

**PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU
DETECTIVE DIVISION
CONFIDENTIAL
TAPED STATEMENT TRANSCRIPTION**

Case #06-84962

February 4, 2009

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- Austria: Okay, this is Sergeant Rich Austria from the Detective Division and today's date is January 4, 2009. The time is 1504 hours. This is the time set aside, scheduled for follow-up interview of Officer Christopher Humphreys, DPSST # 32784 in regard to a death investigation where JAMES CHASSE died on September 17th, 2006. The case referenced here is Portland Police case number 06-84962. Uh, present in this interview is Officer Christopher Humphreys and his attorney, STEVE MYERS, spelled M-Y-E-R-S. This interview is being conducted in the small conference room of the Detective Division. Um, this interview today is being recorded. Is that okay with you, Officer Humphreys?
- Humphreys: It is.
- Austria: Mr. MYERS, is that okay with you?
- Myers: It is.
- Austria: Um, the purpose of this interview is to address a comment made by Officer Humphreys on a jail recording that was obtained from the Multnomah County Jail Booking area when Mr. CHASSE was brought in on September 17th, 2006. Um, Officer Humphreys, are you aware that there are several recordings of that jail um, tape if you will, um, from that day? Uh, some that were on DVD and there is also one from the uh, Portland Tribune that was someone made by the Portland Tribune, along with Mr. STEENSON?
- Humphreys: I am.
- Austria: Okay. Have you, um, so you know which recording, the recordings I'm talking about then, right?
- Humphreys: I believe so, yes.
- Austria: Um, have you viewed the recordings? Specifically the one from the Portland Tribune? Um, that's, it's not a DVD but it's um, online through the Portland Tribune that has captions of comments that were made in the jail setting?

Humphreys: No, I have not.

Austria: Oh you haven't so you have not seen that one. Have you seen the other ones that don't entail um, captions? But you've seen the videotape?

Humphreys: Yes, I have.

Austria: Okay. Alright. Um, on the videotape specifically, the one that pertains to the Portland Tribune, I know you didn't, you said you didn't see it, um, there is um, a caption on there during one portion while you're in the jail setting that says, and it appears from that caption that you say, "We tackled uh, we tackled him," in reference to uh, Mr. CHASSE. Um, in looking at the videos that you saw, did you recall making that uh, that comment?

Humphreys: I've reviewed the tape that I saw, I can't detect clearly if anyone used the word "tackle."

Austria: Okay. Um and how many times would you say that you saw that video tape?

Humphreys: (sigh) I believe twice.

Austria: Okay. I've seen the video tape and I'm not gonna argue with you as far as whether you can make it out or not. When it's broken down, it does appear that um, on the video tape you make a comment that says, "We tackled him." Um, who you make it to, it's hard to decipher who you make it to and whether um, it's in response to a question but there is a comment that you make that says we tackled him. Um, like you said, you don't recall making that comment?

Humphreys: I don't, no.

Austria: Okay. Um, Mr. STEENSON, doing his deposition, I think he also asked you the question if you recall, um, you remembering telling anybody at jail um, that you tackled Mr. CHASSE and I think your response during that deposition to Mr. STEENSON was, "I don't recall if I did or not" so would you say that's basically the same recollection that you have now?

Humphreys: That's correct, yes.

Austria: Okay. Um and so your response still is you just don't recall making that and you couldn't make out from the video tape that you did say that?

Humphreys: That's correct, yes.

Austria: Okay. Um, in looking at the video, I guess it says, I mean it's obvious that you say it. I'm gonna ask you I guess the best way to ask this is um, it shows that you say it.

Humphreys: Okay.

Austria: Would there be, could you explain maybe why you would've said something like that or what you may have meant by saying something like that?

Humphreys: If I used the word "tackle," on the jail video or any other setting, um it was simply meant as a characterization of the way that I caused Mr. CHASSE to go down to the ground, um, by knocking him off balance, by using my forearms.

Austria: Okay.

Humphreys: You know, general characterization versus an explanation within context at the time.

Austria: Okay so in telling me this, you also kind of describe in your body, how you ended up knocking him to the ground. I think you had two hands up, almost like a blocking motion. not one of hands out like you were grabbing, grasping, wrapping, but more of a blocking type of hand motion?

Humphreys: That's correct, yes.

Austria: So that's kind of your definition of how you, how you explain him going down to the ground?

Humphreys: Yeah, that's correct. Yes.

Austria: Okay. Um, Question here, when you arrived in jail with Mr. CHASSE, did any of the jail personnel ask you to provide any kind of detailed statement, any kind of detailed description of your actions um with Mr. CHASSE?

Humphreys: Um, not that I recall. No.

Austria: Okay. Um, you've taken a bunch of folks to jail before, right.

Humphreys: That's correct, yes.

Austria: Are you aware of any jail policy, any Bureau policy that asks you to detail your actions or a description of what you did when you take somebody into jail that's required before you can complete that booking process?

Humphreys: No. I'm not.

Austria: Okay. So going back to that, that kind, to that communication that took place in jail, um, what would you describe that communication between you, the individuals in jail, and maybe even Officer Burton while you were there in the jail setting?

Humphreys: How would I describe it?

Austria: Yeah.

Humphreys: I'd, banter is basically the best word and I mean just had, I mean that's the way I would describe it.

Austria: Okay so you weren't providing any kind of detailed explanation to anybody there, trying to explain your actions or trying to describe exactly what happened um, earlier with Mr. CHASSE?

Humphreys: No.

