

Statement of JACOB [REDACTED] ALBERS, DOB [REDACTED] taken at 1420 hours on 11/15/2017 in Suite 500, 701 Fourth Avenue South, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Minneapolis, MN. Questioned by Detective(s) Lisa Kasperek and Christofer Nybeck. Steno Jackie Fallon typing. Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Case No. 17014746.

ADVISORY

Before we start, I want to make it clear to you that this is a voluntary statement. This is an investigation into the death of RONALD LEE KLITZKA, DOB 11/20/1954. This investigation is being conducted by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and the information gathered will be presented to the Hennepin County Attorney. The County Attorney may, and usually does, review for any criminal charges that are justified under the law.

Q Do you understand that this is a death investigation and that you are free to give or not to give a statement?

A Yes.

Q The information you have may be important to this investigation, but a decision not to talk to me today cannot be used against you in any City of Crystal employment matter. Do you understand that?

A Yes.

Q What is your full name, age and badge number?

A Jacob [REDACTED] Albers, 32, Badge #333.

Q Are you currently employed as a licensed City of Crystal police officer?

A Yes.

Q How long have you been a licensed police officer?

A Four years.

Q How long have you been employed by the City of Crystal as a police officer?

A Four years as a patrol officer.

Q Are all Crystal Police Department officers trained in the use of less than lethal, specifically a shotgun that fires beanbag rounds?

A Yes.

Q Are all Crystal Police Department patrol squads equipped with less lethal shotgun?

A Yes.

- Q What shift are you assigned to work and what are the hours?
A Day Shift, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday through Friday and every other Saturday.
- Q Were you working on 11/10/2017?
A Yes.
- Q What were your hours that shift?
A 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Q What was your call number?
A 3333.
- Q Were you in a fully marked squad car and wearing a standard issued Crystal Police uniform?
A Yes.
- Q At some time did you respond to a call in Crystal at the address of 5128 Angeline Avenue North?
A Yes.
- Q What was the call to which you responded?
A It came out as a "mental", which means a mental health situation.
- Q And what other details were given?
A A male had two guns to his head and threatening to kill himself or others.
- Q Were you aware of any alert being at this address from prior incidents?
A Yes. I remember that there was an alert put out in an email that the suspect might have some mental issues.
- Q What time did you arrive on the scene?
A It took us approximately three minutes to respond from the call time.
- Q What happened when you arrived on scene?
A Myself, my partner Officer Tourville, we parked at Angeline and Quail and then Sergeant Dorr was right behind us. We set up there until we could figure out what was going on.
- Q What happened next?
A We waited for other officers from other agencies, New Hope and Robbinsdale to come. And it was pretty much setting up a perimeter and getting a visual of the house.

Q What happened next?

A Sergeant Dorr told two officers from Robbinsdale to go and watch the front of the house from the south side of Angeline from the backyards. I stayed at the staging area until we got more direction on where to go. Then I heard on the radio that one officer was asking for a description of the suspect and height and weight so I checked DVS and got that information and put it in the call. At that point I waited with Officer Tourville, who is a negotiator, who was speaking with the suspect's stepdaughter. At this time I was monitoring westbound on Angeline to prevent any possible ambush by the suspect.

Q What happened next?

A Officer Tourville continued to speak with the stepdaughter and suspect's wife. Officer Tourville was able to learn the layout of the suspect's house, how many guns he had in his possession, and statements that he had made regarding harming himself, neighbors, and law enforcement. Officer Tourville relayed this information to all assisting officers via radio.

Q What did Officer Tourville relay to law enforcement regarding his conversation with the stepdaughter and the suspect's wife?

A Officer Tourville notified us that the suspect had at least two guns that the stepdaughter knew of. The suspect shoots at Bill's Gun Range regularly. The stepdaughter and wife stated that the suspect wants to get in a shootout; that he wants to die by his gun or ours.

Q What happened next?

A The suspect would call in to dispatch or call family members and we'd get our information through dispatch. The suspect said he was going to shoot anyone he sees. He said he has a bomb and he was going to blow this place up. Officer Landherr was down in position watching the house and he could see movement and he could hear yelling.

Q What happened next?

A It was aired that suspect said he was going to come out shooting. We were directed by Sergeant Dorr that we were going to start making our approach. So we approached along Angeline along the houses on the north side walking westbound.

Q What equipment did you bring with you on your approach?

A At this point I had an MP-5 long rifle and my handgun, a Beretta. Sergeant Dorr had a bunker shield. Officer Kuyper had a long gun and a shield. And we also had the Plymouth canine. And then Sergeant Brunner had his pistol.

Q How far did you progress until you became stationary?

A We walked all the way down to the house that was just to the east of the target house. I think it was 5122 Angeline.

Q What happened next?

