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Interview Report Noraida Diaz

Date and Time of Interview: Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 between approximately 0915 and 1010

hours

Location of Interview: Troop H - Spare Interview Room

Interviewee: Noraida Diaz (DOB: 07/06/1965)

Interviewers: Det. C. Koeppel #1441 and Det. D. DeJesus #494

Action Taken: On 08/26/2020, Noraida Diaz, Anthony Vazquez, and Nicole Rivera arrived at Troop H for a scheduled interview. This interview was scheduled through Diaz's attorney, Devon Jacob.

Upon their arrival at Troop H, State's Attorney Matthew Gedansky and Inspector P.J. Clark met with them in the lobby. Once that meeting was over, I met them in the lobby as well. I explained how I only needed to speak with Noraida and how she will be the only one accompanying me to the interview room, as both Vazquez and Rivera were previously interviewed.

I escorted Noraida to the spare interview room. Upon entry, I called her attorney, Jacob, from the landline. I was soon connected to Jacob and advised him Noraida, Det. DeJesus, and I were all present in the room, introductions had already taken place, and we were ready to begin the interview. Jacob acknowledged this and agreed to begin.

Det. DeJesus was present for Spanish translation purposes.

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I began the interview by asking Diaz to tell me what happened that day, leading up to the incident. Diaz explained the entire incident in Spanish, and Det. DeJesus translated it to me.

Two men came to the house and knocked on the door, looking for Jose Soto. They were dressed in civilian clothes. Diaz asked who they were. They stated they were from parole and they had an arrest warrant for Jose, from October of 2019. Jose, at this time, was in the basement, because two days prior he reached out to Diaz and told her he had nowhere to go so she allowed him to come to the house. Diaz stated she had a house rule and she asked him to take off his clothes because of everything that was going on with Covid. When he went to the basement, he took everything off and he also came with nothing. Diaz stated she took Jose's clothes and put them in a garbage bag. She had a set of clothes ready for him and Jose was going to wash up. Diaz stated she had Jose set up this way out of precaution because she didn't know where he had come from and in the name of safety, she was going to leave him in the basement for a couple days and ultimately bring him to a bedroom after that. But Jose was going to be in the basement for the time being. Diaz stated Jose never left the house. The day of the incident, around 7:00PM, there was the knock on the door.

Diaz reiterated she was at the doorway and she knew it was the Parole Officers at the front door. At this time, Jose was walking up the stairs from the basement, and Diaz assumed Jose heard the knock at the door, so Jose asked Diaz who it was and she told him it was Parole. Diaz added she referred to Jose as Gordo. Diaz stated at this point, the front door was closed and she was a bit nervous as Jose was acting a bit anxious. Jose told his mother to just go and he would take care of/handle it. Diaz then stayed in the immediate area but moved to the staircase going upstairs and stood on the third step. Diaz stated Jose was then on the main floor of the house. Diaz stated, because she believed the front door wasn't open, the Parole Officers took that time to knock on the door again. The Parole Officers could see her; they called her by first and last name and they asked her if she was ok and if everything was ok. Diaz stated that while the Parole Officers were talking to her, it struck her that their voices sounded clearer. So Diaz believed a Parole Officer was now in her living room, inside the house. She didn't see him open the door but she recalled the door was shut but not locked. So the next thing Diaz knew, a Parole Officer was in her living room, although she did not see him come in. Diaz then called out to Jose, who was at the basement doorway, that he, the Parole Officer, was inside the house. Jose answered Diaz saying the Parole Officer was not supposed to be there. Jose then spoke directly with the Parole Officer and told him he was not supposed to be there, inside the house, and asked who was he and why he's there. The Parole Officer then asked Jose who he is. Diaz stated she believed the Parole Officers already knew who Jose was but they wanted to confirm it. Diaz

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added her address was the address of record with Parole so she understood why they were at her house.

Diaz told the Parole Officer she would talk to him outside the house, on the porch, so they went to the porch. Diaz asked the Parole Officer if he had an arrest warrant for Jose. The Parole Officer had a rolled up paper and motioned with his hand that the paper in his hand was the warrant. Diaz asked to see it and the Parole Officer stated no. Diaz asked the Parole Officer if he had an arrest warrant, why couldn't he show her? Diaz believed, based on the Parole Officer's reaction, that her asking was confirming to the Parole Officers, Jose was inside the house. Diaz described the location of the Parole Officers, saying one was with her, on the front porch, and one was further on the outside of the house, towards the basement. Diaz believed the second Parole Officer who was further outside the house was making sure no one was leaving the house. The Parole Officer with Diaz asked her to confirm if Jose was there at the house and she replied saying she never told him he was there. Diaz explained she did not tell the Parole Officer Jose was there but she believed the Parole Officer believed Jose was there based on the interactions. Diaz continued stating she believed Jose sensed she was nervous and anxious and yelled out to the Parole Officer to leave his mother alone and he would handle it. Diaz believed that moment was confirmation to the Parole Officer that that was Jose. Jose then said, while still standing at the doorway of the basement, to leave his mother alone and that he had a gun.