Austria: Okay. Um, The. and I'm gonna. and again I'm gonna keep referring to this, you know, this comment, "we tackled him." In the Grand Jury, um, do you recall using the word "tackle" to describe your actions to the Grand Jury?

Humphreys: I don't, no. I don't recall.

Austria: Okay. Um, I might clarify that. In as far as recall, you don't remember whether you did or you, I didn't use that?

Humphreys: I don't remember if I did or not.

Austria: Okay. How about in the interview with the detectives? Um, Do you remember using the word "tackle" to describe what you did? Or did you describe it in the way that you just did a few minutes ago? Um, the way you knocked him down with the two the forearms?

Humphreys: Yes, that's, that's how I described it to with the detectives' interview, I believe.

Austria: Okay so would that be the best definition that you would have of your actions?

Humphreys: That's correct, yes.

Austria: Okay. In the deposition with Mr. STEENSON, I'll ask the same question.

Humphreys: Um-hm.

Austria: Do you recall using the word "tackle" to describe your actions based on the questions that Mr. STEENSON had asked you?

Humphreys: Um, no. I know there was some discussion but no.

Austria: Okay. Let me ask you, what did you, what would be your definition of "tackled"?

Humphreys: (laughing) Um, I guess, I mean there could be multiple, it's really within the context of how it's being used. It could be I mean like an open field tackle. It could be somebody wrapping up and taking the person down or on an open field tackle. A hit, like on the Super Bowl, I mean somebody does the, where they strike the person with the ball and knock him to the ground. Some people would refer to that as a tackle also.

Austria: Okay.

Humphreys: So

Austria: So outside of the context of a football field. in the context of a uh. police action,

Humphreys: Um-hm.

Austria: ...what would you describe a "tackle" to be?

Humphreys: Uh, I guess wrapping him up and taking him down. In the context of the specific description?

Austria: Right.

Humphreys: Yeah, wrapping him up and taking him down.

Austria: Okay and I know by reviewing your deposition, and the interviews, that's kind of the way you described to Mr. STEENSON your definition of tackling is wrapping up and taking him down.

Humphreys: That's correct in that specific yes, in that specific environment when we were talking about exact details, yes, that's correct.

Austria: Okay so when asked that question by Mr. STEENSON, you said, that's not what I did. I didn't, based on that definition, I did not tackle him.

Humphreys: That's correct, yes.

Austria: Okay. Um, Okay. In this is kind of a, I guess this is kind of a tough question to ask so kind of listen carefully to this. In any of these three areas as far as the Grand Jury, the detectives' interview, the deposition, did you ever deny saying um, that you tackled Mr. CHASSE? I guess the best way to put it is, if you were asked, did you ever tell anybody that you tackled him? Would your res... Was your response in any of these areas of interview deposition, no, I never told anybody I tackled him?

Humphreys: I don't believe that I did say, I mean, no, I don't believe I did in any of the interviews say that I did not say that.

Austria: So the only, the only area that you may have said that you tackled him from what we can tell is that, that video um, from down in jail?

Humphreys: That's correct.

Austria: Right and that wasn't in any type of formal interview, any deposition or anything like that?

Humphreys: That's correct.

Austria: Okay. Um, let's see. The, as far as just so that I clarify this, the only time that I brought forth here that "tackle" has been mentioned by you has been in that jail setting? That you recall? And even that I should. Let me clarify that 'cause you don't recall...

Humphreys: That's correct.

Austria: ...saying that but based on the videotape, it appears that you, so if outside of that there is no other time that you've mentioned that you tackled Mr. CHASSE?

Humphreys: I, I, I can't, I mean if I used the word "tackle" in jail or as I sat outside the jail, and any time, it was just meant as a general characterization of how I knocked Mr. CHASSE down to the ground using those arms so

Austria: Okay. Okay. Um, Really um, Mr. MYERS, I don't know if there's any other questions that I have that need to be clarified to clarify any issues that we have. I mean we've got his definition of, his definition of "tackle," Mr. STEENSON's definition of tackle which is well, somewhat described as um a

football tackle, wrapping your arms around and Officer Humphreys, that's definitely not what he describes he did. Um,

Myers: He does(n't) and I've reviewed the depositions and I know or it appears as though the question and answer session was Mr. STEENSON was presetting him with the question, Did you tackle him? And not presenting Officer Humphreys with the ability to put that word into some context. In other words, give me your broad, simple definition of simple word "tackle" and of course, if it's not put in any context or explanation, Mr. Humphreys would tell you as he told Mr. STEENSON that that would connote wrapping somebody up without context or explanation and what Mr. Humphreys, Officer Humphreys has told Mr. STEENSON and others and certainly his position in this interview is that if he used the word tackle at the jail or another setting, he always used it in the context or with an explanation as to how in fact he caused Mr. CHASSE to go to the ground which wasn't wrapping him around which was using his forearms to knock him off balance.

Austria: Right.

Myers: That's my understanding.

Austria: Right and what you described here today, even through your motions, is the same thing that I've read in the interviews and the deposition as how you described you took Mr. CHASSE down to the ground.

Humphreys: That is correct.

Austria: Okay. Um, I don't have any other questions. I think it kind of clarifies the comments that were made in the jail, along with the definition of, um, Officer Humphreys' definition so I don't have any other questions that I have, need to clarify this issue. Officer Humphreys, do you have anything that you'd like to add?

Humphreys: No.

Austria: Uh, Mr. MYERS?

Myers: I have nothing. Thank you, Detective.

Austria: Okay. And that concludes the interview. The time right now is uh, 1518 hours.

Transcribed Verbatim With Punctuation Added 020609 at 1208 hrs B Geltzeiler

