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TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF JEFFREY HOPKINS, II

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL YURI MELICH

CASE NUMBER – 08-069208

OCTOBER 6, 2008

YM – CORPORAL YURI MELICH

JA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN

JH – MR. JEFFREY HOPKINS, II

YM: The date right now is October 6, 2008. The time right now is 1539 hours, correction 1529. I'm Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. This is reference to Orange County case number 08-069208. Also present is Sergeant John Allen with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. And uhm, sitting across from us is uh, Jeffrey Hopkins. Uh, Jeffrey, please state your name and birthday for the record.

JH: Uhm, Jeffrey Dale Hopkins the second. Uhm, December 10, 1984.

YM: Uhm, Jeff you know this is being recorded?

JH: Yes.

YM: Any objection to that?

JH: No.

YM: Okay. The door is closed just for privacy. But obviously it's unlocked. So if you feel uncomfortable or if you felt uncomfortable you can get up and walk out at any time. Uh, I just want to make sure we're clear about that. I also wanted to go over a couple of things. I called you this morning because there were some questions that had come up in the Caylee Anthony case I wanted to get some answers to. And I felt that you'd be a person to help me with that.

JH: Uh-hum (affirmative).

YM: Uhm, I called you this morning. You agreed to come down. So you know, just shortly after three we were, we just sat here and talked for a little bit before and I kind of gave you an idea of what we're going to ask you. And uhm, you're okay with that. Is that, is that, is that correct?

JH: Yes.

YM: Alright. First off, regarding your relationship, or how you know Casey, let me say it that way, where did you first meet Casey? How do you know Casey?

JH: Uhm, the first time I noticed Casey was probably in middle school. Uhm, I played volleyball with her brother, who uhm, was in middle school with me as well. I didn't, well he was in eighth grade, I was in sixth grade.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: And then she was a year younger than me so when she was in fifth. I knew him. And then by the time I got to seventh she had entered middle school. And I think just, just crossing paths in school I think everyone just kind of knew who each other were. Uhm, but we were never really, you know, we never bonded in a, in a, that type of relationship or any....

YM: Okay.

JH: ...type.

YM: Uh, what about through high school? Did you guys ever become friends or....

JH: Uhm....

YM: ...just knew each other in passing?

JH: The same thing through high school. We, we both had our own circle of friends and just kind of knew who each other were. That's pretty much it.

YM: When the last time you actually remember seeing Casey, when would that be?

JH: Uh, sometime in July at the uh, Waterford Ale House. It was a Tuesday night because it was ladies' night.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: Uhm, and that was the last time I had seen her.

YM: And tell me about that. Who were you there with?

JH: (Coughs.) Uhm, I was there with a few friends. Do you want his name?

YM: Yes please.

JH: Uhm, I was there with a Gabriel Flete. It's Flete, F-L-E-T-E.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: Uhm, he's a close friend of mine. And uhm, let's see. Uh, I think I was there with a Cory Arnold; C-O-R-Y, A-N-R...Arnold, uhm.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: Uhm, and then she was there at the other tab...a table actually next to ours uhm, with uh, Brandon Snow, uh Sean Daly, and a girl named Layla.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: And uhm, you know, just had a brief hello, hey. It's good to see you out. How you doing? He said good.

YM: Did she come up to you or did you go over to her?

JH: Uhm, it was actually a while. I noticed her sitting there but it was, like I said we're not that, that close to where I went over to the table.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: I don't know her friends that well. I just know who they are from school as well. Uhm, I think even maybe Gabriel, the person I was with, might have even made eye contact with her first. She kind of came around to the table. Uhm...

YM: Okay.

JH: ...she was actually leaving the restaurant with, they were still there. Some of her friends were still at the table. And she was going to leave the restaurant. And as she was leaving it was more of like a goodbye, how you doing?

YM: Okay. Uhm, what was she like that night? Was she, I guess how would you, how would you characterize her? Was she happy, sad, drunk, sober, uhm...

JH: Looked, looked normal. Uhm, just having a beer.

YM: Did you see Caylee at all? Her child there at all?

JH: Uh, no.

YM: Uhm, did you know she had a child?

JH: Yes.

YM: Have you ever seen the child?

JH: I have never met or seen the child.

YM: So the last time you saw her was at the Ale House uh, back in July of this year. It was a Tuesday.

JH: Uh-hum (affirmative).

YM: Do you recall uh, the time before this July that you saw her? Was it...

JH: Uhm, about a year.

YM: Okay. What was, what, well....

JA: Do you recall who was with her at the Ale House?

