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TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF JEFFREY HOPKINS, JR.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE JEROLD WHITE

CASE NUMBER – 08-069208

JULY 24, 2008

JW – DETECTIVE JEROLD WHITE

JH – MR. JEFFREY HOPKINS, JR.

EE: Okay, this is Detective White with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. The following is in reference to case number 08-069208. It's an attempt to contact Jeffrey Hopkins the second [REDACTED]

(Detective White exits his vehicle, approaches a house and rings the doorbell. After about a minute Mr. Hopkins opens the door).

JW: Hey good morning. How are you?

JH: Good Morning Mr. White

JW: Good to meet you man, hey, um...

JH: Did you get my message?

JW: No man, we were running until about uh, one in the morning. I haven't even got a chance to check my voice mails.

JH: Oh

JW: So, do you know Casey Anthony?

JH: Um, I do.

JW: Do you have a second to talk?

JH: Yeah (affirmative) You want to come in?

JW: Yeah (affirmative) How do you know Casey?

JH: (inaudible) upstairs (inaudible)

JW: (laughs) No doubt. Um...

JW: Oh so you guys go back to...

JH: From...

JW: ...little kids.

JH: About ten years ago, um, her brother, I guess she was a year younger than me. Her brother is probably about a year or two older than me.

JW: Right

JH: Um, I played volleyball with him. Um, I really didn't know her too well.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: Got to high school. He was, so, I guess about two years older than me. So he graduated. She was a year younger. Um, I still saw her around school. Didn't have, didn't have really the same friends or anything. It wasn't until I guess, I guess well I just we just kind of knew each other like just growing up. It was like we just, just knew each other I guess like that. We didn't really always hang out or anything like that. But, um, I guess I hadn't seen her in about a year until two or three weeks ago.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: I saw her at the Waterford Lakes Ale House.

JW: Right

JH: Um, which I was telling the other officer I guess probably two days ago. Um, and she was with some other people I recognized from high school. About five or six other guys. She was the only fe- female there. And um, let's see (sighs) I'm sorry. I literally just woke up. (laughs)

JW: (laughs) I know man. Take your time. I'm just getting up too.

JH: Um...

JW: It was a long night man.

JH: Let's see. Um, she was drinking. They asked me if she was drinking. She was, she was having some beer I think.

JW: Uh-huh (affirmative)

JH: Um, so everything seemed normal. I didn't notice anything. Um, and what they were ask, I guess the best thing I can do is give, you know, people that are closer to her and actually do hang out with her, I recognized you know a guy named Sean Daly.

JW: Uh-huh (affirmative)

JH: I don't know if they took down that name.

JW: Hmmm...

JH: And actually, uh, they were asking me about having his phone number, and I didn't give it to them at the time and I figured by now that they would have gotten his phone number because I know that's one probably her best guy friend.

JW: Okay

JH: And um, which I did you know, some research and I got his phone number. I didn't know, I can maybe...

JW: Yeah (affirmative) man, heck yeah.

JH: Alright let me, let me grab it. Let me grab it out of my phone.

JW: Alrighty.

JH: This was uh, I got this from an ex girlfriend of his.

JW: Okay

JH: Who, she hasn't been around for years. But she had his phone number which is (redacted).

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: And like I said, I don't even know him. I know who he is from just going to high school as well. We're not really like friends or anything. I don't have his number personally. I've never called him. I just did research and got it for..

JW: Okay

JH: But I know that's it. I do see her like on My Space page and stuff like that. Um, I think her brother might have gotten into it already, but um, you can tell already that's probably her best guy friend. And then another um female probably her best female friend...

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: Which I would think they might have that name. I don't have her number which is Annie Downing.

JW: Yeah (affirmative) I know Annie.

JH: Annie Downing

JW: Is she Amy or...

JH: Annie

JW: Oh Annie, I thought you said Amy.

JH: Annie. Annie Downing is her best female friend. And I think that in my mind him and her would have to know anything that would have to be known.

JW: Okay. So, tell me this. Can you...

JH: Oh wait

JW: ...think of any reason...

JH: (inaudible)

JW: ...why she would be calling your parents house...

JH: That's what my parents told me the other day. Well here's the thing. Anthony, uh, Lee ...Lee Anthony, her brother...

JW: Uh-huh (affirmative)

JH: ...called me up on that night, uh, Tuesday night whenever this whole situation went down.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: And for, that's what got me like just totally threw me under the bus or something. I haven't seen her before two weeks ago.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: ...for about a year and I guess what he was telling me, or what it sounded like he was telling me was that she said, he said, "Oh well who you staying with?" and she goes, "A Jeff Hopkins." And he goes, I guess maybe she didn't think he knew me.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: And he goes "Oh well I know Jeff Hopkins." Is the way he made it sound like to me on the phone as to what I'm understanding the story. And she said "No it's a different one." He stays in Jacksonville.

JW: Okay

JH: Does that make sense?

JW: (laughs) Yeah (affirmative) that makes a lot of sense. I'm...

JH: He said "Oh that's" part of that, you know I guess when that first officers came to his house I guess that's the story he was giving me over the phone the best I could take it while I was you know while I was listening to him was that she said "Oh no, it's the one in Jacksonville." Well I guess he took her phone...

