

11

1 A Yes, I was.

2 Q And what did you find in the trunk of this
3 vehicle?

4 A There was a body in the trunk of the vehicle.
5 There was a lot of charred debris. There were pieces of
6 fabric that looked like might be blankets, different fabric
7 types, fleece type things. It looked like blankets to me.

8 Q Can you describe the position of the body that
9 you found in the trunk?

10 A Body was folded up. The head was to the right
11 side of the vehicle or the passenger side and knees were
12 bent, folded up, and the feet were to the left side of the
13 vehicle or the driver's side, and the chest was sort of
14 turned facing up a little bit with the left arm sort of
15 bent under the body and the head was covered so you
16 couldn't see the face.

17 Q I'm going to show you Grand Jury Exhibit No. 9
18 and if you could tell the Grand Jury what is depicted in
19 this photograph.

20 A That's a photo of the trunk opened showing the
21 body in the trunk.

22 Q Okay. Had the body been moved or touched or
23 anything at the point that this picture had been taken?

24 A No.

25 Q You see in the middle of this photograph some

11 1 white marks. What part of the body is that?

2 A That's the, that would be the left knee.

3 Q Okay. I'm going to have you mark on this off
4 to the side of the margins what direction her head is and
5 what direction her feet are.

6 I'm going to also have you initial it
7 just so we know that was you.

8 I'll publish that to the jury as well.

9 Now was there any, you said there was
10 also some fabric in the trunk. Was there any fabric that
11 stuck out to you as unusual or particularly interesting of
12 all the fabric that you found in the trunk?

13 A There were three different ones that I
14 remember in particular. There were two fleece fabrics.
15 There was one that was sort of a multi-colored fleece with
16 like purple and blue, some black in it. There was another
17 one that was almost like a tiger print with orange and
18 black. And then there was an off-white sort of a cotton
19 fabric with a raised square pattern in it that I remember.
20 Those are the three that I remember specifically being in
21 the trunk.

22 Q I'm going to show you Grand Jury Exhibit No.
23 11. Do you recognize what is in that photograph?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What is that?

11 1 A This is the off-white fabric with the white
2 square pattern and this I think is the orange fleece
3 pattern.

4 Q And why did the off-white fabric with the
5 raised square pattern in it stand out in your mind?

6 A It just was unusual. It was a thick fabric.
7 It, there weren't, I don't know, it just, it didn't burn
8 all the way in there. It was a thick, heavy fabric. It
9 was distinctive looking.

10 Q Okay. I'll publish that to the Grand Jury as
11 well.

12 Now you said that the body was partially
13 covered. Can you describe that?

14 A You couldn't see the face or head at all, it
15 was covered with something.

16 Q Was there anything else that you noticed
17 laying or sitting on the body that was unusual?

18 A It looked like there was a wire that was like
19 in the neck area.

20 Q Did eventually you remove the body from the
21 trunk?

22 A Yeah, the body was removed eventually.

23 Q Did you photograph and examine the body from
24 there?

25 A It was, yes.

12

1 Q I'm going to show you Grand Jury Exhibit No.
2 10 and if you can tell us, what's depicted in that
3 photograph?

4 A Yes, that's the body after it was removed from
5 the trunk.

6 Q Does this show the wire at all that you're
7 referring to?

8 A Yes, it does.

9 Q Okay. And if you could just kind of draw an
10 arrow to that and put the word wire with your initials.

11 Does this also show that her head and
12 face are covered?

13 A Yes, it does.

14 Q Were you able to determine what it was covered
15 with?

16 A Well, it appears to be a fabric. It has a
17 weave pattern to it.

18 Q Could you tell whether or not it was secured
19 to her head or neck?

20 A It appeared to be because it wasn't loose and,
21 you know, easily coming off. It was, it came in at the
22 neck area. And then there was the wire over that area.

23 Q And whatever was on her face did not fall off
24 when she was taken from the trunk?

25 A Correct.

12 1 Q Did you attempt to remove it or did you
2 attempt to remove the blanket or anything from her face?

3 A No.

4 Q Were there any parts of her body that were
5 preserved more than others?

6 A Yes, there were.

7 Q Can you describe that?

8 A Her left arm was a little more preserved
9 probably because it was underneath her body, and then her
10 pelvic area, because it was sort of folded up in the trunk
11 I think because it was a little more protected.

12 Q And you've said her. Were you able to
13 determine the gender of the body once it was removed?

14 A We didn't move her a lot around, she wasn't
15 moved when she was, when we got in the trunk, but it
16 appeared to be a female body.

17 Q I'll publish that.

18 I need your initials -- oh, you did, you
19 initialled. Thank you.

20 Once you photographed the body out of
21 the trunk, what happened next?

22 A The body was placed in a sealed body bag and
23 removed by the mortuary, taken to the coroner's office.

24 Q Once the body was removed from the trunk did
25 you find any items of evidentiary value in the trunk

12

1 itself?

2 A We did. We sifted through the trunk. There
3 were pieces of fabric were removed from the trunk and I
4 think before we, before the body was removed also we sifted
5 through it and there were some loose bones that were also
6 removed with the body.

7 Q Were you able to determine what the make and
8 model of this car was?

9 A It was a Jaguar I remember that. I'd have to
10 look at my report. I don't remember the year off the top
11 of my head.

