

Witness 6 "John" Interview with FDLE and State Attorney Investigators

Transcript from Justice Quest.net

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Investigator: Today's date is March 20th, 2012. The time is 6:10pm. Present is-- [Redacted] --as well as John Post - er, Jim Post - with the, ah, State Attorney's Office, 18th Judicial, and myself, John Bachelor, a special agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The purpose and scope of our inquiry today is to conduct an independent follow-up with regards to the shooting investigation that has been conducted by the Sanford Police Department within your community. The inquiry is being conducted by agents of the FDLE as well as investigators with the office of the State Attorney.

I'm going to, um, hand you a copy titled "Narrative Report, Sanford Police Department" and dated February 26th, 2012. If you would please, look that over and indicate if that is your handwriting, your signature, and a statement that you provided to the Sanford Police Department.

John W_6: That is definitely my handwriting. [long pause while reading statement] Yes.

Investigator: Ok. Is that your, your signature on the bottom?

John W_6: Correct.

Investigator: And it's dated Feb. 26th, 2012?

John W_6: Yes.

Investigator: Ok. And the time is 6:12pm. Ok. If you would, could you please go over the events that occurred that night on Feb., 26th, 2012?

John W_6: About the time around when all this started, we were watching TV like we usually do at nighttime. I believe it was the same weekend as the Daytona 500, and while we were watching TV, we kinda heard some loud noise outside, so we figured maybe it was just, you know, either kids in the neighborhood or people, you know, just having a good time outside. And then we heard it again so we muted the TV but didn't hear anything for a second, um, and then we heard it like it was coming towards us, getting a little louder.

So, I kept the TV on mute and went to go look outside through the sliding glass door, through the blinds. And there's only a porch light, so I couldn't truly see what was out in the grass area. And my fiancée, I-- I'm pretty sure advised me not to open the door, but I had to-- I had to check just to see what was going on. And I opened the sliding glass door, and, looking out there, it almost looked like, a s-- like a dog attacked by s-- or something like that because, there was a man vertically looking forward on, like towards the ground. So, if I'm standing at the glass door-- I don't know how to describe-- It was pretty much like I was laying on the ground directly in front of, like, directly in front of me on the sidewalk.

So I couldn't really tell what was going on until I heard "Help, help, help" yelled again, and then I noticed there was a guy in a lighter colored shirt or sweatshirt or whatever he was wearing, um, I think it was a red color or a white color, uh, on the bottom of the person. So I yelled what was going on, and um, and, you know, "Help, help" came out. And then I was like, "Hey, cut it out," and they kinda turned and made it onto the sidewalk. And the person wearing the black outfit was on top of that person at that time. And that's when I said I was calling 9-1-1.

I turned around, told [Redacted] to get off the phone, get upstairs. And I locked the door and started dialing 9-1-1. And as soon as I picked up on 9-1-1, a couple seconds later, as we were about to make our way upstairs, it sounded like, like a rock hit a window. I never heard a gunshot before, but now, knowing that was the gunshot that I heard, um-- And, from that point, as she was still making it up the stairs, I ran upstairs while I was on the phone with the, ah, 9-1-1, ah, person that answered my call.

And I ran over to the window to look down, and when I looked down, I saw the person that was actually on top at that point, was laying in my grass kind of in a sprawled position, not moving. Um, and then I saw the-- another person with his hands in the air. As-- it looked-- I don't believe it was cops at that point-- it looked more like neighbors with flashlights that were coming around the corner. Uh, and the guy had his hands in the air, saying "The gun's on the ground. I shot this guy in self defense." And, no lie, at least-- maybe 20 seconds later, the cops are already all there. I think it was just 'cause so many people had already dialed in. And the operator also told me that, you know, there was five other callers calling-in for the same thing that happened. Um, at that point, um, you know, I think I even stated, you know, "Holy shit," or something like that, you know, "I think he's dead," because he wasn't moving.

