

(0:00 - 0:10)

Okay, today's date is September 30th, 2010, the time is approximately 2.33 in the afternoon.

(0:10 - 0:14)

I'm Eric Severson, Investigator at the Public Defender's Office, on the phone with Natalie

(0:14 - 0:15)

Davis.

(0:15 - 0:25)

And we're going to be--excuse me, one second--and I'm going to record our conversation, if that's

(0:25 - 0:26)

okay with you?

(0:26 - 0:27)

Absolutely.

(0:27 - 0:32)

Alright, I'll just start by saying, out of the blue, I don't know, about 15 minutes ago,

(0:32 - 0:43)

you called me requesting to speak with me about an incident involving McNeil, Hardin

(0:43 - 0:44)

McNeil, correct?

(0:44 - 0:45)

Yes, sir.

(0:45 - 0:51)

And that was your boyfriend back in July of this year, and he was arrested and charged

(0:51 - 0:52)

with a felony assault.

(0:52 - 0:58)

I'd spoken with you earlier about this and recorded our conversation, and that would

(0:58 - 1:03)

have been back on August 17th, I believe, somewhere in that area.

(1:03 - 1:08)

And at that time, I advised you, the victim rights people, you know, I ask you if you're

(1:08 - 1:09)

aware of them.

(1:09 - 1:10)

Yes, sir.

(1:10 - 1:16)

So I'll remind you, the victim rights people, are you comfortable talking to me now without

(1:16 - 1:17)

them being around?

(1:17 - 1:18)

Yes, sir.

(1:18 - 1:20)

Okay, and you did contact me today?

(1:20 - 1:21)

Yes, sir.

(1:21 - 1:24)

Have I spoken or contacted you since our last conversation?

(1:24 - 1:25)

No, sir.

(1:25 - 1:28)

Okay, and what was the reason you called?

(1:28 - 1:34)

Well, you know, I just sort of feel like the last time we spoke, it was 7 a.m. my time.

(1:34 - 1:38)

I had just been released from the hospital, I was not feeling very well, I was feeling

(1:38 - 1:44)

really cranky, and, you know, I think I was pretty harsh on him and the whole situation.

(1:44 - 1:53)

The fact is that we were both very, very drunk, you know, I threw the first punch, he restrained

(1:53 - 2:00)

me to keep me from driving because, as I said, we were both very, very drunk, and I was trying

(2:00 - 2:01)

to leave.

(2:01 - 2:10)

So, you know, because of the alcohol he may have used a little too much force, but I certainly,

(2:10 - 2:14)

you know, I think that things got blown out of hand, it should probably have been kept

(2:14 - 2:19)

between the two of us, because it was a drunken fight between a couple that is normally very

(2:19 - 2:20)

happy.

(2:20 - 2:25)

So, I just wanted to make sure that, you know, before the next, I know there's a hearing

(2:25 - 2:26)

coming up.

(2:26 - 2:34)

Well, you know, unfortunately, it's gotten to this point, so we have this other version

(2:34 - 2:39)

that you told us, are you saying that that first version that you gave me is not an accurate

(2:39 - 2:40)

version?

(2:40 - 2:46)

No, it's not entirely accurate, there's no way to be entirely accurate, excuse me, due

(2:46 - 2:50)

to the amount of alcohol that we both consumed that day.

(2:50 - 2:54)

Oh, so what you're saying is that you were intoxicated at a point where you don't have

(2:54 - 2:56)

a clear recollection of what happened?

(2:56 - 2:57)

Absolutely.

(2:57 - 3:01)

Hmm, do you remember a flashlight at all, being involved in any of this?

(3:01 - 3:06)

You know, the thing with the flashlight, that was something that I thought that Harden had

(3:06 - 3:08)

told me.

(3:08 - 3:13)

So do you have any personal recollection of a flashlight being involved in any of this?

(3:13 - 3:14)

No, sir.

(3:14 - 3:17)

Do you know what date this occurred on?

(3:17 - 3:21)

Only because it was the 4th of July.

(3:21 - 3:23)

Do you remember how much you had to drink?

(3:23 - 3:28)

We drank about three pints of vodka that day, plus had drinks at lunch.

(3:28 - 3:31)

Hmm, okay.

(3:31 - 3:35)

And you had some injuries.

(3:35 - 3:37)

Yes, I did.