12 Q Would it refresh your recollection to look at
13 your report?

14 A Yes, I have it right here.

15 Q Okay. If you could look at it there.

16 A 2003.

17 MS. GOETTSCH: Thank you. I have no further
18 questions for this witness.

19 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

20 BY A JUROR:

21 Q Did anybody discover any, or the absence or
22 presence of keys in the ignition in this vehicle?

23 A No, not in the ignition.

24 Q You were present when they opened the trunk?

25 A Yes.

12

1 Q And could you describe how that was done?

2 A They had a, some big tools, they had to pry
3 it, force it open. I didn't take part in opening it. I
4 was just kind of behind them.

5 Q You observed that though?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did it appear to be what you would have to do,
8 their efforts would be commensurate with someone opening a
9 locked trunk?

10 A Yes. Uh-huh.

11 BY A JUROR:

12 Q Who owned the car?

13 A It was registered I believe to Kelly Ryan.

14 That was secondhand information to me.

15 MS. GOETTSCH: Okay. And let me just

16 instruct --

17 BY MS. GOETTSCH:

18 Q Do you have any personal knowledge as to who
19 the car was registered to?

20 A No. No.

21 Q And so that would be hearsay. You have to
22 disregard that at this time.

23 Did you give -- a follow-up question.

24 Did you give that partial plate
25 information to detectives in this case?

12

1 A Well, they were there so they had that.

2 Q And that was put in the report, the partial
3 plate?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Did you also recover a VIN number from the
6 vehicle?

7 A I don't recall. I don't think the VIN was, I
8 don't remember if it was readable on the vehicle. I
9 believe they already had that information.

13

10 Q Was the VIN number included in your report?

11 A Yes, it was.

12 MS. GOETTSCH: Thank you. I have no further
13 questions.

14 BY A JUROR:

15 Q I have a question. The picture that, with the
16 white blanket, was that there after they removed the body,
17 then you saw the white blanket, or was that blanket there
18 while the body was there?

19 A It was already in the trunk but we pulled it
20 out and could see it. The layer on top was more charred
21 and then as we pulled stuff out there were layers like that
22 weren't as burnt that you could see.

23 Q So the body was still in the trunk when you
24 were pulling the layers off?

25 A No, no, that was after we took, after the body

13

1 was removed.

2 Q Okay. I have one more question. Is this a
3 bracelet on her wrist?

4 A Yes. Yes.

5 THE FOREPERSON: Gary.

6 BY A JUROR:

7 Q The wire you testified you thought was wrapped
8 around her head or neck, was it later ruled out as
9 something indigenous to the manufacturer of the vehicle?

10 A It was left on her and it went on the body to
11 the coroner's office and it was removed there. I didn't
12 attend the autopsy. But there were a lot of wires that
13 came off the vehicle. But this was around, it didn't
14 appear to be something that had just fallen from the
15 vehicle.

16 Q Okay.

17 BY A JUROR:

18 Q I understand that the footprints were
19 difficult to investigate because of the wind.

20 A Correct.

21 Q But could you tell how many different sets of
22 footprints there might have been?

23 A They were actually just partial footwear.

24 Q Different footwear or the same footwear?

25 A It looked like the same footwear and it was

13

1 like just two areas and they were fairly close together,
2 maybe five or six feet apart.

3 THE FOREPERSON: Any other questions?

4 BY A JUROR:

5 Q Yes. Referring to Grand Jury Exhibit No. 11,
6 if I can send this up to you, could you tell me from that
7 photograph how many pieces of wire are present and whether
8 or not they're a continuous strand? It appears to me
9 that -- how many do you see, you know, exposed pieces of
10 wire?

11 A Yeah, I can see three pieces and it's, I
12 couldn't tell you for sure, at least three different
13 pieces. I couldn't tell you if they're continuous.

14 Q Do they appear to be wrapped around the body?

15 THE FOREPERSON: Maybe I can interrupt. There
16 is another photo here that might explain that to you.

17 BY A JUROR:

18 Q Okay. We just haven't seen -- that would be
19 my same question anyway. I'm just asking in your
20 experience does it appear that that wire is something
21 foreign to the automobile and more appropriate to the body?

22 A Well, there were pieces of wire from the
23 automobile, there were, because we found pieces of wire
24 that came from the vehicle.

25 Q Then perhaps on one of these other photos when

13

1 the body is removed I haven't seen there is a wire present
2 in those photos.

3 A Yeah.

4 BY MS. GOETTSCH:

5 Q And do you recall whether or not the wire that
6 is depicted in this photograph was actually wrapped around
7 her body or just laying on the top? If you know.

8 A There was both. There was some that was
9 laying on top, you know, that was probably more along the
10 mid section, and then there was the piece that was around
11 her neck, when they actually lifted her out came with her,
12 and at first you couldn't, we weren't sure if it was just
13 laying across, but when we moved her and it came out with
14 her we knew it was actually around her neck.

15 THE FOREPERSON: Any other questions?

16 MR. DASKAS: May I just clarify one thing?

17 THE FOREPERSON: Yes.

18 MR. DASKAS: I apologize.

19 BY MR. DASKAS:

20 Q Miss Sams, the wire you just described that
21 was wrapped around the victim's neck, is that depicted in
22 Grand Jury Exhibit No. 10?