Diaz backed up in time a little bit and explained that once the Parole Officers confirmed Jose was at the house, they stated over a radio that Jose was there. Going even further back in time, about twenty minutes before even the Parole Officers were at the door, Diaz observed a patrol car and motherly instinct told her something was either going on in the neighborhood or that this was the end for her son. Diaz wanted to make mention of this because as soon as Jose said he had a gun, Diaz was removed from the house by the Parole Officer she was speaking with and whether or not it was the same patrol car she observed earlier or a different one, a patrol car arrived almost immediately. She understood this to mean there was some type of organized set up and the police were prepared. Diaz added that in the thirteen years of living at that house and raising Jose, who has had issues with the law and law enforcement in the past, there was a patrol car or a car associated with an officer parked outside the house and that day there wasn't. Diaz found that strange.

Going back to the moment after Jose said he had a gun, a police officer arrived in a patrol car and once Jose said he had a gun, this police officer physically pulled Diaz from the house. The police officer asked Diaz if anyone else was in the house and she answered her husband and her sixteen year old daughter. Diaz stated they, everyone in the house, was wearing evening house wear, and they were removed from the

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house in those clothes they were wearing. It started to rain and seemingly out of nowhere, the place just with law enforcement.

Diaz stated she saw many officers, some carrying long guns and some carrying pistols. She thought this might be the end for her son so she told her son, "Gordo, turn yourself in." Diaz explained she was standing on Oak Street when she yelled this towards her house and Jose. Diaz stated within ten minutes, the place was flooded with officers and she believed this was previously organized. Diaz stated she didn't believe there needed to be that many officers. Diaz then told the officers around her, "Don't kill my son." Diaz also told the officers Jose didn't have anything.

Diaz added that she knew Jose lived an, "outside of her house type of life," and got involved with things that landed him in halfway houses and so forth but in her house, she ran it very strict and had rules, and they were abided by. Diaz stated in the past, she had called officers on Jose. Diaz stated this to say she was confident Jose had nothing on him. Diaz stated she would rather have pain in her arm than pain in her heart; she would rather Jose be in prison than have been killed.

Diaz, her husband, and her daughter were then placed in a car because it was raining hard. She stated she wanted to go in the house but the officers wouldn't let her, and she was confident Jose had nothing on him. Diaz stated she and her family were then taken to Nathan Hale School on Spruce Street. She stated within a half hour of getting to Nathan Hale School, there was a SWAT team and a Command Post along with a lot of officers. A negotiator approached Diaz and asked her about Jose. Diaz shared Jose had PTSD and had problems going between jail and half way houses. Diaz stated Jose had cried to her in the past that he was tired of being locked up. She stated the negotiator was taking notes and Diaz pleaded with the negotiator to please not kill her son. Diaz stated she was told not to worry about it, they just needed to remove him from the house. Diaz stated around 9:15PM, she and her family were taken to the Manchester Police Department. Around 10:45PM, Diaz stated she was informed her son had been killed.

Diaz stated they killed him for nothing, he had nothing, and she warned them he had nothing. Diaz stated all she wanted to know was why Jose was killed; there were other methods they could have used to get him, such as hurt his legs or something like that. Diaz recognized Jose had issues and there was a high likelihood Jose would end up in jail and she accepted that at some point she would probably be visiting him or sending him money but she didn't think she would lose him. In her thirteen years of living in Manchester, she grew to have faith in Manchester PD based on her interactions with them in the past and she thought they were good.

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Diaz went on to explain she knew Jose was killed, as the autopsy report stated such, and she wanted to know why. I explained to her that was what I am investigating. Diaz stated she was suffering and she has seen in the past people who have been killed by the police and she didn't think it would happen to her and now it is and she wouldn't wish this on anyone. Diaz stated she knew the police weren't going to believe her anyway but she did tell them Jose had nothing on him, referencing how she essentially stripped him down when he came to her house those days prior and he really had nothing on him, even marijuana, which he would occasionally have. Diaz stated she knew the police didn't find anything on him so she inquired again as to why Jose was killed. Diaz stated she would be willing to accept if the police found something on him that she would be wrong, but she was confident when she told the police Jose had nothing on him.

I asked Diaz if she told any of the Parole or Police Officers that she spoke with that day that Jose had a gun. Diaz stated no.