(3:37 - 3:43)

Now, you have to keep in mind, I know you guys have my hospital record, my medical record,

(3:43 - 3:45)

I had fallen down a hill twice that week.

(3:45 - 3:46)

Right.

(3:46 - 3:50)

So, those injuries that are shown in the photographs.

(3:50 - 3:56)

Some of them are probably from that night, and some of them are probably from the days

(3:56 - 3:58)

before when I fell.

(3:58 - 4:01)

Like I said, he did restrain me, nobody's denying that fact.

(4:01 - 4:04)

But, you said he restrained you because you were hitting him.

(4:04 - 4:05)

Is that right?

(4:05 - 4:08)

Well, I hit him and then I was trying to drive.

(4:08 - 4:11)

And he didn't want you to drive?

(4:11 - 4:12)

Yeah.

(4:12 - 4:13)

I see.

(4:13 - 4:21)

So, I guess, do you remember being injured or anything that night?

(4:21 - 4:23)

I don't remember a whole lot about that night.

(4:23 - 4:24)

I remember...

(4:24 - 4:26)

Do you remember being frightened at all?

(4:26 - 4:31)

Yeah, I mean, we were fighting, but I'm sure he was frightened, too.

(4:31 - 4:37)

So, he certainly is not, you know, it kills me to admit this, but if there was anyone

(4:37 - 4:42)

who could be considered violent, as far as the relationship goes, it would have been

(4:42 - 4:43)

me.

(4:43 - 4:44)

You know, I threw a log at him once.

(4:44 - 4:45)

So, you know...

(4:45 - 4:46)

Has he done this?

(4:46 - 4:52)

I mean, when you say that you would be the more violent in the relationship, is he ever...

(4:52 - 4:55)

Yeah, this was completely out of the blue.

(4:55 - 4:56)

Absolutely nothing.

(4:56 - 4:59)

He hasn't done, he'd never done anything like that to me before.

(4:59 - 5:01)

Have you ever been scared of him?

(5:01 - 5:02)

No.

(5:02 - 5:04)

Is he a violent person?

(5:04 - 5:05)

No.

(5:05 - 5:08)

And I have known him since I was 15 years old.

(5:08 - 5:09)

How beautiful.

(5:09 - 5:10)

I'm gonna be 30 next...

(5:10 - 5:11)

That's 15 years.

(5:11 - 5:12)

Next month, it'll be 15 years.

(5:12 - 5:14)

And you've never seen him?

(5:14 - 5:18)

I have never seen anything like, no.

(5:18 - 5:22)

Well, there was a second incident, too, and this is the one that actually got law enforcement

(5:22 - 5:26)

involved when you were driving back to camp on the road in your Jeep.

(5:26 - 5:28)

Do you remember anything about that?

(5:28 - 5:29)

Yeah.

(5:29 - 5:37)

I remember we got in a screaming match, and I asked him to pull over, and I remember I

(5:37 - 5:44)

jumped out of the car, and he sped off back to camp.

(5:44 - 5:52)

I flagged someone down to call a police officer so I could get my car back, and when that

(5:52 - 5:56)

police officer saw the bruises on my face, it sort of went from there.

(5:56 - 6:02)

He became a game of telephone, he asked me questions, and I answered them, they repeated

(6:02 - 6:03)

back to me slightly different.

(6:03 - 6:09)

By the time I had talked to, I think I talked to like five or six different officers, and

(6:09 - 6:14)

each time the story sort of evolved, again, I was drunk.

(6:14 - 6:15)

Right.

(6:15 - 6:20)

Well, I understand that, but you know, where the confusion is gonna come, and where the

(6:20 - 6:25)

problem may lay, is that you told the cops a particular version of the story, and then

(6:25 - 6:30)

you told me a version of the story that was fairly consistent or similar to that version

(6:30 - 6:31)

you told the cops.

(6:31 - 6:32)

Right.

(6:32 - 6:38)

And so now here, a couple months later, whatever, well, I've sobered up, and you know.

(6:38 - 6:40)

You've sobered up, what do you mean?

(6:40 - 6:41)

Are you an alcoholic?

(6:41 - 6:45)

Well, I've got three DUIs, so you tell me.

(6:45 - 6:48)

Well, you could be very unlucky, you're an alcoholic, I don't know.

(6:48 - 6:52)

Yes, I had a problem with alcohol.