Um, when we went back downstairs, um, you know, I was still shaken up and everything. I'm pretty sure they flipped the body over to do CPR, 'cause I do remember someone trying to do CPR. Um, so at that point, I didn't know if he was still alive, or where-- I didn't know if he had been, you know, where he had been shot, or if he had been shot. But I was guessing at that point, when they were doing CPR, he had been shot. Um, and then when I looked out my blinds again, a couple minutes later, um, I noticed there was a yellow-- Uh, I'm guessing it was a couple minutes, I don't know, the time kind of flew after that point-- but I noticed there was a yellow sheet or blanket over, uh, the person laying in my grass. And I know that usually means that that person is deceased at that point.

Um, and then after that, it was just, you know, pretty much giving statements the rest of the night, um, you know, talking with my neighbors next door, um. I didn't have my patio door open, but I heard, um, you know, from other people-- other people had, you know, doors open or something like that, so they could hear it a little better, but I could only hear the 'helps' through, you know, with all the doors and windows closed.

So I couldn't tell, you know, who was yelling "Help," this or that, but you could tell it was a male, of course. Um, but as to who was yelling, I-- you know, I-- I can't make that call. At first, I thought it was the person on the ground, just because, you know - me thinking rationally - if someone was on top, the person on the bottom would just be yelling. But, you know, that's just an assumption. I truly can't tell who, you know - after I thought ab-- you know, after I'm thinking about it - was yelling "Help," just because it is so dark out on that sidewalk. Um, you can't see a mouth or, you know. I really wish I could have, 'cause that woulda really helped, but that was pretty much all I saw at that point. I didn't see how it started. I didn't see how it ended. I just saw the part where they were in an altercation on the ground.

Investigator: Ok. You mentioned, in the very beginning of your statement--

John W_6: Um hm.

Investigator: --you were inside when all of this started. What were you referring to?

John W_6: You could tell it was farther away from where it ended up-- in the grass area, you know, behind our townhomes right here. It seemed like it was a lot farther away, 'cause, as time went on, it got closer. And you could really tell, "Oh that's, I think that's someone actually yelling help this time," and it's not people outside, you know, roughhousing, and, you know. So when my first, ah, thought when I did open the door and noticed it was a man, you know, on the ground, I thought it was just two guys out there wrestling, you know, just-- I don't know. Just horse-- you know, horsing around or something like that. But then when I noticed, "Help, help, help" was yelled out, I knew it was serious. That's when I said, you know, "Stop." Or I said "stop" before. I was, "What's going on," and then I said "Stop". And they were still wrestling, and then I said that's why I'm calling 9-1-1, and then went inside.

Investigator: You keep referring to, "It was farther away." What was farther away?

John W_6: If you hear someone yelling, and they're two blocks, three blocks down? It's going to be a faint sound. You know, you're not going to hear it as loud. But it sounded like it more or le-- it more-- it progressed towards us? I don't know if it was coming from the left or the right, but the sound just got louder. Um, because I think it-- either someone had started, you know, yelling "help," and it just got closer and closer until, you know, we could truly hear it close enough. And that makes sense, because it was right, you know, in the back yard area. That's what I mean, um, "it sounded," you know, "like it was getting closer," --just the, the sounds of the "Helps" that were getting closer with movement towards, you know, our location.

Investigator: In your-- you indicated you're not sure what direction the sounds would have been coming from?

John W_6: No.

Investigator: Did you hear any other noises or sounds other than what you believe to be "help"?

John W_6: No.

Investigator: You mentioned-- When you first opened the door, you described what you saw - it might have been a dog fight.

John W_6: Yeah.

Investigator: What made you believe?

John W_6: 'Cause it was so dark outside. And, ah, you know, I-- it seemed like the person that was on top, or what I could see--

Investigator: Was wearing-- the person on top was wearing?