23 A Yes.

24 MR. DASKAS: Okay. Thank you.

25 THE FOREPERSON: By law these proceedings are

13

1 secret and you are prohibited from disclosing to anyone
2 anything that has transpired before us, including evidence
3 and statements presented to the Grand Jury, any event
4 occurring or statement made in the presence of the Grand
5 Jury, and information obtained by the Grand Jury.

6 Failure to comply with this admonition
7 is a gross misdemeanor punishable by a year in the Clark
8 County Detention Center and a \$2,000 fine. In addition,
9 you may be held in contempt of court punishable by an
10 additional \$500 fine and 25 days in the Clark County
11 Detention Center.

12 Do you understand this admonition?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes.

14 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you and you may be
15 dismissed.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

17 MS. GOETTSCH: Our next witness is Detective
18 Robert Wilson.

19 THE FOREPERSON: Please raise your right hand,
20 sir.

21 You do solemnly swear that the testimony
22 you are about to give upon investigation now pending before
23 this Grand Jury shall be the truth, the whole truth, and
24 nothing but the truth, so help up God?

25 MR. WILSON: Yes.

13

1 THE FOREPERSON: Please be seated.

2 You are advised that you are here today
3 to give testimony in the investigation pertaining to the
4 offenses of murder with use of a deadly weapon, kidnapping,
5 accessory to murder, and third degree arson, involving
6 Craig Michael Titus, Kelly Ann Ryan and Anthony Gross. Do
7 you understand this advisement?

8 MR. WILSON: Yes.

9 THE FOREPERSON: Would you please state your
10 first and last name and spell them for the record.

11 MR. WILSON: Robert, R-o-b-e-r-t, Wilson,
12 W-i-l-s-o-n.

13

14

ROBERT WILSON,

15 having been first duly sworn by the Foreperson of the Grand
16 Jury to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but
17 the truth, testified as follows:

18

19

EXAMINATION

20

21 BY MS. GOETTSCH:

14

22 Q Can you tell us how you are employed?

23 A I am a detective with the Las Vegas
24 Metropolitan Police Department.

25 Q What unit are you assigned?

14

1 A Homicide.

2 Q How long have you been assigned to that unit?

3 A Approximately five years.

4 Q And were you called to investigate a potential
5 homicide that occurred out at Sandy Valley Road on or about
6 December 14th of 2005 here in Las Vegas, Clark County,
7 Nevada?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And what was your first step in that
10 investigation where you learned about it?

11 A We received a call, I think it was around
12 seven o'clock in the morning, we were advised that there
13 was a burnt vehicle out at that location and that there was
14 what they believed to be a human body inside that vehicle
15 that was also burnt.

16 Q Based on that information what steps did you
17 take next?

18 A We responded out to that scene.

19 Q Once you were at the scene were you able to
20 get a VIN number or registration information off of the
21 car?

22 A No.

23 Q Did you get any leads as to who may be the
24 owner of the car?

25 A Yes.

14

1 Q How did you develop those?

2 A The first fireman that was on the scene, he
3 had arrived before the vehicle had been totally consumed
4 by fire and he had documented the plate number that was on
5 that vehicle and he had given that plate number to officers
6 as they arrived and they passed it onto us.

7 Q Based on that plate information did you
8 investigate who the registered owner might be?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And based on the information that you received
11 regarding the registered owner, did you conduct any
12 interviews or make contact with anyone?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And who did you make contact with?

15 A Kelly Ryan.

16 Q Where did you make contact with Miss Ryan?

17 A At her residence. It's I believe like 9450
18 something Adobe Arch.

19 Q What part of town is that located in?

20 A It's in the southwest part of town. It's over
21 off of like Fort Apache and Hacienda area.

22 Q What time did you make contact with Miss Ryan?

23 A It was probably approximately 10:30, 11:00
24 when we first contacted her.

25 Q On what day?

14

1 A On the 14th of December.

2 Q You said you contacted her at her house?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Was anyone else present?

5 A Yes.

6 Q You said it was 10:30, 11:00, a.m. or p.m.?

7 A It was a.m.

8 Q Who else was present when you made contact
9 with Miss Ryan?

10 A Present with me or present at the residence?

11 Q Present at the residence.

12 A Craig Titus.

13 Q What did you do once you got to the residence?

14 A Well, we knocked on the door and Miss Ryan
15 answered the door and we explained who we were and that we
16 had found her vehicle and asked if we could come in and
17 discuss, you know, the circumstances surrounding the
18 vehicle, and she indicated that she knew that it was
19 missing and so she invited us in and we began talking to
20 her.

21 Q When you say we, who is we?

22 A It was Detective Ken Hardy and Detective Cliff
23 Mogg.

24 Q Did you actually take a statement from Miss
25 Ryan?

14

1 A Yes.

2 Q Was anyone else present while you took the
3 statement from her?

4 A No.

5 Q Was this a tape recorded statement?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What did Mr. Titus and the other detectives do
8 while you took a taped statement from Miss Ryan?

9 A They had given us permission to search the
10 room that their roommate Melissa James had occupied when
11 she was there so Detective Hardy was involved with that
12 search of that room for possible leads, and Detective Mogg
13 was involved in taking a taped interview with Mr. Titus and
14 I believe he was in the living room, and I was at the table
15 in the kitchen area with Miss Ryan taking her statement.

