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Digital Recording
File: 2015-376186

STATEMENT OF: Cst. Warren SULLIVAN, RNC

INTERVIEWED BY: Cst. Mike NIPPARD, RCMP Major Crime Unit
April 7th, 2015 commencing at 3:11 PM

1 **Nippard:** What time is it now. 3:11 on April 7th, Tuesday. My name is Constable
2 Nippard and your name ...

3 **Sullivan:** Constable War ...

4 **Nippard:** ... what's your ...

5 **Sullivan:** Constable Warren Sullivan.

6 **Nippard:** Constable Warren Sullivan...

7 **Sullivan:** Yeah.

8 **Nippard:** Okay. I didn't know your – I didn't your rank cause ..

9 **Sullivan:** Yeah.

10 **Nippard:** ... cause Joe was a Sergeant wasn't he?

11 **Sullivan:** Joey. I think. I think, Sergeant, yeah.

12 **Nippard:** Yeah, that's what I think ...

13 **Sullivan:** Yeah.

14 **Nippard:** ... Mike Adams said earlier.

15 **Sullivan:** Yeah.

16 **Nippard:** You can just start from, ah, jeez, I'm all caught up. Start from the
17 beginning. Just whenever you ...

1 **Sullivan:** Sure.

2 **Nippard:** ... became aware of it ...

3 **Sullivan:** Yeah, absolutely.

4 **Nippard:** ... and – and what you did from there.

5 **Sullivan:** Early afternoon, of course, I didn't – I didn't – I don't keep notes regards to
6 Association matters so I'll – I guess I'll state for the record that I am
7 President of the RNC Association.

8 **Nippard:** Okay.

9 **Sullivan:** So, ah, anytime there's any incidents or issues of subsequent – of – of
10 consequence I usually receive a call from the Chief of Police.

11 **Nippard:** Okay.

12 **Sullivan:** And early – early Sunday afternoon, Easter Sunday, I received a call from
13 the Chief advising that one of our officers was involved, Joe Smyth, was
14 involved in a – in an incident where, ah, there was, ah, ah, shots fired, a
15 police related shooting, that – that Smyth was okay and he was basically
16 still at the scene and that the RCMP were – were on scene or on their way
17 to the scene at the time. So ...

18 **Nippard:** Yeah.

19 **Sullivan:** ... very good. So, ah, ah, you know, I said, you have any other
20 information. No, I don't have – really don't have anything. So, ah, I then
21 tried to contact Joe – Joey, and, ah, couldn't get through obviously so I
22 said, you know, he's – he's down in Mark ...(phonetic) ... Carmel – Mount
23 Carmel somewhere obviously the cell phone coverage is pretty bad. So,
24 ah, what I did is I – I sent him a text and, you know, said are you okay or –
25 and what have you. So then he – he text me back and he said coverage
26 is bad, right. So I said well at least – well spotty or what – what have you.

1 **Nippard:** Yeah.

2 **Sullivan:** So I said well call me when you can. So, ah, short while after he called
3 and I said are you okay, who's there, is there anybody with you, so on and
4 so forth. So he just advised that there, you know, ah, the RCMP were on
5 the scene, he was alone in the – in the vehicle there.

6 **Nippard:** Uhm.

7 **Sullivan:** So I said, look boy, you know, ah, do you need anything, you know, what
8 have you? I – I said, you know, can, you know, ah, you know, we'll – we'll
9 get somebody out to you or something just to, you know, get a familiar
10 face out. I said, Joey, whatever you need like it's good, right. So anyway
11 he said, yeah, he said, well I'm not quite sure what's gonna happen here
12 and then just as he was speaking to me one of the officers at the scene ...

13 **Nippard:** Okay.

14 **Sullivan:** ... he poked his head in through the window. I could hear him. He said,
15 hey Joe, what we're gonna do is we're gonna bring you back to Holyrood
16 and he said, you know, let you sit back there and, you know, kind of be
17 able to relax a little tiny bit and ...

18 **Nippard:** Yeah.

19 **Sullivan:** ... you know, wait until we do what we gotta do, type of thing. So – so I
20 said, okay I'm on my way, said we're on our way out. He said, yeah,
21 apparently Mike Adams and – and – well Mike Adams is on his way. So
22 then I learned that Mike and Reg Tilley ...