John W_6: All, it was a dark colored jacket. It was like, all black jacket, or, or something like that. Um, I just couldn't tell what was going on, because I didn't see anybody underneath. I didn't see anybody on the left or the right. But then, ah, there was a guy on the bottom that seemed like he was pushing up, er, you know, I can't tell what it was. But then I finally saw, you know, like a guy on the bottom and I heard, you know, "Help, help, help." And then, you know, I yelled at them, and said, "Hey, cut it out." And, you

know, it kept going. And then, ah, you know, I sai-- said, "I'm calling 9-1-1," and went back inside.

Investigator: You mention the person on the bottom. What was he wearing, when you noticed that?

John W_6: It was either a lighter colored shirt that ha-- it was-- er, something red on it, or white. It was-- it wasn't an-- a solid, dark color. You could tell a distinction between, ah, you know, what each person was wearing at that point.

Investigator: You could tell what each person was wearing?

John W_6: Meaning, like, a dar-- one had a dark shirt on compared to another person had a red or a white shirt on. That's what I mean by the distinction.

Investigator: Ok. And the person on top - as indicated in your statement today - dark colored?

John W_6: Yes.

Investigator: And the person on the bottom was wearing?

John W_6: Either a red shirt or a white shirt of some sort. It happened so quick, there's only so many things I could catch right away. But definitely the person on top had a-- at that point when I did see them wrestling, it was a dark, you know, sweatshirt or something like that on top.

Investigator: Could you tell if there was a hood up or down--

John W_6: Not really--

Investigator: --or a hat or anything on the person on top?

John W_6: Not really, 'cause it-- I mean it was just so dark. And if you see the back sidewalk at night time, if someone's out there you really have to look out there for the most part to even tell if it's-- you know, if it was-- say, you're wearing wearing a hat or a hoodie of some sort.

Investigator: Ok. And this person on top with the dark colored jacket, how was he on-- or did-- could you determine if it was a male or female on the top?

John W_6: Hmmm. I never thought it was a female. I don't know if that's just from me thinking, you know, a guy and a girl wouldn't be out there fighting. Um, but-- definitely couldn't tell-- you couldn't-- I mean, there was no long hair or anything like that, so there might have been a hoodie on, ah, might have just had all black hair, um--

Investigator: Could you tell, ah, what race, the person on top?

John W_6: At that point when I did see it? When I first walked out there, the black guy was on top. And the only reason I can tell that was because the guy that was on, ah, the ground under him, at that point, wrestling, was definitely a lighter color.

Investigator: And this is the time you are looking out the window?

John W_6: Yelling at them, yes - to stop.

Investigator: And you indicate that the guy on top is darker.

John W_6: Yes.

Investigator: And how do you know that?

John W_6: That's what I'm say-- eh-- unless he had a hoodie all the way on, it was a dark colored man on top.

Investigator: And the person on the bottom, could you see their face?

John W_6: I could see that it wasn't another dark man on the bottom. That's the only thing that I could truly differentiate. I didn't know if he was White, Hispanic, Asian. I just knew he wa-- he didn't have a dark color tone, you know, who was at the bottom at that point.

Investigator: At this moment, the person on the top-- how were they positioned? On--

John W_6: The guy, on top, was on top of the other guy, vertically.

Investigator: And-- And-- You're going to have to maybe help me with-- with "vertically." When-- what you're saying, was he laying down?

John W_6: Yeah. Laying down. Yeah. They were on the ground. Like thi-- So if I'm standing up, and I lay completely down flat, face first, it's pretty much like if you were on top of someone wrestling. They're on their back. He's on, ah-- You know, he's on top of him.

Investigator: Ok. And this is your first account, when you open the door.

John W_6: Yeah

Investigator: We're still talking about the same event.

John W_6: Yes.

Investigator: Ok. At that moment, when you look out, and you see this person on top in a-- in a laying position, what is happening?