JH: The Sean Daly, the Brandon Snow, the Layla, and I don't know her last name, and uhm, I think there might have been, there were two more people there but I'm not sure.

JA: Do you know Dante Salati?

JH: And I do not know who that is?

JA: No? Okay.

YM: Uhm....

JH: Maybe if a face, I don't know if he went to school with us. If that's, if, I don't know who that is really, but if he went to school with us maybe I might recognize his face, but I don't know him.

JA: Okay.

YM: The, go back to the year before. You last saw her the year before, what were the circumstances around that.

JH: Uhm, (sighs), I think just you know, with the My Space being popular and everything, uhm, probably just you know, saying hello and things like that. Uhm, you know, hung out one time. Uhm, and that was, that was the end of that.

YM: Okay. How uh, did you guys just hook up on My Space, decide to go out? Did you go out to dinner or a movie or...

JH: No, nothing like that. Not on, not on a date or anything. Just uhm, probably just you know uh, saw her out like at a party or something like that and said hello. Uhm, I mean I can't think, this is over a year ago, about what the circumstances were. Just....

YM: It was at a party though?

JH: Uhm, yes. Uhm, that's what I'm assuming. I don't know if it was at another Ale House meeting. You know I'm just saying, thinking of the, the last time I saw her.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: And over a year ago I, I know I was with my roommates out. I'm not sure exactly if it was a club, bar, you know, something more....

YM: It was a social setting though?

JH: Yeah (affirmative), a social setting.

YM: It wasn't, it was...

JH: It wasn't just her and I.

YM: Okay. So was there any privacy between you guys the last time you saw her a year ago?

JH: No.

YM: Like just you and her?

JH: No privacy.

YM: Oh, okay. So you guys didn't like go off or...

JH: No.

YM: Alright. Uh, a couple things I want to back up on. Do you have any children?

JH: No sire. No sir.

YM: And you don't have, obviously then if you don't have any children you don't have a child named Zachary, or a boy named Zachary?

JH: No sir.

YM: Do you have any cousins, nephews, or anyone in your family that lives in your household or, or, or pe...kids that you're seen with by the name of Zachary?

JH: No sir.

YM: What about any other, you know, nephews, uh, other kids, some....

JH: Uhm...

YM: ...someone that you....

JH: I have one....

YM: ...might be with that they might assume is your son?

JH: No sir. I have one sister and she has no children herself.

YM: Okay.

JH: So then that (inaudible).

YM: Uhm, did you used to work at Universal Studios?

JH: I did used to work at Universal Studios.

YM: Uhm...

JH: 2....

YM: ...about when?

JH: 2002.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative). And uh, real briefly, your job description there was what?

JH: Uhm, I did, I stocked food carts around the theme park, and also uhm, bussed some tables in a certain restaurant there.

YM: Do you recall ever working with Casey at Universal Studios?

JH: Uhm, I never did work with Casey at Universal Studios.

YM: Okay. Uhm, we, we, we, we talked about this just briefly before the tape went on and uh, again I'll, I'll stress it for the tape. Since July, or since you, say since May, aside from the Ale House and aside from I guess uh, I guess you guys had text message communication after the Ale House. Is that correct?

JH: Uh-hum (affirmative).

YM: And text message communication had to do with what?

JH: Uh, text messaging about uh, Club Fusion. To come out.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: It's a, not a personal text message. It's called a mass text message.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: So oh, several, like including uh, my friend Gabriel, uhm, got that text message as well.

YM: Did you ever get private text messages from her after meeting her at the Ale House? Like a private conversation or anything like that?

JH: Uhm, maybe uh, that same night at the Ale House. Perhaps a text message of uhm, hey, I got your number now. You know, I'll talk to you soon.

YM: Did she...

JH: (Inaudible)...

YM: ...ever call you?

JH: Uhm, didn't call me, no.

YM: Did you ever call her after that?

JH: I did not call her, no.

YM: At any time since uh, May of this year up until uh, July 15th, did she ever reach out to you either by text, or having someone else call you, or call you at home, or call you from her house phone? Did she ever reach out to you in any other way, shape, or form, through e-mail or text messages, and ask you to help her with anything?

JH: Uh, no sir.

YM: Did she ever reach out and, and want to confide something in you? Tell you about something bad that may have happened?

JH: Uhm, no sir.

YM: Alright. Did (sighs), did you ever know of her to use any type of illicit drugs, uhm, marijuana, Ecstasy, Zanax, anything like that?

JH: No sir.

YM: Were you ever present while she used any of that, or were you ever present, or was she ever present while you did?