16 Q Was Miss Ryan under arrest at that time?

17 A No.

18 Q Was she a suspect at all?

19 A No.

20 Q Was she free to leave or free to not give you
21 a statement?

22 A Absolutely, yes.

23 Q Did she voluntarily give you a statement?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What did she tell you about Melissa James?

1 A Well, she said a lot of things about this
2 whole situation. She indicated that they had known Melissa
3 James for several years, that they're involved in, she
4 indicated that she was into the fitness industry and that
5 her husband was into the body building industry and that at
6 one point at a show I believe it was in Florida that they
7 had had some sort of contact with her, that she was like
8 assigned to be his, one of the -- anyways one of the people
9 that was assigned to him at this show and they had hit it
10 off as friends and that they had developed this friendship
11 and had tried, I think she spent sometime living with them
12 in California working for them on and off, that kind of
13 stuff, and they had just been friendly.

14 Q Did Kelly Ryan tell you when the last time
15 Melissa moved into their house?

16 A Yes, she said it was, she wasn't sure on the
17 date but she said she thought it was October of 2005.

18 Q Did Kelly Ryan acknowledge that she was the
19 owner of the Jaguar that had the plates 269PPL?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You indicated that Kelly initially told you
22 that she knew that the car was missing. What did she tell
23 you about that?

24 A She said that she had, they had some friends
25 over and that the friends were there until about two

15

1 o'clock in the morning and that they had been up a little
2 bit longer than that, and when she finally went to bed, she
3 said she normally gets up around five o'clock in the
4 morning to go to the bathroom and take her dog out, she
5 said that she had gone out to take the dog out and she
6 noted that there were some posing lights, she called them
7 posing lights that were in the garage that were on, so she
8 said that she went back to turn those off and she said that
9 she had some laundry going in the laundry room which is
10 right before you get to the garage door, the inside garage
11 door, and so she said she went over there to do something
12 with her laundry and then to turn the lights off and when
13 she turned the lights off she realized that her car was
14 missing.

15 Q And this is about five o'clock in the morning?

16 A Yeah, she said like four or five-ish I think
17 is what she said.

18 Q To your knowledge were there any police
19 reports that the car had been stolen or missing?

20 A No.

21 Q Did she tell you whether or not they had had
22 any problems with Melissa leading up to that evening?

23 A Yes.

24 Q What did she tell you about that?

25 A She said that in the past two weeks prior to

15

1 this incident that she had started noticing things, unusual
2 things happening with their credit, with some of their bank
3 accounts, with, you know, credit, new credit cards that
4 they didn't apply for that had started showing up at the
5 house, charges on ATM's and things like that that they
6 hadn't authorized or weren't aware of, things like that
7 that were happening.

8 Q Did she tell you whether or not she had talked
9 to Melissa about those issues?

10 A Yes.

11 Q What did she tell you about that?

12 A She said that she suspected that she was doing
13 some sort of a like fraud or something and obtaining this
14 money without their permission, she indicated that they
15 were pretty free and open in trusting with her at first and
16 that there was, she had actually given her her ATM card in
17 the past and given her the pin number and would allow her
18 to go and withdraw money for them and use it for her own.
19 She didn't have, she said that they basically paid
20 everything for her and they were okay with that, but she
21 started getting bothered when they would go out somewhere
22 to eat and Melissa wouldn't even make an effort to pay for
23 it anymore, that she was getting so comfortable with the
24 situation of kind of just taking from them that it started
25 to bother her that she was, you know, kind of expecting it

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1 instead of being grateful for it and at least offering to
2 pay. She said that she confronted Melissa about it and
3 said that they actually had an argument and that Melissa
4 had spent the night, they had gotten a room for her at La
5 Quinta Hotel the night or two before that, and that she had
6 given her a letter that kind of detailed all of these
7 problems that she had attributed to Melissa and that
8 Melissa was pretty upset about the accusations that they
9 were making against her and that was pretty much it.

10 Q Okay. And so I understand it, did Kelly say
11 that the reason Melissa got the room at the La Quinta was
12 because they were upset over the confrontation?

13 A Yes, right.

14 Q Do you recall what day Kelly said that was
15 that there was a confrontation and then Melissa went to
16 stay in a hotel room?

16

17 A You know she wasn't really clear on the days
18 because she had stated the night before at the hotel. She
19 hadn't spent the night, the night that the car went
20 missing she was not supposedly supposed to be there, and
21 so the night, it had to have been the night before that she
22 was indicating that she had spent at La Quinta, but she
23 wasn't really specific as to which days were where, when
24 the argument occurred. From what she was implying, I
25 thought she meant that the, that she had come back from La

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1 Quinta and that there was another argument, they tried to,
2 kind of like tried to patch things up a little bit and that
3 there had been another argument that afternoon or evening
4 sometime.

5 Q Okay. Just to clarify, so your understanding
6 of what Kelly was telling you was that there was a
7 confrontation, she spends the night in the La Quinta and
8 then she comes back to the house and there is another
9 confrontation?