John W_6: They're struggling. That's what mean by wrestling at that point. I can't tell, you know, what is going on at that point. All I know is someone is on top of the other person and I hear "Help, help, help" yelled a couple times, and me just thinking that it is the person on the bottom yelling "help." Because, you know, just-- if anybody saw that, they probably would have thought the same thing - that the person on the bottom is yelling "Help". If you see two guys fighting. 'Cause I couldn't see the front side of, ah, the Black male's face. But I could see partial, you know, front side of the guy on the bottom because his

face was facing this way when he was pushing up, er, you know, they were wrestling on top of each other. And this-- and when I-- When I say how they were laying, the sidewalk out there goes like this, they were at that, at that point. I don't know if that will help.

Investigator: Ok. We'll have you draw here in just a second. OK. Again, back to the same account, when you're looking out, your initial-- We're referring to your initial view.

John W_6: Correct.

Investigator: Do you see anything in any of the two persons hands?

John W_6: No. I don't see anything in their hands. Not to say that there wasn't, but I-- I really can't see anything in their hands at that point.

Investigator: And you indicate today, you heard while you were looking at this, "Help."

John W_6: Yes.

Investigator: Do you know how many times?

John W_6: I believe it was, like, three. Two or three, I would believe.

Investigator: Did you ever make eye contact with the person on the bottom?

John W_6: When I first saw the account, it looked like-- I can't tell if he was making eye contact with me, or if he was just trying to get up from the bottom. Ah, being that dark out, you-- I can't see that far. I can't tell if he was making eye contact with me. No, I cannot. But it does look like he was trying to get up while they were both wrestling each other.

Investigator: Ok. Was anything else other than "help" said, at that time.

John W_6: Not that I heard. Once I closed the door and ran upstairs, I don't know if anything else was said.

Investigator: When you looked at this individual, and you wasn't sure if he was making eye contact, will you-- Did you see-- Describe what you saw.

John W_6: All I saw was, at first, it looked like just one individual out there. It was dark. I couldn't really tell what was happening. And then after I said, "Hey, what's going on," I could see that there was another man in a lighter shirt, or a lighter sh-- colored shirt on the bottom who looked like he was trying to get up at that point. And then I heard "Help, help help" yelled. So that's when I said, "I'm calling 9-1-1." Or, I said, "Cut it out, and I'm calling 9-11." And that's when I turned around, and locked my door, and ran upstairs to call 9-1-1.

Investigator: Ok. And, in your original statement that you read today, you indicate - and if you would, you can read it - would you--

John W_6: When they move to the sidewalk?

Investigator: Well, could you start here where you write, "I opened the door"?

John W_6: Yeah. Do you want me to read it out loud?

Investigator: Yes.

John W_6: Okay. [Reading] Opened the door and saw a guy on the ground getting hit by another man on top of him in a straddling position. Position hitting a guy in a red sweatshirt or something of a red top. The guy on the bottom getting hit was yelling "Help." [Stops reading] Keep going?

Investigator: You indicate the guy on the bottom was yelling help.

John W_6: Yeah, because that's my first thought when, you know, I look out there and I see this happening and the other guy's on top with, you know. I don't know if there are, you know, punches that are being thrown at him at this point, or if he's trying to hold him down, um, you know. It really just happened so quick, for the most part, but if anybody had not known anything what was going on, that's what it seemed like to me at that point when, you know, I looked out there and there's one guy on top of the other at that point, and both arms are, you know, d-- I don't know if he's trying to hold him down, or if those are actually punches, um, but. Yeah.

Investigator: Ok. Alright, now you just mentioned moving to the sidewalk.

John W_6: So when they were wrestling, when I said, "Cut it out," and before I turned to go inside, they moved up onto the sidewalk. And they're no longer laying this way, they were this way at that point. So they wrestled to that point.

Investigator: And, and you're showing, ah, parallel with the-- with the dog walk?

John W_6: Yeah, this is the sidewalk. They were this way when I first saw 'em wrestling, and moved to that way.

Investigator: Ok. And, and, who's in what position at the point?