I then inquired about one of Jose's friends named Jessica. Diaz stated Jose had a lot of girlfriends but she didn't know one named Jessica. She stated she might know her in passing but she learned of Jessica via Facebook after everything happened. I asked Diaz why she looked up Jessica. Diaz stated it was because Jessica had Jose's cell phone. Diaz stated this phone wasn't a phone Jose could make phone calls on but a Wi-Fi only type of phone. Diaz stated Jessica gave her Jose's hat. I asked how Diaz got this cell phone of Jose's and Diaz stated she received if from Danisha, Jose's sister, and her daughter. Diaz stated Jessica gave Danisha the phone and Danisha gave it to her. Diaz also stated she looked through the phone and there were photos on there, mainly selfies of Jose around her house. I asked how Jessica obtained Diaz's number. Diaz stated Jessica didn't have her number. I asked if Jessica or a number she didn't immediately recognize as Jessica, texted her telling her she had Jose's phone and Diaz stated no.

I asked Diaz if she had any questions. Diaz stated she wanted to know, as a mother, why did this happen? I told her I could not answer that question right now. I explained to her how the investigation would continue and what will happen when my investigation is complete as well as the State's Attorney's role. Diaz highlighted how she believed there were other methods to extract Jose from the house safely. Diaz stated if the "George Floyd" incident happened before this with her son, she was confident her son would be alive right now. I reiterated that once the final report is issued by the State's Attorney, a lot of her questions would be answered.

Diaz thanked me for everything I had done and stated she was confident something good will come out of

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this, despite the pain she is going through. I gave Diaz my business card. I then asked Mr. Jacob if he had any questions or input. Jacob asked if at any point in time while the negotiator was speaking with Diaz, if a mental health professional spoke with Diaz about her son or any other issues regarding mental health. Diaz stated no. Jacob then asked if any law enforcement officer told Diaz "a version of facts" regarding what happened at the moment of killing as far as telling her a story of why they had to do what they did. Diaz stated no.

I then asked Diaz how she was told Jose died. Diaz stated she was notified Jose died when an officer told her, her husband, and her daughter. Diaz stated the officer didn't state they killed him but she was told, in some words she can't remember, but it was something like, "he's down," or something to that effect. Diaz then asked this officer if they killed him and the officer said yes. I asked if there was anyone else in the room with her, her husband, and her daughter when this happened. Diaz stated there was always an officer in the room with them, it was a second officer who came in that notified them of Jose's death.

I then asked if there were additional questions. Jacob asked if Diaz saw the setup of police vehicles in her driveway. Det. DeJesus told Jacob, Diaz already answered that question when she mentioned there was one patrol car on her street before the incident happened and then there was a large presence of police officers, which surprised her. Jacob then rephrased the question, with my assistance, and asked if she saw the large presence of police officers while still at her house or at Nathan Hale School. Diaz stated once she was removed from her house by the police officer, within a moment, the place filled with officers. I asked Diaz if she saw any SWAT vehicles arrive at her house and she stated no, it wasn't until she was at the school that she saw police officers gearing up and other vehicles arriving. She believed those officers and vehicles went from the school to her house.

Diaz then added she learned from neighbors who were home at the time, the police killed her son at 9:35PM, which led her to believe there were no negotiations performed, he was just killed. Diaz stated she believed she was removed from her house and sent to the school because the police had every intention of killing her son and they didn't want her to hear the gunfire. She didn't believe there was any other reason for her to be taken to the school.

Diaz stated while she was at the school, she saw officers from different towns arriving. While she was in a police car with an officer named David, she saw a truck/bus, a SWAT looking vehicle, and officers around it, getting ready. She then told this officer, "they're going to kill my son," to which the officer responded by saying he was going to take her to the precinct to get her warm and stay dry.

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Diaz then highlighted the time frame of events surrounding the death notification. Diaz stated she was brought to Manchester PD between 9:10 and 9:15PM. She stated she was told by her neighbors, her son was killed at 9:35PM but she wasn't notified until 10:45PM. Diaz stated she remembered vividly the time she was notified because she was looking at a clock when she was told. Diaz then asked me what was going on in between that time frame. I told Diaz that Jose was transported to the hospital and was being worked on during this time. Diaz then asked me if during that time, when Jose was transported to the hospital, was Jose alive. I said yes. Diaz then asked me if Jose died soon after getting to the hospital. Det. DeJesus stated that should be documented as the time of death but Diaz stated she hadn't seen anything referencing that. I stated Jose died shortly after getting to the hospital, although I could not speak to exactly how long he was there for, he was alive when he arrived at the hospital, they continued to work on him, and he died shortly after. Diaz stated ok.

Diaz stated she had no more questions or statements to make. I asked Jacob if he had any further questions and he stated no. He thanked us for our professionalism and sensitivity. No written statement was obtained, per the request of Jacob.

Although the above summary references details of Diaz's account, this report itself should not be considered a verbatim account of the entire interview. The actual recording should be referenced for a full and detailed account of her statements.

The entirety of the interview was audibly and video recorded. The time stamp on the recording is approximately forty two (42) minutes behind. At the conclusion of the interview, the recording was transferred to a DVD and submitted to evidence at WDMC as Exhibit #0088.

The JD-CR-18 was uploaded to the Major Crime Tab and can be located under document #: 2000146635 - 00215407.

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