A We stationed there and listened. At some point Sergeant Dorr told me to go back to the squad and get a less lethal shotgun. At that point I ran back to the squad and exchanged my MP-5 for a less lethal shotgun and returned back to the stationary officers.

Q What happened next?

A I got back to Sergeant Dorr's group with my less lethal. At that point it was aired that the suspect came out of the house and had an object in his hand that emitted a red laser. He was yelling something that I couldn't understand and at this time he was out of my view. Approximately five minutes after my return to Sergeant Dorr's group I heard the discharge of a firearm coming from the area of the suspect. The suspect's movements and actions, including the discharge of the firearm, were being aired over the radio.

Q What happened next?

A It was discussed that if the suspect came towards us I was going to use less lethal on the suspect. I was directed to do this by Sergeant Dorr. Approximately 10 minutes later I heard a second gunshot from the same area where the first gunshot was fired.

Q What happened next?

A We were trying to figure out what he was shooting at. It was aired that the suspect was in the garage and called somebody on the phone and was irate and was going to start shooting neighboring houses. After the second gunshot, Sergeant Dorr directed me to utilize the less than lethal if the suspect is observed in the driveway.

Q What happened next?

A After one to two minutes I heard a third shot, I then heard [REDACTED] which means officer fired their weapon.

Q What happened next?

A Sergeant Dorr and other officers started advancing towards the suspect's garage. As we were approaching the suspect's body, at approximately 10-15' from the suspect's body, Sergeant Dorr directed me to fire the less than lethal at the suspect's midsection. The purpose of me firing this less than lethal shot was to make sure it was safe for officers to approach or if the suspect still posed a threat. I only fired one less than lethal round.

Q What happened next?

A We observed there was no reaction from the suspect and we approached the suspect. At this time I observed that the suspect was laying on his back face up. Sergeant Dorr approached the suspect and utilized his ballistic shield to control the suspect. I then applied handcuffs, and turned the suspect onto his

stomach where I completed the handcuffing process. At this time, I observed a large exit wound to the back of the suspect's head. Based upon the amount of blood observed and the size of the wound, I believed that the suspect was deceased.

Q Did you observe any weapons?

A Yes. I noticed the first gun was between his legs when he was lying in the garage. This was before I shot the less than lethal. And then as we made our slow approach to the body then I could see a revolver on his right side. Both guns were on the ground.

Q What happened next?

A Then North Memorial paramedics were there within seconds and confirmed that the suspect was deceased. They cleared. Officer Kuyper and I were told to check him. I checked his back area and could feel that there were gun magazines in his back pockets. At that point since he wasn't a threat, I didn't continue my search. Some of the officers went inside the house to secure the house while Officer Kuyper and I stayed outside the house with the suspect and the guns.

Q What happened next?

A I stayed there until I was relieved by Lt. Underthun. He told me to put the less lethal shotgun down in the driveway and to go back to the staging area.

Q What happened next?

A At that time, I called my wife and told her I was involved in a critical incident and that I wasn't going to be home for a little bit. I then drove myself back to the Crystal Police Department. Officer Tourville came and sat with me. The Sheriff's Crime Lab arrived and took photographs of my person and my duty belt and uniform.

Q What happened next?

A A Hennepin Sheriff's deputy transported me to North Memorial for a blood draw. Then that deputy drove me back to Crystal Police Department where I met with detectives and it was determined that I would give my statement on Wednesday.

Q What time did you finish work that day?

A 2315 hours.

Q What did you do when you concluded your shift?

A I went home.

Q Is there anything else that you can think of that we need to know about this incident?

A Not at this time.

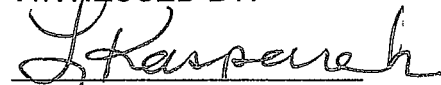
Q Is this statement true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

A Yes.

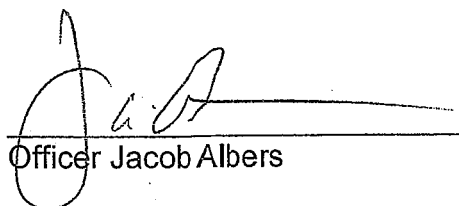
Q After reading this statement and finding it to be true and correct, are you willing to sign it?

A Yes.

WITNESSED BY:

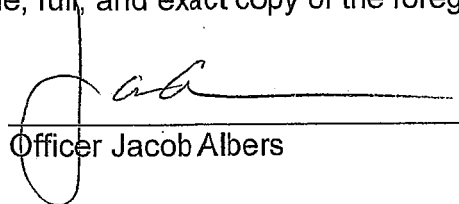


Detective Lisa Kasperek



Officer Jacob Albers

I hereby certify that I have received a true, full, and exact copy of the foregoing statement consisting of 6 pages.



Officer Jacob Albers