming to the passenger side...

A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

Q. ...and you're gonna talk to these two women that are in the car?

A. Yep.

Q. Okay. And you said Grommes was maybe a minute behind you?

A. Y-yeah, it, that timeframe's a little skewed, ah, I can't really recall exact, he wasn't, we weren't engaging really with, when I was engaging with the females and I saw Nelson over there, I feel like Grommes was already there.

Q. Okay.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

A. Yeah.

Q. So he's, he's not too far off, but he didn't arrive exactly with you guys is what I'm saying?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. Alright. So you're talking to the 2 females, Grommes arrives within a short timeframe and where does Grommes go?

A. Ahm, I was pretty busy, ahm, talking with them cuz they were a little hes, hesitant at first to give their names, ah, they were speaking really quiet. I actually had ta tell em to speak up. Ahm, and ah, ah, from what I recall I saw Grommes come up and he kinda followed behind Nelson.

Q. So, most of your attention was fixed on the 2 women in the red car? Is that, is that what I'm catching from you?

A. Ahm, yeah. I still kept my eyes on, ah, the man in front of the vehicle.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. Ah, but yeah, I was trying to get them identified.

Q. And did they provide you with names and identification?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Do you remember them at all?

A. I remember the last name Hugs. I don't recall the other names, no.

Q. Alright. Had you had any prior dealings with either of em?

A. I don't believe so.

Q. Okay. How were they acting? You said they were a little reluctant to give you names, but how else were they acting?

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

A. Ahm, it was kind of ah, kind of the just, trying almost to hide something, initially.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. Ah, as to why they wouldn't give their names and were speaking quietly. Ahm, just suspicious. Just ah, ahm, yeah. That was about, about it. I was getting a read off them, just, thinking in my head why are they, why are they talking so quietly and...

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. ...ahm, there was some hesitation, ahm, when, when giving the names.

Q. Were they whispering to each other or, or anything like that?

A. No, I think the, the passenger I think was fidgeting with her phone a little bit.

Q. Hmm.

A. Ah, so some, some nervousness it seemed like. Ahm, yeah. I don't think there was really much between the two.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. Ah, but then again, I was still looking up constantly over at Nelson, ahm, me and Nelson made eye contact several times of, this is kind of weird, wh, what's real, what's really going on here. Ahm, but that was after, Grommes notified me that I didn't even notice that the car was spray painted at first. And, that's when Grommes mentioned to me, this vehicle might be stolen and I think that kind of just raised my, alertness a little bit.

Q. Okay.

A. So my brain just started processing, the stolen vehicle and what that all entails.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

- Q. Okay. Now when you're, when you're kind of taking all this in you've got people who are, being a little bit cagey with you...
- A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- Q. ...not necessarily wanting to give their names, think they might be hiding something and then you find out you got a stolen vehicle, what's this doing to your awareness level?
- A. Ah, it is heightening.
- Q. Okay.
- A. It's raising it.
- Q. And then you, you talked about how you were making eye contact with Nelson...
- A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- Q. ...and this is a little bit hard to articulate, I know what you're talking about, but as the situation's developing and you're, you're exchanging this eye contact, what's, what's happening with these looks that's signaling something to you?
- A. Ahm, from, what I'm getting from Nelson is, looking at him, I'm kinda getting the feel that, he's getting a weird vibe from this guy in front of the vehicle, a suspicious feeling.
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- A. Ahm, yeah, cuz ahm, I think it was kind of a, what is this guy actually up to.
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- A. I mean it was just kind of the eerie feeling and us just looking back and forth. Ahm, yeah.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

- Q. Okay. Ahm, so you were able to run the two women and Nelson was talking with this subject up front, did he ever get a name on him, do you know?
- A. No, I didn't even get a return for mine. I was still waiting.
- Q. Okay.
- A. On Channel 2, yeah.
- Q. So you were waiting for...
- A. Yep...
- Q. ...the return to come back...
- A. ...so I was really...
- Q. ...but you got the information out there...
- A. ...preoccupied with that yeah.
- Q. Okay.
- A. They were a little backed up. Ah, Dispatch was, ahm, but, and, Grommes was trying to figure out the vehicle at the same time too, so there was a lot going on through Dispatch at the time.
- Q. Okay. So what happened after that?
- A. They ahm, I heard over the radio that they weren't getting a return for the name, ah, that the male subject was giving.
- Q. And what does that mean to you?
- A. They're most, usually, most of the time they're giving a false name.
- Q. Now I'm sure, giving the circumstances, ah, him giving a false name is not a surprise?
- A. Ahm, with, eh, everything that's, was going around, all the circumstances combined, it wasn't.
- Q. Okay.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