John W_6: Same position at that point.

Investigator: And, and what is that?

John W_6: Ah, the guy with black sweatshirt is on top of the guy with the red or, or white sweatshirt. And that's why I made the statement that he was hitting him on top-- Because, I mean, that's what it looked like from where I was standing. It could have been him just trying to forcefully hold the guy down, or it could be hitting him. You know, I just truly can't-- You know, after I thought-- You know, I'm thinking about it and everything. It could have been either. It's jus-- You know, I can't see that close to where they were actually at. But he was still on top with both hands, ah, either trying to hold the guy down or hitting him at that point.

Investigator: At this time in the event that you are describing, can you now see the face of the person on top?

John W_6: Not-- Maybe just from the side? That's about it.

Investigator: Did you?

John W_6: I don't even know.

Investigator: Can you see the person's face on the bottom?

John W_6: No.

Investigator: Are they-- Is there any conversation between the two persons?

John W_6: I did not hear a conversation.

Investigator: Any yelling between the two persons.

John W_6: Just the "Help." And more of a struggle and "Help." That's what I thought was very odd when, you know, I ran-- I opened the door and said to stop that, you know, neither-- whoever was on top on that point, didn't, you know, get off at that point, and say you know, "Hey, listen," you know, "This guy's," you know, "attacking me," or "I'm with--", you know, that's what was weird to me that it didn't stop, at that point. And that's when, you know, the "helps" came out, and I yelled, you know, "911"-- "And I'm calling 9-1-1," and went back inside.

Investigator: At this time where they change positions, can you see anything in either one of 'em's hands?

John W_6: No.

Investigator: And I think I asked you, but I'm going to ask again: Could you see the person on the bottom's face?

John W_6: No, I could just see the color of the outfits, for the most part.

Investigator: Which was?

John W_6: Ah, the red on the bottom, and the black sweatshirt on top. Now at that point, when I did see-- when they did move to the sidewalk, it was 1, 2, "Calling 9-1-1," inside. So it was that quick.

Investigator: And I'm going to have you take a piece of paper here. I'm going to give you a pen. And I would like you to-- You can show the-- An X or an O where the, the, the two individuals you're describing was located. Please indicate your house, maybe something else that would be a landmark. And then would you please, ah, show the first position that you described in your statement today and label it #1, and then the second position that you described today, and maybe put a #2 or label it as #2 above it please.

[John Draws]

John W_6: Does that help?

Investigator: OK. We are looking at a sketch provided by Mr. [Redacted]. You have 'Door of Patio.' You have '1' and '2' where it says 'Door of Patio.' Is this going to be your residence?

John W_6: Yes.

Investigator: OK. Would you write, ah, maybe, 'My House.' OK. Did you notice anybody else out there?

John W_6: No.

Investigator: During either the first position you observed or the second position, did you notice anybody else outside?

John W_6: No.

Investigator: Ok. In your statement today, you indicated that you closed the door to call 9-1-1.

John W_6: To get my phone and call 9-1-1, correct.

Investigator: Was it during that conversation that you heard the "rock" as you described on the window?

John W_6: Yes.

Investigator: Where were you at inside the house at this point?

John W_6: I want to say I was about-- I don't know how far that is from the window there, but I was right about going up the stairs right there, [Redacted] was following me.

Investigator: Could you tell me again, what happens after that?

John W_6: I'm on the phone with 9-1-1. I tell them, you know, "I think I heard a sh"-- you know, it sounded like something hit my window, or a shot went off, I think. Um, and I run upstairs as fast as I can to see what happened from above instead going right back to my door, 'cause I have no idea if there's, you know, a gunfight or anything going on in the backyard so I go upstairs to a more safe location. When I get upstairs, then I look down and I notice that, ah, the guy that was on top is actually in the grass, ah, not moving. While the other gentleman has his hands in the air, um, and there's other-- Ah, I think there were two other gentlemen out there with flashlights asking what was going on. And the one guy that was on the bottom said, "I shot the other guy in self defense, my gun's on the ground."