10 A That's what I was understanding from her, yes.

11 Q And the night that she spent in the La Quinta
12 was the night before the car went missing?

13 A I believe so, yes.

14 Q And what date would that have been?

15 A It would have been the, it would have been
16 like the 12th I believe of December.

17 Q Okay. Did she tell you what happened after
18 the second confrontation that Melissa spends the night in
19 La Quinta, comes back to the house, this is the 13th, does
20 Kelly tell you what happens after that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What did she tell you?

23 A She said that they had this argument and that
24 Craig had purchased tickets, a plane ticket for her to go
25 back to somewhere, back to Florida is what Kelly was

16

1 thinking, she wasn't exactly sure where the ticket was to
2 but she, I think she said, I think she said what town she
3 was supposed to eventually go back to but I don't remember
4 which one it was but it was a smaller town, and she said
5 that, she said fine, you know, I think we're going to have
6 to have you leave, and so she said she actually went in and
7 helped Melissa put some things in a suitcase, and that
8 Melissa was upset and kind of just throwing things in the
9 suitcase and so she went in and was trying to help her try
10 to fold them a little bit nicer, and then she said that she
11 took her in her Jaguar, drove her over to the Green Valley
12 Grocer located at Fort Apache and Hacienda and that Melissa
13 said just drop me off here, and so she said she pulled over
14 and let her get out and get her things and she claims that
15 was the last time she saw her.

16 Q Did Kelly tell you what time she allegedly
17 dropped Melissa off at the Green Valley Grocer?

18 A I think, she wasn't real sure but I think she
19 said it was like around three in the afternoon. But she
20 was kind of vague on what time exactly. But she was saying
21 it was around three-ish I think in the afternoon.

22 Q Would it refresh your recollection to look at
23 the taped statement of Miss Ryan?

24 A Sure. Yeah.

25 Q I'm going to kind of direct your attention to

16

1 page 38 and beyond if you want to take a look at that and
2 then if your recollection is refreshed let me know.

3 A Yeah. Yeah, she said it was about 3:30.

4 Q Okay. And then Miss Ryan told you after that
5 that she had not seen Melissa again?

6 A Correct.

7 Q Did Kelly tell you what she did or where she
8 went after she allegedly dropped Melissa off at the Green
9 Valley Grocer at 3:30 p.m.?

10 A She said she went back to the house and that
11 she hadn't left the house the rest of the day.

12 Q And this would have been on what day?

13 A The 13th.

14 Q And dropping her off at 3:30, that's a.m. or
15 p.m.?

16 A P.M.

17 Q 3:30 in the afternoon?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did Kelly indicate to you where Craig was that
20 day or what Craig was doing that day?

21 A She said that he was there, that there was
22 some discussion about using his truck to drop her off but
23 then they decided to use the Jaguar, then she said after
24 she got back from dropping her off he had left to go run
25 some errands, and she wasn't real specific as to where he

16 1 might have gone, and then she mentioned having some friends
2 over later, much later in the evening.

3 Q But she had told you that she, meaning Kelly,
4 had been home from approximately 3:30 p.m. on throughout
5 the rest of the night until she found the car missing?

6 A Yes.

17 7 Q Did she indicate whether or not she had heard
8 anyone come into the house during that period of time
9 between approximately 3:30 in the afternoon on the 13th
10 until she noticed the car missing at approximately five
11 o'clock on the 14th?

12 A She said she didn't hear anyone.

13 Q Did you discuss that with her or ask her about
14 that?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did she notice anything else unusual that
17 afternoon while she was home before she found the car
18 missing?

19 A She said something about finding some stuff in
20 her glasses or something in the cupboards and that she and
21 Craig had gone in and searched Melissa's room and claimed
22 to have found some drugs or some paraphernalia that they
23 threw away and some stuff related to their credit cards and
24 things like that.

25 Q Did she indicate whether or not she had ever

17

1 called the police about any of the credit cards or possible
2 misuse of the credit cards?

3 A She did not call the police.

4 Q Did she indicate that she had any knowledge
5 whatsoever as to what had happened to Melissa?

6 A She had, she gave like guesses. She was
7 implying that there was, that she was involved in the use
8 of drugs and that she had an ex-boyfriend or somebody in
9 town that had threatened to kill her before, but all she
10 could give us was a first name of I think it was Ben and
11 that was pretty much it.

12 Q She denied any involvement in Melissa's
13 disappearance at that time?

14 A You know I don't even know that I asked her.

15 Q Did she admit any involvement in the burning
16 of her Jaguar?

17 A No, she didn't know, she claimed she didn't
18 know what happened to Melissa and she claimed she didn't
19 know what happened to her car.

20 MS. GOETTSCH: I have no further questions for
21 this witness.

22 THE FOREPERSON: Any members of the Grand Jury
23 have any questions for this witness?

24 Jimmie.

25 ///

17

1 BY A JUROR:

2 Q Are Craig and Kelly married?

3 A Craig Titus and Kelly Ryan, they told me they
4 were married, yes.

5 THE FOREPERSON: Andy.

6 BY A JUROR:

7 Q Did Miss Ryan tell you how many friends came
8 over and what time they came over that evening?

9 A Yes. She said that there was her, one of her
10 best friends, Megan, who came over, and her boyfriend, and
11 that they had, you know I don't think if she said when they
12 came over but she said they had left at approximately two
13 o'clock in the morning.