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: ...and went through it and of course there was one Jeff Hopkins in there and it was me. And I'm like, you know, I don't even I've never met another Jeff Hopkins besides my Dad. You know I don't even think

I've met another person with the last name Hopkins. But um you know, Lee I was like "You know, let me know if anything I like any help I can do." You know, and...

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative) So tell me this. Have you ever seen her baby?

JH: Um (sighs) I don't think I've seen her baby besides in pictures actually.

JW: You never met the little girl?

JH: No I don't think I've ever come in contact with the little girl.

JW: Okay so before two weeks ago at the Ale House you hadn't seen her in years?

JH: Oh about a year.

JW: About a year?

JH: About a year.

JW: So the last time you saw her was a year? And do you remember what that, what type of context that, that meeting was a year ago?

JH: Yeah. (affirmative) Actually I think we might have it might have been like at a party or something. Everything the same usual just high school probably high school reunion type thing.

JW: Right

JH: Um...

JW: And, what's up? How you been? I've been alright. Alright cool...

JH: Yeah (affirmative) Yeah (affirmative) Yeah (affirmative)

JW: ...type deal?

JH: Yeah (affirmative) everything was (inaudible)

JW: So at the Ale House, you say a week ago, two weeks ago?

JH: Um two. It was not last Tuesday probably the Tuesday before that.

JW: So what's today?

JH: Um Thursday

JW: Today's Thursday. So if today is the 17th, the 16th, the 15th, minus 7 is what, the 8th?

JH: So we're look...

JW: Um

JH: We're working on a week and two days now.

JW: So somewhere around the first week of July..

JH: Um...

JW: Would you say?

JH: Yeah (affirmative)

JW: Okay so did you...

JH: The first Tuesday in July probably.

JW: Did you get to talk to her at all?

JH: Actually yeah. We were sitting in the um high top over by the pool tables.

JW: Right

JH: Which some people from actually the same high school which are my friends and then I noticed her and the five other dudes from the high school as well.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: And I didn't really talk to the guys or anything. Like I said I recognized them from school. We're not really that close friends. I know her a little better so she did walk around. She said hello to me and another buddy.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: And that was the gist of that she said "Hey."

JW: So just kind of like hey how you guys doing?

JH: Once again. Yeah (affirmative) It was "hey how's it, how's it going?" you know "Everything's been good." She's like oh she actually mentioned going to this club, um, Fusion.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: I don't know if it's a new one that you've been mentioning but she started sending out text messages even after that, like a mass text message.

JW: Right

JH: Like you know drink specials Friday night at this Fusion place. So I assumed she's been going out Friday nights to this Fusion place.

JW: Right

JH: You know and I'm not the only one that had gotten a text message on that. So that's, I mean that's the only other thing. I never really wrote her back on that I don't think.

JW: Okay, um...

JH: I don't go downtown really too much.

JW: (sighs) Man you're a hard man to find though man I'm telling you. Hey, um...

JH: (laughs)

JW: Well what I know I haven't, I haven't got a chance to look at my...

JH: Okay

JW: ...voice mails. What's a good phone number for you?

JH: (redacted)

JH: My parents called me right after you left there yesterday and I called, they gave me your card number and I called and left you a message.

JW: Yeah (affirmative)

JH: ..get in contact with you, you know?

JW: We've been running nonstop.

JH: Oh

JW: We stopped maybe for a, I think I had four hours sleep. We stopped for just a couple of hours.

JH: I haven't um...

JW: ...to recharge the batteries

JH: ...seen the news yet but my parents were telling me that maybe, did they, do they have Casey in custody?

JW: Yeah (affirmative)we have, well we have Casey. We just don't have Caylee.

JH: Wow and she's still not budging on that?

JW: No we can't find her little baby. You know that's right now that's our sole existence is to find that little baby. You know at least make sure she's okay.

JH: Yeah (affirmative)

JW: You know.

JH: I can't believe that.

JW: So you think Sean would be um...

JH: And you know that's my personal opinion. I think if you look Annie Downing and/or Sean Daly in the face...

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

JH: For them to be as close as they are they'd have to know how long this baby has been missing.

JW: Right

JH: They have to know how long this baby has been missing. Because Annie Downing is her best girlfriend and Sean has got to be her best guy friend.

JW: Okay

JH: How long the baby is missing they would have to know. If you saw it in their face that they would have to know.

JW: Right

JH: That's the way I see it. If someone is that close to me and they see me every day they're going to know the day that my baby went to a babysitters house and didn't come home.

JW: Right well listen man I appreciate you getting up (laughs)...

JH: Hey

JW: ...and spending some time with me man. You shed a whole bunch of light. And you know hopefully we can track this baby down.

JH: Yeah (affirmative)

JW: Let me give you my card. If you hear or find out anything give me a, give me a shout. Like I said it might be a few hours before I get back to you depending on when I get back to my desk and check my voice mail. But man you know everything helps man.

JH: Yeah (affirmative) no problem

JW: And I appreciate your time. I know it's, you're up pretty early in the morning.

JH: (inaudible)

JW: Well you take care of yourself man.

JH: Yeah (affirmative)

JW: And air this place out man.

JH: (laughs)

JW: Open up a window or something man.

JH: (laughs)

JW: Alright you take care.

JH: Okay see you later.

JW: Okay today is July 17 2008. It's 9:02 a.m. and that will conclude this interview.

End of recorded statement.

This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.

Corporal Yuri Melich OCSO Deputy Sheriff.