23 **Nippard:** Yeah.

24 **Sullivan:** ... were on their way to Holyrood. I scooped up a – was our – well Scott
25 Harris is our Treasurer ...

26 **Nippard:** Okay.

1 **Sullivan:** ... on our immediate Executive. So we headed out. Basically the role –
2 we – we headed out to fill was that of nothing but just support for him ...

3 **Nippard:** Uhm.

4 **Sullivan:** ... to have a familiar face around him and to let him know, say, listen, you
5 know, whatever you need ...

6 **Nippard:** Yeah.

7 **Sullivan:** ... we'll be here for you, you know, all – long haul, right.

8 **Nippard:** Yeah.

9 **Sullivan:** So when I got there – we got in Holyrood, you know, around five-
10 thirtyish...

11 **Nippard:** Okay.

12 **Sullivan:** Right. And, ah, so weren't there overly long, maybe an hour or so. A little
13 over an hour, maybe two. But, ah, so, ah, met the guys, the investigative
14 team at the room. Introduced myself, number one. Ah, met Monty ...

15 **Nippard:** Uhm.

16 **Sullivan:** ... and so he said you wanna go down and speak to – speak to the boys,
17 fine, he said, and probably we'll have a chat a little later. I said, yeah fine.
18 So I went down and Mike and Reg were doin' the, you know, the EA part
19 of it, you know, just, you know, ensuring Joey, you know, doing their thing.

20 **Nippard:** Yeah.

21 **Sullivan:** Right.

22 **Nippard:** Yeah.

23 **Sullivan:** So, you know, just trying to ...

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1 **Nippard:** They're critical, ah, ...

2 **Sullivan:** ... be ...

3 **Nippard:** ...critical ...(unintel) ... incidents.

4 **Sullivan:** Right. And that's ...

5 **Nippard:** Yeah.

6 **Sullivan:** ... just the first stages of that.

7 **Nippard:** Yeah.

8 **Sullivan:** I'm not trained in it.

9 **Nippard:** Yeah.

10 **Sullivan:** But I know it's – you know, it's the first stages of it and – and then to me
11 that was my biggest concern is making sure or ensuring that he was okay,
12 that he knew that he had some support here and that, you know, going
13 forward, right.

14 **Nippard:** Yeah.

15 **Sullivan:** And he was so – so badly wanting to tell his story to – to the boys, right,
16 to...

17 **Nippard:** Yeah.

18 **Sullivan:** ... you know, to – to – to the investigators, the investigative team.

19 **Nippard:** Yeah.

20 **Sullivan:** But it – but to be quite honest with you I, you know, I said, look Joey, this –
21 this – like from what looked – what we've learned and what we know with
22 critical incident stress and everything else is best, you know, the best...

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1 **Nippard:** The best ...

2 **Sullivan:** ... for you is to step back here now and try to relax, try to get some of this
3 adrenalin out of your system ...

4 **Nippard:** Yeah.

5 **Sullivan:** ... right. He – he was shaking and, you know, he was doing it all, right.

6 **Nippard:** Yeah.

7 **Sullivan:** So, ah, anyway he settled down a bit and so he said, you know what, he
8 said, if you – if that's what you recommend, he said you know, if the boys
9 were okay with it, fine. So now he did – so, of course, he's still wanting to
10 tell his story so we're getting a little bit – little bit and a little bit and I was
11 trying to basically, you know – we were trying to say look Joey, you don't
12 need to – you don't need to talk, you know, tell your story as such. You
13 don't have to tell the story and I was talking about everything. Like
14 whatever I could think of to talk about other than ...

15 **Nippard:** Other than the incident.

16 **Sullivan:** ... the incident, right.

17 **Nippard:** Yeah.

18 **Sullivan:** But, of course, he did – but he did allude to the fact that he was down
19 doing a – a, you know, an assessment, a threat assessment, that
20 individual had, you know, who had, you know, ah, made some threats and
21 – I'm not even quite sure if he said it was on Twitter or what it was. But
22 anyway it was – that was what he had said. He had done this
23 assessment. When he got there buddy wasn't home. And I – I got a
24 Coles' notes version. So he went – he went next door, spoke with the
25 brother and his wife, I think his brother's wife ...

26 **Nippard:** Yeah.