- A. A surprise. Yeah.
- Q. So what is it do, again, you, you say your aware, awareness level's already heightened and then you hear that this name isn't returning, it might be a fake name, what does that do to your awareness level?
- A. Ah, it heightens even more.
- Q. Okay.
- A. Yeah. As ah, we're gonna have to ah, pretty much detain you to fig, try and figure this out.
- Q. Okay. So what, again, you're, you're preoccupied with the 2 women trying to get them run, but you're also aware of all these other circumstances that are happening right around you...
- A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- Q. ...ahm, what kinda transpires after this point?
- A. After they said the false, er the name's not coming back, I don't know who said it, it was either Grommes or Nelson, ahm, said 'you're giving us a false name' or something like that, ah, believe he said, put your, put your hands behind your back, and ah, I saw, Grommes, ah, grab his wrist to, attempt to put his arms behind his back and from what I call, recall, the male subject pulled away.
- Q. Okay. When he pulled away, what happened?
- A. Grommes immediately ahm, took him to the ground.
- Q. Okay, when ah, when Grommes took him to the ground, what happened after that?

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

A. Grommes took him to the ground and ah, I saw Nelson come to assist him. And ahm, I see them kinda struggling with him a bit on the ground.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. And, keep hearing commands and they're still struggling on the ground so, I finally come over, ahm, around the vehicles and I kind of ah, er I, jump on top of Nelson basically, kinda stack up on top of him.

Q. What, what do you mean by stack up on top of him?

A. Ahm, try and, keep him on the ground from getting back up, ahm, cuz we don't know if he has any possible weapons or anything like that. So, I figured get my weight down, assist Nelson for a second, but then I rotated up to the front, up to the head.

Q. Okay.

A. Ahm, just trying to find, his hands and where I could fit in to try and grab a hold of his wrists. Ah, so he'd, secure him in handcuffs.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative). So the, the goal here for everybody is to try and get control of his hands, is that...

A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

Q. ...Okay.

A. Cuz they were, when I came up they were immediately, he was extremely stiff and ah, his arms were tucked down tight. And he was kinda, yeah, curling up and not giving his arms at all.

Q. Okay. Keep on. What, what's, what's continuing to happen?

A. So yeah, then I, after I stacked up on Nelson, I came over, to the head to see if I could kinda see better of where I could get in ta,

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

- try and grab an arm, ahm, I saw Bickford, eh, already had his, ah, pistol out. I didn't know...
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- A. ...at the time, I was later told of remarks that he said, cuz I couldn't hear him from over here at the car, initially.
- Q. Okay, so but, I'm just gonna back up for a second. You said that Bickford had his, hand his handgun out and there were, and you learned later of some things that were said?
- A. Yes. Cuz I was kind of out of the loop from that. From being over here.
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- A. For a second, cuz I was still, I was like, alright they got him to the ground, he'll be, they'll get him and then I saw em still fighting so, that's when I came over, dropped my stuff and was like, I, ha, I need to get in there and help.
- Q. Understood.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay. Ahm, and we hadn't, we hadn't covered it earlier, by I do know from other (UNINTELLIGIBLE) of the investigation that Bickford arrived a few minutes after everybody else.
- A. Yes.
- Q. And was helping, run names. I know that wasn't, exactly something that you were a part of, you guys were kinda separated, so.
- A. Yeah I, yeah I don't even actually recall seeing him come up.
- Q. Okay.
- A. I think I was pretty preoccupied with...

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

Q. Ye-

A. ...the girls.

Q. So you're, your first real interaction with Bickford is, is, kinda up here when these guys...

A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

Q. Okay. Ahm, so, Bickford had his handgun out, you're still trying to get a hold of a hand.

A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

Q. Ahm, and guy on the ground is still fighting.

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. What ah, what happens from there?

A. Ahm, Nelson, ah, se, ah, asks for somebody to tase him. And then ah, I see Grommes step back and I can hear the, the unholster of the taser from Grommes.

Q. Okay. So you, you know what's coming then?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

A. And then ah, I see his, ah, 2 dots on the male subject's back and I hear the taser go off and I actually see the, dart go in, darts go in.

Q. Okay. And, and you've seen this before correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Where a taser's deployed?

A. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

Q. What's the usual effect that happens when a taser's deployed like that?

A. Ahm, you'll hear, most people, a loud scream over a...

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- A. ...and then ah, it'll be kind of a, release and open up.
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- A. Ah, of the arms and ham, hands, kind of to the area, the muscle seize up and ah, but it didn't appear like any of that happened.
- Q. Okay.
- A. When they hit. It didn't seem like it affected him at all. There was no change at all after that.
- Q. What happened after that?
- A. It was immediately after that, I, I'm still trying to get his hands and immediately after that taser hit, I hear Nelson yell 'He's got a gun' and I was still kind of on the rear end of him and then I hear gunshots go off.
- Q. Okay. Did you see gunfire?
- A. No.
- Q. Okay.
- A. No.
- Q. Do you know about how many shots were put up?
- A. At the time?
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)
- A. No. I had no idea.
- Q. Okay. So you just, you just heard several and...
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay.
- A. I was still so engaged with, ahm, the ground fight...
- Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

A. ...and then it was just, the call for the gun and the shots happened right after that. I didn't have a lot of time to react or step back and view or anything like that.