(6:52 - 6:57)

Were you in the middle of that problem when this occurred?

(6:57 - 6:58)

Yes.

(6:58 - 7:00)

Were you drunk when you gave me the statement you gave me?

(7:00 - 7:04)

No, I had just been released from a mental institution, however.

(7:04 - 7:06)

I see.

(7:06 - 7:10)

So there might be several reasons why you gave me that version.

(7:10 - 7:12)

So what's your condition now?

(7:12 - 7:14)

Have you been clean and sober for a while?

(7:14 - 7:15)

Yes, sir.

(7:15 - 7:19)

And so is your thought process a little more clear now than it was before?

(7:19 - 7:23)

Yes, it is.

(7:23 - 7:29)

Okay, well, I guess if I have any other questions about what occurred, what would you like to

(7:29 - 7:34)

see, I mean, as a result of this now, he's facing this felony trial, what would you like

(7:34 - 7:36)

to see happen to him?

(7:36 - 7:40)

As far as what, do I want him to go to jail?

(7:40 - 7:43)

No, I don't think he deserves to.

(7:43 - 7:45)

Well.

(7:45 - 7:48)

I think maybe he should stop drinking, too.

(7:48 - 7:51)

I think that's, you know, because that was definitely a huge factor.

(7:51 - 7:54)

Both of you were drunk and drinking.

(7:54 - 7:55)

Absolutely, yeah.

(7:55 - 8:01)

You know, we have been, like I said, you know, we've known each other for 15 years.

(8:01 - 8:02)

Right.

(8:02 - 8:06)

We've been engaged for about a year and a half at that point.

(8:06 - 8:09)

We were both under a lot of stress.

(8:09 - 8:11)

You know, we had just moved back from Alabama.

(8:11 - 8:14)

We were supposed to be living with a friend.

(8:14 - 8:18)

That friend turned out not to be okay with us living there, so now we were, you know,

(8:18 - 8:19)

homeless.

(8:19 - 8:24)

He was the only one with a job, I couldn't find a job, his job wasn't bringing in enough

(8:24 - 8:25)

money.

(8:25 - 8:26)

Is that why you were camping?

(8:26 - 8:28)

So you were basically, you were camping, you were living.

(8:28 - 8:30)

No, no, sir, we were living there.

(8:30 - 8:32)

That would be stressful, that combined with health.

(8:32 - 8:39)

So we were under a tremendous amount of stress and, you know, drinking a lot, and it, you

(8:39 - 8:41)

know.

(8:41 - 8:43)

So I guess I'll ask you again, what do you want to see happen?

(8:43 - 8:46)

Do you want to see just, what, some kind of substance abuse counseling, do you think that

(8:46 - 8:47)

would be good?

(8:47 - 8:50)

You know, I think that would be good for him, but I don't think it should be, you know,

(8:50 - 8:53)

I think he has a decision that he has to make for himself.

(8:53 - 8:54)

Okay.

(8:54 - 8:55)

Nobody can force him to do anything.

(8:55 - 8:59)

You know, frankly, I just want the whole thing to go away.

(8:59 - 9:04)

I think that, as I said before, it was something that should have been handled between the

(9:04 - 9:05)

two of us.

(9:05 - 9:08)

I feel like we were equally at fault.

(9:08 - 9:13)

You know, and again, we were talking about two stressed out people who were drinking

(9:13 - 9:14)

too much.

(9:14 - 9:15)

Right.

(9:15 - 9:18)

Is this something, though, that in another month or two months you're going to call me

(9:18 - 9:19)

back and...

(9:19 - 9:20)

No.

(9:20 - 9:22)

No, wait, listen, it was the first thing that was...

(9:22 - 9:23)

No.

(9:23 - 9:24)

All right.

(9:24 - 9:25)

No, sir.

(9:25 - 9:30)

Okay, well, like I said, this has been recorded, so I'll go ahead and provide it to his attorney

(9:30 - 9:31)

and we'll see what happens from here.

(9:31 - 9:32)

All right, thank you so much.

(9:32 - 9:33)

All right.

(9:33 - 9:34)

I appreciate the phone call.

(9:34 - 9:35)

Of course.

(9:35 - 9:39)

All right, I'm going to turn off your dave at about 2.42.

(9:39 - 9:40)

All right, talk to you later.

(9:40 - 9:41)

All right, thank you.

(9:41 - 9:41)

Bye.