1 **Sullivan:** ... and he said, went back and he said I was like thirty seconds from –
2 from being out of there. Like is – you know, could have been gone, left
3 the scene and he said – he said the guy was home so, he said, ah, went
4 up, identified myself, went in and spoke to him he said and knew nothing, I
5 was making a note in the, you know, making a note in my file folder and
6 he said the next thing I got hit, he's putting a gun at me and I reacted.

7 **Nippard:** Yeah.

8 **Sullivan:** So I said, look, you know, just – look what you – what you did, look
9 everybody's okay with it. You know, you're gonna be – you're gonna be
10 okay. You know, you're doing – you did the right thing, we're – we're glad
11 that you're here and, you know, we kept reassuring him and saying, look,
12 we're just glad that you're here and we're glad that we don't have to go
13 home and, you know, tell your wife that things turned out in a whole
14 different, you know, a whole different scenario, a whole different end
15 result, right so. And that's pretty much it with regard what he had said to
16 us.

17 **Nippard:** Okay.

18 **Sullivan:** And, ah, so again we just kept talking about whatever under the sun, right.
19 We're talking about old Association days cause him and I were on the
20 Executive together. We were talking about a day out around a cabin and
21 you know just things – just generalities. I wanted to try to get him get his
22 mind off of exactly what had just occurred even though ...

23 **Nippard:** Yeah.

24 **Sullivan:** ... next to impossible, of course right.

25 **Nippard:** Yeah.

26 **Sullivan:** But that's mainly our roles, you know, was supportive and, you know, and
27 that's – that's what it was. And then he did make a – he made a comment

1 a little later than, and you know, I – and I – I think it's – it's natural but, ah,
2 after he – he calmed down pretty good and then all of a sudden he said,
3 you know, man, he said, I'm mad at him now. He said I'm made. He said
4 like – he said if I could only shake him alive now, he said, and – and – and
5 slap him and say, you know, what the fuck you doin' this – what boy –
6 what did you do. What'd you do this for, right? You know what I mean.

7 **Nippard:** Yeah.

8 **Sullivan:** So. And I said, you know what that's perfectly normal what you feel here
9 now, you know, and it – it's okay. I mean, you wanna – you know, you
10 wanna talk about it like that, that's fine too. And ...

11 **Nippard:** Yeah.

12 **Sullivan:** ...but you know whatever you wanna do, Joe, right. Whatever you wanna
13 do, so.

14 **Nippard:** Yeah.

15 **Sullivan:** And that's what we did basically the whole time we were there.

16 **Nippard:** Yeah.

17 **Sullivan:** Until then, of course, ah, well Mike and Reg had left. They had left up,
18 you know, to that point and, you know, they concluded what they were
19 doing. Just wanted to ensure Joey was okay and we – and I said, look
20 Mike, whatever – however long he's gonna be here I'll just – I'll bring him
21 home, make sure he's gonna be okay for the evening and so and so forth,
22 so. So then I reached out to, ah, another member of ours, ah, Fred

23 [REDACTED]

24 **Nippard:** Okay.

25 **Sullivan:** Fred was involved in an incident back in the 90's, ah, in Corner Brook.

26 **Nippard:** Okay.

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1 **Sullivan:** So it was a police related shooting and it was a fatality and, ah, so I
2 figured it'd be a great guy to reach out to be able to provide some support
3 for Joe, you know, over the coming days, weeks, months and, you know,
4 years, right.

5 **Nippard:** Yeah.

6 **Sullivan:** So I text – I text Fred and said look, I'm just here – here with Joey Smyth.
7 He's been involved in an incident of which you're familiar with and I said I
8 think that it'd – you'd be a good resource for him now in the days to come,
9 I said, so I'd appreciate it if you, you know, if you wouldn't mind, you know,
10 reaching out to him. Whatever, he said, eh, not a problem. You know,
11 just give him my information and when the time is right and that's – that's
12 what he – so that's what I did. And Fred called me later then that evening
13 and we just had a chat, right, and said look, you know, he's – I said he
14 seems to be okay and blah, blah, blah. And then Fred was saying well
15 look this is what he's gonna – this is what he needs to expect. Tell him to
16 stay away from the media. You know, tell him to not be listening to the
17 media. You know, he said, and, you know, so we just talked about a
18 couple of his experiences.