14 Q Did you ask Miss Ryan how many sets of car
15 keys she had for the Jag?

16 A You know I didn't, but she said that her car
17 keys were kept in a basket, she had a dining room, a
18 separate dining room kind of at the base of the stairs and
19 there was kind of like just a basket that sat on that table
20 and she said that they kept, all their car keys went into
21 that basket and so she said that the keys weren't there and
22 that's where they always put the car keys after they came
23 home, they always put them in the basket.

24 Q Did you examine the basket for yourself?

25 A I didn't because she told me that they weren't

17
1 there.

2 Q Okay. In your interview she said that she
3 found drugs or maybe drug paraphernalia in Miss James' room
4 and that they had discarded it. Did she explain whether
5 they just put it in the garbage or how they discarded it?

6 A She said they threw it in the trash. That's
7 the extent of what she said.

8 Q Did she show you in her garbage?

9 A No, she didn't show me.

10 Q Did you ask?

11 A No.

12 Q Did she show you the credit card information
13 she claimed she found?

14 A She had -- one of the credit cards was kind of
15 odd actually because when Detective Hardy was searching
16 Melissa's room that she had used there was a chair sitting
17 up against the wall and there was a credit card just
18 sitting right on top of the chair, just on the seat of the
19 chair really nice and neat, and the rest of the room was a
20 mess, but this credit card was just sitting right there,
21 and I believe it was Kelly Ryan's credit card.

22 Q Okay. The -- did you -- you testified that
23 she had not reported the car missing yet or had not
24 reported it to Metro that it was gone. Did she report the
25 car missing to her insurance company at that time?

17

1 A No, she hadn't reported it missing to anyone.

2 Q And you testified that she said it was over a
3 two or three week period prior to this time period in
4 December that she started seeing strange things on the
5 credit cards and banking activity. Did she indicate that
6 she had reported that to her credit card or credit
7 reporting agency or the bank that there was strange things
8 going on?

18

9 A No, she hadn't reported that to anybody.

10 Q Okay. Where is the La Quinta? I'm not
11 familiar with that hotel. Where is that at?

12 A It's La Quinta and it's actually over off of
13 West Sahara and Fort Apache. It's west of Fort Apache on
14 the north side of Sahara.

15 Q So in your opinion would you say that's near
16 where the Ryans live?

17 A Yeah, it's, because they live south of
18 Tropicana, so from Tropicana to Sahara it's almost
19 immediately north, because they live, their house is just
20 west of Fort Apache so it's almost directly north, probably
21 however many miles, three to four miles to Sahara from
22 Tropicana.

23 Q And the Green Valley Grocer, that's like a
24 7-Eleven, where was that at?

25 A That was basically right around the corner

18 1 from the house, the little development that they were, you
2 could walk there easily. It was on the southwest corner of
3 Fort Apache and Hacienda.

4 Q Now she, Miss Ryan told you that Melissa asked
5 to be dropped at the Green Valley Grocers. Did Miss Ryan
6 tell you where she intended to take Miss James before she
7 said just drop me here?

8 A Well, she indicated that she had a flight and
9 that it was supposed to leave I think around ten o'clock
10 but, and so she didn't really say I was headed to the
11 airport but she said as I was driving she said drop me off
12 here and she said okay and she pulled over and she said she
13 let her out.

14 Q So basically she was intending, what she, it
15 appears to you she was intending to take Miss James to the
16 airport six or seven hours before the flight was due to
17 depart?

18 A I think that their relationship had been
19 strained to the point where I don't think she cared where
20 she was taking her, she just didn't want her around her
21 anymore and neither one wanted to be around each other, the
22 impression I got.

23 Q Okay. Thank you.

24 MS. GOETTSCH: And let me just interject here
25 that there can't be any speculation as to what Miss Ryan

18

1 was thinking or feeling at that point. The detective can
2 testify about his impression or her demeanor that she
3 portrayed about the relationship, but not any speculation,
4 that should be disregarded, the speculation as to what Miss
5 Ryan was feeling.

6 BY THE FOREPERSON:

7 Q A follow-up question. You indicated the room
8 was messy. Did it appear that any kind of a struggle had
9 taken place in that room?

10 A You know there could have been. The bed was a
11 mess and kind of, it looked like it had been searched by
12 police officers to be honest with you because I mean it was
13 very thoroughly gone through and there were clothes, there
14 was some bags that were packed in there, there was a safe
15 like maybe like about the size of this little thing here
16 and it was broken open. And there was just, it was a mess
17 in there.

18 THE FOREPERSON: Gary.

19 BY A JUROR:

20 Q You showed up at their house investigating a
21 body in a burnt-out car. At that time you have no
22 information about Mrs. James. How did her, or knowledge of
23 her come to you? Was it volunteered by Mrs. Ryan or did
24 you ask about other people staying at the house? I just
25 want to know how that came about.

18 1 A Well, when we knocked on the door I totally
2 expected to find out that Mrs. Ryan was in the car, that
3 that was her body in there. And when she answered the door
4 I was kind of surprised actually and so we, she said, I
5 asked if anyone else was there and she said yes, that her
6 husband was there, and so then I was, you know, puzzled
7 even a little bit more. But we began to talk to her and
8 she said that they had had a roommate that had just left
9 and that they suspected that she had taken their vehicle,
10 the Jaguar.