Investigator: You mentioned earlier that the person on top, when you went out to view, was in a sprawled position, not moving.

John W_6: Correct. Correct. And that's when I actually said on the call, "I believe he's dead."

Investigator: Can you describe if he wa-- this person was face-up or face-down?

John W_6: [Sigh] From how I was looking at it, it looked like he was face-down.

Investigator: And how was this person's hands positioned?

John W_6: It almost looked like a crime scene, ah, a crime scene photo that you would see painted on the floor with the legs kind of, ah-- I don't know how to explain it. Um. It wasn't in, you know, arms next to each other, legs next to each other. It was kind of in a sprawled position. I just remember looking at the legs and thinking, "Oh, that has to be face-down," and not the other way, because I'm pretty sure, he was face down.

Investigator: You keep moving your hands. And again, for the sake of the audio-recording, could you try to indicate the sprawled-- the hands position.

John W_6: I mean that's kinda what, ah-- I'm trying to remember the full position of the body, when I'm looking down into the grass. But it is in the position, you know, with one hand up, you know, one hand down type of position. And the position that I saw him in there was not the position that I saw him when I went back downstairs and opened my blinds. Ah, he was on his-- It looked like he had been turned on his back, ah, you know, hands and legs next to each other. And that's why I also, you know, thought that he was face-down, because they had to flip him to give him CPR when they got here. Because I don't think, if he was on his back, ah, the medical staff would have moved him at that point, to make sure nothing else was wrong. I think the only reason why they had to move him because he was face-down and they had to flip him to give him CPR.

Investigator: Again, referring to the hands real quick, for the sake of the audio recording, you were indicating a hand position kinda as if he were swimming, with a hand forward and a hand back.

John W_6: Correct.

Investigator: As a face-down position.

John W_6: Correct.

Investigator: You indicated when you came downstairs, the body was flipped over.

John W_6: By the time I came downstairs, like I said, it was-- I mean, 20 seconds, the cops were already here. Um, and by the time-- And, you know, I didn't open the blinds as soon as I came downstairs, 'cause of course, you know, I'm still frazzled and everything. But when I did open the blinds, ah, he looked like he had been turned, and the body wasn't in the same position, because I'm guessing they flipped him over, 'cause I did see them giving CPR.

Investigator: Ok. Was it-- Who was giving CPR?

John W_6: That, I really couldn't, I couldn't tell. I didn't know if was maybe the guys out with flashlights, if it was the cops at that point, um. And I really didn't want to actually look out there because it was very traumatic seeing that.

Investigator: And what made you think it was CPR they were doing.

John W_6: Ah, no. I could see them, over. And you could kinda hear through the window a little bit. Um--

Investigator: Ok. From the time you hear the sounds as you indicate in todays statement - initially - to the time you hear the rock, as you indicate, against the glass door, how long do you think that was?

John W_6: I, I truly couldn't even give an estimate. Maybe 5 minutes? Maybe? Um, I mean, at that point I'm really not keeping track 'cause I just think it's something else going on, um. But, you know, I-- Yeah, I really don't know how long between, you know, when we first initially thought we heard something, to when we knew someone was out in our back and, you know, it was a lot louder.

Investigator: And you indicated you turned your porch light on?

John W_6: Our porch light's always on. So it was already on.

Investigator: What color is your porch light?

John W_6: Just a regular light.

Investigator: White light, not a yellow or anything?

John W_6: No. But it also only shines on my patio part, 'cause it's got a globe around it, so it's not like a flood light or anything like that.

Investigator: Do you know what the whether was that night?

John W_6: Ugly. It was drizzly. Definitely not a nice night out.

Investigator: When you say "drizzly"?

John W_6: Ah, raining a little here off and on. And it was dark at that time, of course.

Investigator: Um, I just wanted to clarify a little bit on when you said they were wrestling.