19 **Nippard:** Okay.

20 **Sullivan:** So that's – and that – that was it, right. So we provided, you know, pretty
21 much a support role for – for Joey there. And, ah, like I said, he did – he
22 did a lit – you know, he did make some – some comment.

23 **Nippard:** Okay.

24 **Sullivan:** But like I didn't – I didn't even, ah, never even – didn't even know the
25 gentleman's name, you know, right up 'til the point where I dropped Joey
26 off and – and I – I still didn't know the gentleman's name, who was
27 involved here or – or, you know, I didn't know how long he was – he was
28 there or how long after or before. Like I had none of those details ...

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1 **Nippard:** Okay.

2 **Sullivan:** ... and then I guess some of this stuff is slowly coming out now, right.

3 **Nippard:** Yeah.

4 **Sullivan:** But.

5 **Nippard:** Did, ah, - did – was there anything and anything that he told you regards
6 to the incident that was alarming to you?

7 **Sullivan:** Not a thing.

8 **Nippard:** Nothing.

9 **Sullivan:** No.

10 **Nippard:** Okay.

11 **Sullivan:** Oth – oth – other than the fact that, you know, he – he point – he pointed a
12 gun at him.

13 **Nippard:** Yeah. Other than ...

14 **Sullivan:** You know what I mean. Like ...

15 **Nippard:** ... other than the obvious.

16 **Sullivan:** But nothing – no. Well I mean, if – look as a police officer ...

17 **Nippard:** Yeah.

18 **Sullivan:** ... I'll – you know, I'll be quite honest, as a police officer, it just sounded,
19 you know, it sounded text book to me. As, you know, in the wording here,
20 you know, who knows where my words will end up here but ...

21 **Nippard:** Uhm.

1 **Sullivan:** ... but it's what you consider to be, you know, justifiable and, you know,
2 and – and he – he – he had no other choice. That was – and you know,
3 that was – that was the – the immediate conclusion that we came to.

4 **Nippard:** Yeah.

5 **Sullivan:** You know I mean, based on this – this guy, his credibility, and he's very
6 credible, ...(coughs) ... and you know, kno – knowing – knowing him
7 personally, certainly, you know, that was – that was alarming to me. Just,
8 you know, to me is that he was a lucky guy that he – he walked out of
9 there that day.

10 **Nippard:** Yeah.

11 **Sullivan:** You know. But now other than that though it seemed to be pretty – pretty
12 standard stuff for me.

13 **Nippard:** Yeah.

14 **Sullivan:** You know.

15 **Nippard:** And I'm sure if this, I mean, like I said, we're just touching up with you
16 guys just to see what your guys role were ...

17 **Sullivan:** Yeah.

18 **Nippard:** ... and what you guys had talked about. And I'm sure if it was R – if it
19 was, you know, if it was my partner I'd be doing, or even if I somebody
20 that I knew in the Force, I'd be doing the same thing, going out there to the
21 scene and just to ...

22 **Sullivan:** The same ...

23 **Nippard:** ... just like you said, give 'em a familiar face and ...

24 **Nippard:** Yeah.

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- 1 **Nippard:** ... try to give 'em some comfort, tell 'em – give 'em whatever they need,
2 right.
- 3 **Sullivan:** Yeah. We – we – we let the guys know. We ...(unintel) ...
- 4 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 5 **Sullivan:** ... who we were and like what the purpose was and...
- 6 **Nippard:** Exactly.
- 7 **Sullivan:** ... you know, and certainly in – in no way shape or form wanted to, you
8 know...
- 9 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 10 **Sullivan:** ... certainly interfere in anyway or whatever, right. Just again strictly for
11 him.
- 12 **Nippard:** Yeah.
- 13 **Sullivan:** A familiar face means ...
- 14 **Nippard:** Exactly.
- 15 **Sullivan:** ... a lot in times like that, right so.
- 16 **Nippard:** How long were you with him?
- 17 **Sullivan:** I would say about two hours I suppose.
- 18 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 19 **Sullivan:** Yeah.
- 20 **Nippard:** That was all at Holyrood was it?
- 21 **Sullivan:** Yeah. Yeah.