11 Q Thank you.

12 BY A JUROR:

13 Q Just following that line, when you and your
14 two partners, and is it Detective Hardy and Detective Mogg?

15 A It's Mogg, M-o-g-g.

16 Q Mogg.

17 One of you obviously was in the lead
18 when you knocked on the door. Do you recall what you said
19 to them? Did you start out by just asking about the
20 automobile, so forth?

21 A Right. Well, I asked her, I told her who I
22 was and I asked who she was, because I didn't really know
23 what I was dealing with when I came, when I went to the
24 door, but I knew that I had a vehicle that was registered
25 to that address and to a Kelly Ryan. And so that's why I

1 asked her who she was. And when she said she was Kelly
2 Ryan so then I'm like okay, so I decided to go ahead and
3 tell her, okay, I'm with homicide and we're investigating a
4 burnt-out vehicle and the vehicle comes back to you and
5 it's a Jaguar. And she said yes, my Jaguar is missing, and
6 I said can we come in and talk to you about it, and so she
7 said sure, come on in, and then when we walked in. In the
8 entryway I said is there anybody else here and she said
9 yes, my husband is here, and then he came from like
10 upstairs and kind of looked over the edge, the balcony,
11 then he realizes we were here and he came downstairs and
12 that's how we started talking to both of them.

13 Q When was the first realization for them -- did
14 you inform them that you had found a body?

15 A Yes.

16 Q How did you do that?

17 A We just, I think we just told them that we
18 were with homicide and that there was, we believed that
19 there was a body, a human body in the car, that we couldn't
20 tell who it was and didn't know who it was and so we were
21 backtracking to get, you know, with the owners of the
22 vehicle to find out who that possibly could be that was in
23 that vehicle.

24 Q At the time you informed them of that, what
25 was their demeanor, what was there reaction to this

19

1 statement?

2 A You know it was, I think she was, she had a
3 little more emotion, she was more like oh my God. You
4 know. And she was talking about how much they loved
5 Melissa and things like that and that she was a really
6 close friend of theirs. But we didn't even know that it
7 was Melissa, all we knew was there was a car and a body. I
8 mean they knew the information about Melissa and that their
9 car had been missing before we did.

10 Q So you're saying that she volunteered the name
11 Melissa?

12 A Oh yes.

13 Q Before you or any of your partners said that?

14 A No, we didn't know, we had no idea who Melissa
15 James was until they gave us that information.

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q Did you subsequently check hotel records at La
18 Quinta to see if Miss James had ever been registered there?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And you found out that she was in fact
21 registered there?

22 A No, she wasn't. Craig Titus was.

23 Q I see.

24 THE FOREPERSON: Any other questions?

25 Any other questions?

19

1 MS. GOETTSCH: Yes, I do have a few.

2 BY MS. GOETTSCH:

3 Q Is it fair to say that when you spoke to
4 Kelly, Kelly was assuming it was Melissa in the car?

5 A Yeah, I think she was. Or that's the
6 impression I got.

7 Q Did she offer that name as the person who
8 might be in the trunk of the car?

9 A She offered that name as a person that she
10 thought had the car.

11 Q Okay. Did you also, when you were discussing
12 with Kelly the possibility that someone came into her house
13 and took her car that she thought was in the garage, did
14 you discuss with Kelly her alarm system in her house?

15 A Yes.

16 Q What did she say about that?

17 A She said they had an alarm system but it
18 wasn't connected to the controller thing and it wasn't set.

19 Q Did she state whether or not the alarm would
20 make a noise if someone opened the front door to their
21 house?

22 A Like a little chirp or something or like a
23 siren or what do you mean?

24 Q Yes.

25 A As far as --

19

1 Q Either.

2 A I think she said if it was set all it did was
3 make a noise like a siren, but she had indicated that it
4 hadn't been set that night but that she always kept the
5 doors locked. She said I'm fanatical about locking the
6 doors, I always lock the doors.

7 Q Did she say whether or not the alarm had to be
8 set for the door to chime if somebody opened it?

9 A No.

10 Q Do you recall specifically what the address
11 was that you visited Kelly Ryan? You said it was Adobe
12 Arch.

13 A I mean I could look at the report. I don't
14 remember the numbers.

15 Q Would that refresh your recollection?

16 A Yeah, I have it right here, I could tell you.

17 Q Would you refresh your recollection and tell
18 us what the specific address was?

19 A 9539 Adobe Arch.

20 MS. GOETTSCH: Thank you. I have no further
21 questions.

22 BY A JUROR:

23 Q Did you ask Mrs. Ryan how she thought the
24 garage door can open up from the outside if someone
25 approaches the garage door? How can you approach the garage

19 1 door?

20 2 A She said they were upstairs and they have,
3 like it's kind of like an open area up at the top of the
4 stairs between some of the rooms and they have turned it
5 into like a theatre with the big couches and things and a
6 wall unit with a big screen TV there, and she had said that
7 they were up with their friends just kind of, I think that
8 she said something was playing, she didn't say if it was
9 the radio or TV but she said there was some background
10 noise from a movie or music, and that they were just
11 visiting up there, chatting, talking, you know, hey, let me
12 show you on my web site, or, you know, just various things
13 and that she doesn't think that they would have heard the
14 garage door open while they were upstairs.