John W_6: Uh huh.

Investigator: Can you describe what either person was doing a little bit more with their hands?

John W_6: It looked like almost a struggle. A hand struggle. If I was on top of you, you know, just kinda wrestling around trying to get like a position of some sort maybe. Um, that's all I could, you know, see with the hands for the most part. And then if you were the person on the bottom, um, I'm not sure if he was holding on to the guy on the top, or if he was trying-- 'cause it looks like he's trying to get up, ah, from the one point when I do see him, finally. 'Cause I only see one guy at first. Um, it looks like the other guy was trying to get up because, I mean, his back was raised off, ah, the ground at that point. So it looked like he was trying to get up at that point. But I don't know. I couldn't see his hands - the guy on the

bottom - I couldn't see where his hands were. I didn't know if they were on the other guy's sweatshirt, or if he was, you know, trying to actually push off of him or anything like that. I couldn't see the other guy's hands.

Investigator: OK. At one point in a verbal statement that you gave, you had mentioned, um, like "MMA." What, what were you referring to there.

John W_6: Yeah. 'Cause when it mo-- when it moved onto the concrete, um, the guy in the black shirt, or sweater, was on top of him. And when I say-- and when I meant to say MMA, it was more of, just, like-- He was, you know, over his leg part. Like he-- I'm trying to think how to put this. If you, if you ever watch MMA, the guy that's on top is usually in control, is what I-- That's what I meant, like, he had control, at that point, is what I meant. Um, as-- If I was on top of you, at that point, I don't know if I'm trying to hold you down. That's what I was saying. It looked like, ah, you know, he had been hitting him from-- on top. But, you know, I can't truly see how close, you know, they were to each other, if he was hitting him, or if he was trying to hold him down in that position until the cops got there. So that's what I mean in a MMA position, because it usually called like a mounted position, er, or something like that, but I'm not sure if that's what it was. But he was on top at that point.

Investigator: Is this information-- Do you follow the MMA fighting? Have you fought, or wrestled in high school?

John W_6: No I don't fight or wrestle, no. Um, you know, I just watch it. It's all over the TV now, so. It's just everywhere. So that's just when, you know, I made that statement, that's the type of, ah, body situation he was in at that point. Um, but like, in my first statement that I made, I did say that he was hitting him from on top, um, because that's what it looked like. I mean he could have still been hitting him, or he could have been trying to hold him down, you know. It was, you know, I really, truly can't tell at that point. Um, but my first reaction, you know, from what-- just seeing it real quick, bam bam bam, that's what it looked like at that point.

Investigator: Ok. When they were laying on the ground, the person on the bottom would have been some degree facing you - I mean, flat - but facing towards you, maybe at an angle. The person on top would have been facing away.

John W_6: Away, correct.

Investigator: Ok. I just want you to take a minute and think about the "Help, help, help." Is there any indication whether, I mean does that give you any recollection as to whether--

John W_6: Timing-- timing wise?

Investigator: No, I'm trying-- I guess what I'm saying is, when somebody's facing you, sometimes it's a clearer--

John W_6: That's why I thought, when I first gave my statement, it was coming from the guy on the bottom. One, he was on the bottom, so of course, I'm thinking, "Why would the guy on the top be yelling 'help'." Two, it was a clear 'help.' It wasn't an echo-y 'help,' bouncing off, you know, another house from the guy facing away from me. It was more of a projected, ah, 'help' at that point. So that's why, when I say

I can't truly see the face if the the guy on the bottom was yelling 'help,' that's why I thought, ah, you know, the 'help' was coming from the guy on the bottom at that point. Because it was a clearer 'help,' and it wasn't a, you know, kind of an echo-y, you know, bouncing off walls type of 'help.' If that helps.

Investigator: Based on the "Help, help" and what you observed in the first position, what did you feel was happening?

John W_6: At first--

Investigator: Or what did you-- Based on what you were seeing, what did you think was happening?