JH: Never.

YM: Okay. (Sighs.)

JA: Describe how she was in high school. How, well how would you characterize how she was in high school.

JH: Uh, I mean always with a big smile. And uh, she's always had a big smile. Uhm, you know, just passing through the hallways really be the only time that I seen her. Uh, we never, you know, interacted during lunch or anything like that.

JA: Was she popular?

JH: Uhm, I would assume so. I, you know as far as ever since this case has come out I think not just popular to people not knowing her, but I think I've realized how...

JA: We're talking about in high school was she popular?

JH: Uhm, our high school had almost four thousand kids in it. So y...I would say yeah (affirmative), she was popular for her, for her class grade.

JA: Okay. Uhm, did you ever hear anything about her in any iss...any problems with her and her mother and father uh, at that time?

JH: Uh, never.

JA: How about...

JH: I never was that close to...

JA: ...her and her brother?

JH: I never was that close to her...

JA: Okay.

JH: ...to find anything about that.

JA: Okay. Thank you.

YM: Did uh, what was her reputation in high school? You know uh, obviously kids have, or people have reputations when they go to high school as uh, being a certain....

JH: Uh-hum (affirmative).

YM: ...type of person. What was her reputation?

JH: Uhm, I, I really don't have uhm, a reputation description on her besides you know, uhm, I think she was well liked by her friends.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JH: Uhm, you know, like I said, she always seemed happy. But I just never was close enough to, to get a perspective on that.

YM: So she was never known to be easy, or she was never known to be a...

JH: I don't...

YM: ...an alcoholic, or never known....

JH: Uh...

YM: ...to be a bookworm or...

JH: I don't have any personal friends who have...

YM: What did you hear?

JH: ...slept with her or anything like that.

YM: But what did you hear about her in high school? Did you hear about any of that/

JH: Uhm, no, I didn't.

YM: Okay. What about uhm, we talked a little bit about the conversation that you may have had uhm, while Texas Equisearch was in town uh, that you disagreed with I guess with the fact that they were researching or what certain people were doing. Tell me a little bit about that.

JH: Uhm, I didn't just disagree with the search. Uh, the search was going to go on.
Uhm, I understand that's the way things work. Uhm, but you know, my little sister
uh, she had went out on a day to go search as well, and so did my ex-girlfriend.
Uhm, they...

YM: What's your little sister's name?

JH: Uh, Rebecca Hopkins.

YM: And the name of your ex-girlfriend?

JH: Uh, Cara uh, Luri.

YM: Cara what?

JH: Luri.

YM: Luri? L-U-R-Y?

JH: R-I.

YM: R-I. Okay. And they went out on a search and?

JH: Uhm, yes. They didn't go out together. I just had spoken to both of them. They
both said they were going to go on a certain day. That they were going go out on
the search. And you know I may have mentioned that you know, during the time
no one knows what, what has happened. And the people are going to go on a
search anyway. I just feel like that you're giving up hope by going out in a
search. I just can't see myself going out there and doing something that, or
possibly discovering something. You know, I just....

YM: When, well, well what, I'm not your statements are right or wrong, what prompted
you to, to, to say what you said as far as oh, instead of just saying, oh, okay, be
careful, to kind of say I don't know why you're doing this. I don't know what
you're (inaudible). Well what prompted that?

JH: I didn't understand if they were doing it because they really wanted to know, or if they were doing it because of the fact that you know, I was in the news and I don't, I just don't have no idea. I just, and it really....

YM: I want an opin... uhm, I'm going to ask your opinion. What is your personal opinion on uhm, what do you think is, is Caylee alive or is Caylee not alive? Your personal opinion.

JH: I don't know.

YM: Well I asked you the same question...

JH: Uh...

YM: ...just a little while ago and then you gave me another answer.

JH: Uhm, I mean with everything that's come out I think there's a possibility that's she's no longer living.

YM: Uhm, do you know Casey well enough either way to, to, to, to give an opinion on what you think might have happened?

JH: Uhm, I don't know her well enough to know what might have happened. I only hope for the best.

YM: Okay. John, anything?

JA: No, that's it.

YM: Is there anything I, I failed to bring up, uh, or didn't ask you about that you feel is important to this case that uh, you want to share with me?

JH: Uhm, not that I can think of.

YM: Okay. Uh...

JH: And if there is I'd definitely come and I'll give you a call.

YM: Okay. Raise your right hand for me. Do you swear and affirm everything you just told me is the truth?

JH: It is.

YM: Okay, thank you.

End of recorded statement.

This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.

CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF