

KU Detective Urquhart
 JW John Willer
 SS Detective Stanek
 MC Michael Cunningham

KU This is ah Detective Ken Urquhart of the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department. I'm here with ah Detective Stanek also with the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department. And then also...

JW Deputy John Willer, Lake County Sheriff's Department.

KU And we're here talking with ah MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM. Ah, we're here just as a interview. We're not looking for any charges against MICHAEL. We are simply here for ah information as to the death ah and possible suspects in in the death of RICHARD NEUBAUER. Ah MICHAEL, if you could please give us your full name, date of birth, and address.

MC My name is MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM. 4-7-69. Ah currently was residing at 311 Ida Street, Antioch Illinois.

SS And you have no problem with this conversation being tape recorded?

MC No, none whatsoever. I'm doing this on my free will to help the detectives and John find a possible suspect or clues in this homicide.

KU Okay, and we have given you no promises or...

Speaker unknown Or anything.

MC No sir.

KU Okay. Um, why don't you start by telling us what your affiliation or association was with RICK NEUBAUER.

MC Um, I would frequently go to the ah ah tavern, which is called Whiplash which is on ah Grasslake Road and 83. Ah, I was kind of seeing a girl that was a bartender there. Her name was NICOLE JOHNSON. Um, I knew RICK um as a ah acquaintance at the at the tavern. Would go there ah shooting pool. I would go there to buy cocaine ah go there to listen to bands. Ah, sometimes I had boughten cocaine from RICK in small increments such as fifty dollar packages or sixteenths. Um, I have went with him from there to another bar in Antioch called the Limerick which we

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would go there frequently after the Whiplash would close. Um, I know that ah RICK had affiliation with RON and CHUCK the owners of the Whiplash and would ah sell cocaine to the patrons in the Whiplash um which the people I'd you know, just would know by face from being in there. Um, not really sure where he would get the cocaine. I do believe he would get it through CHUCK which is one of the owners and ah they would break it up into fifties and teeners and would sell it to the patrons in the bar. Um, they would have, I don't know if called competition, but ah the ah SARRANO brother um Ped, is it JOSE or PEDRO?

JW There's a couple....

MC Okay.

JW (inaudible) JOSE.

MC JOSE (inaudible) one okay. JOSE SARRANO would come in there and they would have um both of them would be selling that would be basically his competition. Um....

KU When you when you say "His competition" you mean that was RICK'S competition was JOSE or RAY'S competition?

MC It it would be RICK'S, RAY'S and CHUCK'S but not in the sense....I'm saying from my point of view competition. I did never saw em go head to head whether it was a problem...

SS So JOSE would actually come into the Whiplash?

MC Yes.

SS And sell drugs there?

MC Yes.

SS Okay.

MC I've boughten drugs from him. Um, I went from JOSE me JOSE and NICOLE ah a month ago. Left the Whiplash and went to Limerick cause Limerick stays open an hour after the Whiplash and be due to the fact that NICOLE was bartending and couldn't drink while she was working we would like to go there for cocktails. The three of us um, JOSE, I and NICOLE went to um Whiplash or to Limerick when we go pulled over coming back from my house. And ah we got some cocaine from that night and he hid the rest of the cocaine in his car. Antioch dropped him back

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up at my house and I drove him to ah a gentlemen's house by the name of FREGAS where ah RON was, the owner of the Whiplash.

KU Okay.

MC I let RON use my car at four o'clock in the morning to drive JOSE SARRANO to his house in Lake Villa which is off of Grand Avenue ah across from the fire station, okay. And then, RON, I and NICOLE JOHNSON went back to the Whiplash and got a six pack of beer and some more cocaine there.

SS What's RON'S last name?

MC I don't know. I don't know what his last name is. He's a bald gentleman with a tattoos of horns on his skull. Affiliated with the Latin Kings. Um, his brother's name is CHUCK. Ah..

KU Now is JOSE SARRANO, is he also a Latin King? Is he also got gang affiliation?

MC I don't know. I just talked to some friends of mine he here. Ah, he's a Maniac and his brother ah PED or THUNDER is the chief and calls the shots for the Maniac's.

KU Okay.

MC Okay. The Maniac's and the Latin Kings do not get along. Okay. Now RON, the owner....

SS Bar RON or RAY.

MCRAY, I'm sorry.

JW It's RAYMOND, right?

MC Yes. RAY and CHUCK. Ray is the bald headed one.

JW Okay.

MC RAY an and his friends the affiliation in the bar of th the Whiplash are predominately Latin Kings. They're two ones which are two one boys from the twenty first street in Chicago. I ah other that asked they says there might be a twenty first street here in Waukegan which would be a branch of the Latin Kings but he wasn't sure. Okay.

KU Okay.

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MC The Maniac's which THUNDER and his brother are, do not get along with the Latin Kings but they will join together if there is money to be made.
Okay.

KU Okay.

MC Like persay, I'll front you cocaine and you sell it in your establishment, I want my cut out of it. Other than that if there's any problems, the they will have it out....

KU Okay.

MC ...this is where I did find out ah ah about the two the two gangs. Um, from what I've heard and I've mentioned the name around the pot just since yesterday THUNDER and the SARRANO'S that ah you don't want to fuck with them. You fuck with them we wi they'll get ya.

KU Okay. "Get ya" as in I mean....

MC They can take you out.

KU Okay.

MC And ah, I've talked with these are some gang bangers that I've talked too ah...

KU Okay.

MC ...some other Maniac's that are in there and some ah SD's and some GD's that know....

KU Have you heard anything as far as NEUBAUER being into the SARRANO'S in for money or for cocaine or being fronted money or cocaine?

MC Honestly, since I've been in here tw in the last two months, no I haven't.

KU Okay.

MC I cannot answer that sp put anything on there. To take an educated guess, yes. I would...

KU Okay.

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MC ...say that he I d d I don't w go as far as that not in to him but would he go through him to get his drugs, absolutely.

KU Okay.

MC I can go I can put that I can put a little wager on that that say that sure. On neutral terms to start out with, SARRANO would front him something. Hey, here's a quarter ounce, give me my money back tomorrow or at the end of the night. I can see that happening....

KU Okay.

MC ...without hesitation I'll answer that. Is it possible that he could get into him for some money, yes because NEUBAUER was a user. Now JOSE from what I've watched from him, he was about the money. The man wouldn't do the cocaine and would drink and he was about the money. As opposed to NEUBAUER or myself that would get some drugs would sell it just to keep myself high and break even. You know, he was a user, SARRANO uh uh, money.

KU Okay. Okay.

MC Money guy. Um, also the NEUBAUER ah a couple times I didn't go with him but they went from Limerick and they would go to Ralph's, a bar up on C and 83.

KU Alright.

MC And NICOLE would tell me that. NICOLE would go with them, up there with RON.

SS Do sh does she (inaudible) up there?

MC I, to be honest with gentleman I can't say yes or no but they would go up to Ralph's. I don't want to put...

KU Okay.

MCI don't...

KU Um, now you were pretty good friends with NEUBAUER or just kind of an associate.

MC Associate.

KU Okay.

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MC I'll be absolutely honest with you.

SS What do you know about his girlfriend DENISE the bartender? DENISE SCHUETTE.

MC Sell ah packages ah a user um...

SS She would sell right at the bar?

MC Yes and so would NICOLE. Um, that was that's that's in ah to a drug dealer, that's a good thing and I'm gonna tell how they how to use that to their advantage. If I'm bartending and I've been there for a couple months I know I don't know you and I don't know you so you guys might be cops. But these other three guys I know them so their cool that I can sell them fifties and fifties and fifties. So, if I have a half ounce, I'm going to cut all my packages up and I'm gonna front it up to the bartender. Okay, I'm going to give it to you to sell because I know you're not going anywhere from six until close. And I know you're going to have my money so I'm gonna give you five packages to sell but I'm gonna give you one for free and that's going to be your commission. Now don't fuck with those five bags. So what they were doing is that they were using the girls. They're using NICOLE to get her packages off through there and while they would sit in the corner and play the video game or shoot pool and keep an eye on their business makes sure no one will fuck with the bartender but the bartender, it was her best judgment who was cool and who was not cool. So they would filter....

KU So...

MC ...their packages through her and NICOLE.

KU ...NICOLE and DENISE then were were selling for who? For SARRANO or for...

(Unknown) For RAY.

KU ...for RAY and CHUCK?

MC Yes.

KU RAY and CHUCK they were.

MC Yes. SARRANO would go through NICOLE but the times when I saw him I would be in there Sunday or Monday night or it would be a slower night, SARRANO would have it on him per on his person or he would go out to

his car and get it. And the car that he would keep it in or come there with would be was in brother's name. It's THUNDER'S because when we got pulled over they ran the plates and the VIN number and it came back to THUNDER.

KU Okay.

MC And the and they said "Where's he at?" da da dah. And he say's "I don't know".

SS Now how often would you frequent that tavern?

MC Three times a week.

SS What time would you s get there.

MC Friday. I'd be there Friday's, Saturday's for sure um what time, from nine, ten from nine or ten until closing and then I'd usually to the Limerick with them. Because I lived a couple of blocSS from the Limerick. We park my the car at my house and walk.

SS Now now when they would close, would ah DENISE'S boyfriend RICHARD NEUBAUER be there to pick....

MC Yeah.

SS ...her up every night?

MC Or see he was pretty tight with RON. Everybody would be out...

SS With RAY...

MC Yeah....

SS ...you mean?

MC ...Yeah. Why do I keep saying RON.

SS I don't know.

MC Um, he would chew everybody out of the bar except them guys and now he RON RAY would also like to now NICOLE was bisexual and so was DENISE kind of in a way so if there were women in the bar that RAY wanted to stick around, he would send NICOLE or her after them, boom get her high or turn them on to some toots and then keep the the women