Q. Okay. Okay. So after the shots, what, what happens after that?

A. After the shots I push back, step back away from him and ah, I can see Nelson and Bickford holding their pistols. I don't recall seeing where Grommes was at. And then ah, processing everything, the thing that popped into my head is I need to get on the radio.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. And I believe I said 'shots fired' on the radio. And ah, then my attention, I saw that they, kinda had that situation under control, ah, so I didn't feel the need to draw my...

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. ...duty pistol the time. Ahm, cuz my attention went straight to the girls in the car.

Q. And what did you do with the 2 women in the car?

A. I asked them to get out of the car. They got out of the car and initially I, told them to sit, like on the front of my patrol vehicle. I think Grommes is like, no, just, just put em inside the car and I put both of them inside. Of my patrol vehicle. In the backseat.

Q. Okay.

A. And that was kind of, yeah, like a, a safety thing. I didn't know if, he was still alive, I heard they call for a gun, I wasn't sure...

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. ...who all shot and stuff like that, at the time.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

Q. Okay, so after you placed the, the women inside your vehicle, what happened after that?

A. Ahm, Bickford, Grommes and Nelson kinda stood watch over him and ah, I ah, I think Bickford told me he was on the phone with somebody earlier. Ahm, so, hold security around the area in case he had, ahm, anybody else coming to him.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. Ahm, yeah. Just for safety and security. So then that's when I, ah, took my duty pistol out of it's holster and kinda held security around the building until more units came.

Q. Okay. And once more units came, were there any other significant actions that you took?

A. No. I, got on the radio, I tried to get on the radio again, but, I was having trouble hearing it. Ahm, and then Bickford got on so, I quit after that. And then I just put the girls in the car and, ahm, I just kind of hung around, yeah. Came around the back and kinda held security over here, looking around the apartments in case anybody else was, he called anybody else around the area.

Q. Hmm.

A. Ahm, yeah.

Q. I'm gonna touch back on the, kinda the ground fight really quick. At any point were the subject's hands controlled?

A. No. Not that I was aware of.

Q. Okay.

A. I ah, from what I could feel they were just tucked down close to his body with his hands close to his waist, ah, he kept em really close to his body.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

Q. And why is it dangerous for him to have his hands tucked in next to his waist?

A. Ahm, it's where a lot of people place handguns, or weapons or knives, stuff like that. In the waistband. Ah, either in the front or the back.

Q. Okay. So what's the purpose then in controlling his hands?

A. Ah, to make sure that, he doesn't reach for a weapon if he has a possible weapon.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative). Ahm, so at an, at no point within this fight was that able to be achieved where, where people could control his hands?

A. No.

Q. Okay.

A. No. For the whole time I, was kinda to the back side and he was, balled up on his side and kept his arms in and couldn't get in there at all now.

Q. Okay. Is there anything else that sticks out in mind that's significant about this?

A. Ahm, not really. Ah, to me it's, I still wonder, why the complainant thought that he was siphoning gas.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. Ah, I don't recall ever seeing any gas cans anywhere. Ahm, the girls were, they did tell me that they were there to help jumpstart his vehicle.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. Ahm, I just, can't really think of anything.

Q. Okay.

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

A. Significant.

Q. Is there anything that we have not talked about that you think is important?

A. No, I don't think so. I think that's, pretty much everything.

Q. Okay.

A. We got in there.

Q. I neglected a question. Did you, at any point see the suspect with a firearm?

A. No. I, I didn't, no.

Q. Okay.

A. No. Cuz ah, yeah, when I heard the call for the gun, he was still facing away from me. I couldn't see the front of the male subject.

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. Ahm, cuz I think for a second ah, my eyes were taking off cuz, the taser darts actually went pretty much right in between my hands, pretty close so...

Q. Uh Huh (Affirmative)

A. ...I think that startled me for a second and, the call for the gun happened right after that and, ahm, I was still on top and yeah. I couldn't really see. I, I felt like a blast while I was on top, but, I don't know what that, could've been from the, taser wires or, could've been a number of things.

Q. Okay.

A. Ahm, yeah, I don't know, anything else.

Q. Ahm, when you say that you're on top, are you on top of the subject? Like, like, having him in a control position, or when you, are you reaching over people to try and get his hands?

**Taylor "Tate" Vladic 20-76444**

A. When the shots happen?

Q. Yes.

A. I, from what I, I recall, I was, no I wasn't on top of him. I was, ahm, kneeling beside him, to the backend of him.

Q. Okay.

A. I believe. I ah, yeah.

Q. Okay. Alright. I just wanted ta, to be sure of that so.

A. Yeah.

Q. I don't think I have any other questions for you at this time, ahm, do you have any questions to me?

A. No.

Q. Okay. I think for now we can go ahead and conclude. The time is 09:28 hours.

(END OF TAPED INTERVIEW)

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**D.R. / ty**