15 Q Thank you.

16 BY A JUROR:

17 Q Back to La Quinta. They said they, Melissa --
18 not Melissa -- but Kelly and Craig had already stated that
19 they had gotten the motel room for Melissa. Am I correct
20 on that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Now did anybody at the hotel see Kelly there
23 personally go into the room?

24 A I didn't speak to anyone at the hotel but I
25 did check with them as far as the surveillance system and

20

1 they didn't have any cameras on the rooms themselves, they
2 are only on the entrances, and by the time we realized
3 which La Quinta we were talking about there was no video
4 left. They don't, it's not a digital system so it didn't
5 give us enough time to get back and get those videos before
6 they had already recorded over them.

7 BY A JUROR:

8 Q Just one follow-up. Did they provide you with
9 the names of the individuals that were at the party, that
10 they claimed were at the party the evening that the
11 automobile disappeared?

12 A She said Megan, and I don't think she gave us
13 the last name at that time, and her boyfriend. Which I
14 don't think that she even said who that was, but we
15 eventually found out who that was.

16 Q Did at any time during your initial interview
17 with her at the residence, did she ever mention Anthony
18 Gross?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Just that she knew this individual or --

21 A She said that Craig had left to go look for
22 Melissa, and I asked where would he go look for Melissa,
23 she's in a car, or you're assuming she's in a car, and so
24 she said well, I don't know, and she kind of stammered and
25 said maybe Wal-Mart. And I said well, did you try and call

20

1 her, did you call any of her friends, did you ask anyone to
2 help you look. And she said that Craig had called his
3 friend Anthony and that Anthony was one of these guys that
4 you could just depend on, whatever you needed he would help
5 out. And so I said who is Anthony and I said do you know
6 his last name, and she said Gross, and I said how do you
7 spell it, and she said G-r-o-s-s, and she said I have his
8 phone number in my cell phone, do you want it now, and I
9 said no, we can get that after the interview.

10 Q So when she left the house with the victim,
11 and is it your testimony that Craig, she understood that
12 Craig had left in his vehicle at or about the same time?

13 A I don't know that it was at the same time but
14 she said that she came back and that Craig had left to run
15 some errands. She didn't give me a time frame as far as,
16 you know, half hour or an hour later or he was gone when I
17 got back or anything, just that he had left, she had been
18 there that entire time until the evening and then that
19 Craig had left at some point during that time period to run
20 some errands.

21 Q Just continuing. So did she say there came a
22 time that Craig left to look for the victim?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And am I correct in assuming that he had
25 called Mr. Gross? Did she mention that Craig and Anthony

20

1 Gross went to look for her or that Craig was picking up
2 Anthony to go look for her?

3 A She just said that he had called Anthony to
4 help him and that Anthony was helping him look for her.

5 Q Thank you.

6 BY A JUROR:

7 Q I'd like to get back to the suitcases. You
8 mentioned that there were suitcases in Melissa's room.

9 A Yeah, like bags, luggage.

10 Q When Kelly was driving Melissa and Melissa
11 asked to stop off at the Green Valley, assuming from your
12 testimony Kelly was thinking about taking her to the
13 airport; is that correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Did Melissa have suitcases at that time when
16 she was left off?

17 A That's what Miss Ryan told me, yes.

18 BY A JUROR:

19 Q What was the time frame that Mr. Titus was
20 supposedly now looking for Miss James?

21 A She said that she discovered that the car was
22 missing about four or five, and she wasn't really good
23 about the times, but she said about a half hour to an hour
24 after that is when he had gone out to look for her.

25 Q And did she say how long he was gone?

1

1 A He was gone for about an hour is what she
2 said.

3 Q Okay.

4 THE FOREPERSON: Do you have any further
5 questions?

6 MR. DASKAS: Let me admonish you again, the
7 members of the Grand Jury, you have been instructed that a
8 statement offered against a defendant, which is a statement
9 made by a co-conspirator of the defendant during the course
10 and in furtherance of the conspiracy, may be considered by
11 you. However, if the statements are not made in
12 furtherance or during the course of the conspiracy you may
13 only consider the statements by a defendant against that
14 individual defendant. For example, the detective testified
15 about statements by Kelly Ryan. If those statements are
16 not made in furtherance or during the course of the
17 conspiracy you can only consider those statements as they
18 pertain to Kelly Ryan, not against her husband.
19 co-conspirator.

20 THE FOREPERSON: Any other questions?

21 By law these proceedings are secret and
22 you are prohibited from disclosing to anyone anything that
23 has transpired before us, including evidence and statements
24 presented to the Grand Jury, any event occurring or
25 statement made in the presence of the Grand Jury, and

1 information obtained by the Grand Jury.

2 Failure to comply with this admonition
3 is a gross misdemeanor punishable by a year in the Clark
4 County Detention Center and a \$2,000 fine. In addition,
5 you may be held in contempt of court punishable by an
6 additional \$500 fine and 25 days in the Clark County
7 Detention Center.

8 Do you understand this admonition?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you. You may be
11 excused.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

13 MS. GOETTSCH: This concludes our witnesses
14 for today. We'll be back continuing on with the case next
15 Thursday.

16 (Proceedings adjourned.)

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18 --ooOoo--
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