- 1 **Nippard:** Did you give him a ride after?
- 2 **Sullivan:** I dri – drove home, yeah.
- 3 **Nippard:** How ...
- 4 **Sullivan:** Dropped him off at – at his – right at his – at his doorstep.
- 5 **Nippard:** Okay. I know his clothes got taken after. Who – did somebody come and
6 take those ...
- 7 **Sullivan:** Yeah.
- 8 **Nippard:** ... at Holyrood or?
- 9 **Sullivan:** We had a unit swing by his house.
- 10 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 11 **Sullivan:** And, ah, that was – oh jeez, you know what – it might have been – I think
12 it might have been Rob [REDACTED] but I'm not quite sure who came out with
13 the clothes. But anyway, ah, ...
- 14 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 15 **Sullivan:** ... this – his wife prepared the clothes for him. Dropped 'em off. He
16 changed. Once he was changed the guys said you're done, see you later.
- 17 **Nippard:** Okay.
- 18 **Sullivan:** So then away we went. The three of us were in one rig. We left and we
19 came on back to down. And just – lot – like a lot of the conversation then
20 was, ah, like what to anticipate, you know, and I went through like some of
21 the things regarding legal representation. If the time ever comes where
22 you need a lawyer, look – we're gonna look after that. But talked a lot
23 about, ah, the critical incident part...
- 24 **Nippard:** Yeah.

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1 **Sullivan:** ... and – and ensure him that he was gonna be okay. And I said, Joey,
2 not – you might feel okay now, tomorrow, next week but I'm dealing with
3 members now that's ten years after or fifteen, twenty years after incidents
4 they've been involved in. Some are even retired.

5 **Nippard:** Yeah.

6 **Sullivan:** And I said, you know what, if we can do the first aid now, you need – you
7 need to do it. And he was totally in agreement to that. And then we talked
8 about – and I – you know, we talked about Fred [REDACTED] and, you know, a
9 lot – a lot of stuff, right, that we talked about. But I tried not to – tried not
10 to talk about the incident itself, like get into any details or anything like
11 that. Like I said, even when I dropped him off I didn't even know the guy's
12 name, right. So and – and pretty much the jest of what I – what I got was
13 what I got when I got in Holyrood. Just a Coles' Notes version of – of what
14 happened.

15 **Nippard:** Yeah.

16 **Sullivan:** Just give us some idea of what – how to prepare or, you know, anything
17 for him, right.

18 **Nippard:** Yeah.

19 **Sullivan:** So it's – that's pretty much it.

20 **Nippard:** Yeah.

21 **Sullivan:** Yeah.

22 **Nippard:** You need he was on the Premier's Detail I'm assuming ...

23 **Sullivan:** Oh yeah.

24 **Nippard:** ...or you knew ...(unintel) ... these ...

25 **Sullivan:** Yeah.

1 **Nippard:** ... you – or I guess – I guess well you guys are – don't have that many
2 members but I guess you knew him before – before all of this or whatnot.

3 **Sullivan:** Oh absolutely.

4 **Nippard:** Yeah.

5 **Sullivan:** Yeah. Like I said, we ...

6 **Nippard:** Yeah.

7 **Sullivan:** ... like I mean, I considered Joey to be a ...

8 **Nippard:** Yeah.

9 **Sullivan:** ...you know, a – an acquaintance ...

10 **Nippard:** Yeah.

11 **Sullivan:** .. for the most part, you know, to – we were involved in the Police
12 Association business for – for a couple of years, right, ...

13 **Nippard:** Yeah.

14 **Sullivan:** ... together, so we socialized a bit and, you know, so I mean certainly very
15 familiar with him. You know, we're ...

16 **Nippard:** Yeah.

17 **Sullivan:** ... a close family over there anyway, right.

18 **Nippard:** Exactly. Right. Yeah.

19 **Sullivan:** Yeah. Yeah.

20 **Nippard:** Perfect. Well that's – that's all I can think to ask you, buddy.

21 **Sullivan:** No sweat.

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1 **Nippard:** It's 3:25.

M.L.G. NIPPARD, CST. #55787 RCMP

Cst. Mike Nippard

"B" Division Major Crime Unit

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8 *Transcribed by: Brenda P. Spurrell*

9 *Transcribed statement provided to investigator: 2015-05-20*

10 *Proofread by:*

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