John W_6: Two guys fighting.

Investigator: Of that, who did you f-- based on what you were looking at, and your observation, who had the advantage, based on your observation--

John W_6: At that point, whoever had the advantage was the guy wearing the black shirt. There were no, um, you know, punches at that point, or any hands flare-- you know, in the air. It was just more, it looked like wrestling, but he was on top at that point.

Investigator: As you indicate on your drawing, you're into the 2nd position. From that observation, what did you feel was happening at that point?

John W_6: That the person that was still on top, had the other guy on the concrete at that point. And, I felt at that point-- that's when I said, when they didn't stop, that I'm calling 9-1-1 and locked my door inside because it looked like it was getting intense at that point.

Investigator: And the person on top at that time was?

John W_6: Wearing the black sweater or outfit at that time. But as I said, when I first saw it, just how quick everything happened, it looked like he was on top - the one wearing the black sweater - and there were, ah, you know, hits being given from the top. But thinking back on it, you know, it could have just been him trying to hold him down to keep him secure. But, you know, I don't know. I didn't get to see pictures of either of them, you know.

Investigator: In the 2nd position, who did you feel had the advantage?

John W_6: Same person.

Investigator: Who was?

John W_6: Wearing the black top. 'Cause, from what I saw, ah, which was probably only-- 10 seconds maybe? Of how quick it was me yelling, you know "this that" "help, help," me coming back inside. For that 10 seconds, ah, it was always the same person on top, wearing the black, ah, jacket, or sweater.

Investigator: Would you, ah, on this same piece of paper, would you just indicate when you went upstairs and you looked out the window after you heard what you described as the rock and you looked outside,

could you describe where the person who is, in the statement that you mentioned, is on__

John W_6: You want me to just make another "3" over here and just do it.

Investigator: Ah, just from right here off of the number 2 drawing, where the person on top--

John W_6: The person on top--

Investigator: As per your statement, the person on top was in a sprawled position, not moving. Where was that location of that person. And if you'll just put a little "3" beside it and circle it so we'll know that it's a--. Okay. Now, will you initial and date. It is the 20th. 6:53 pm. About how far were they from your - and we'll walk over there - vantage point to where this was. About how far do you think it was?

John W_6: You're talking about--

Investigator: From-- From where you were looking--

John W_6: Point 3? Or just from where I saw--

Investigator: From-- From 1 and 2, when you were looking, from the pos--

John W_6: Oh, right at the window, and they were right before the sidewalk starts.

Investigator: Ok. And you-- porch light was on, with a white light and a lamp on there. And you indicated that there was no one else that you could see out there at that point.

John W_6: Correct. Also I don't know if my drawing's going to help, but from what I remember, they start here when I saw them, it was on the concrete, but then I end up seeing the body of the guy that was on top farther down in the grass from where I first saw them. I don't know if you want to--

Investigator: And, and right. And we'll walk out--

John W_6: And that's why I put-- Yeah, 'cause it's def-- He's - from the end position - he's definitely farther from when I stopped seeing them on the sidewalk.

Investigator: Ok. Have you provided a statement other than this written one?

John W_6: Yes. I believe that was the detective.

Investigator: And how was that statement given?

John W_6: On the same night, in person, outside my residence. And then, I'm not sure how many days later, ah, via phone, again.

Investigator: So you provided 2 statements to the Sanford Police Department.

John W_6: I think it was the SPD. Ah, Chief of Police, maybe. Or Crime Scenes investigator. I think

that's what his name was.

Investigator: An investigator.

John W_6: Yeah, an investigator. Yeah.

Investigator: After these events, have you spoken to anyone?

John W_6: Only the-- I believe it was the next day [redacted].

Investigator: And was anybody in the house at the time? Here. Not with the reporter, I'm sorry. During the events on the 26th.

John W_6: Oh. No, there was no else besides [redacted].

Investigator: And you.

John W_6: Yeah.

[Interview concludes at 6:55pm]