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**CITY OF PORTLAND
INDEPENDENT POLICE BUREAU
Confidential Taped Statement
IPR Investigator Eric Berry**

Interview Date: 06/01/2016
IPR #: 2016-B-0014
IPR File Name: 16b0014-miller.debby

Interviewed: Debby Miller

BERRY: This is IPR investigator ERIC BERRY. Today's date is Thursday, June 2nd, 2016. The time is approximately 0850. This is going to be a contact attempt on a witness, DEBBY MILLER, related to my case number 2016-B-0014.

MILLER: Hello.

BERRY: Good morning, this is ERIC BERRY. I was calling for DEBBY MILLER.

MILLER: Yes, this is me.

BERRY: How are you Ms. Miller?

MILLER: I'm good.

BERRY: Good, good. I'm sorry it's taking me so long to call you this morning. I'm afraid I got to work and boy, it sure took a little bit to—

MILLER: No worries, no worries. You're getting me out of mixing cement.

BERRY: Oh, well good. Okay, well I will – I'll try to –

MILLER: Keep me a long time.

BERRY: – make this interview as long as I can.

MILLER: Yeah.

BERRY: Well let me – I don't recall how much I explained the last time we talked yesterday. Do you have questions about who I am or who I work for or what the purpose of this interview is?

MILLER: No, no, they – Harney Hospital, they filled me in on everything and what's going on and stuff.

BERRY: Oh, good, okay, because like I said I just wanted to be sure to tell you that that I—

MILLER: Yeah.

BERRY: – I checked with them and you're cleared for the interview.

MILLER: Yes.

BERRY: You know, my only concern relates to the matter I'm investigating, the conduct of Portland's police chief.

MILLER: Right.

BERRY: So, I'll have questions about that and I will – I don't have questions about the care you provided or anything that EMS did.

MILLER: Okay.

BERRY: If in the course of the interview, if there's a question you don't feel comfortable answering let me know. That's just fine.

MILLER: Okay, sure.

BERRY: Excellent. Well, I will just dive right in if you feel like you're ready.

MILLER: Yeah.

BERRY: Okay. I'll start with the easy stuff. I spelled DEBBIE D-E-B-B-I-E. Did I guess right?

MILLER: Y it's a Y.

BERRY: Oh, thank you. And MILLER, is that M-I-L-L-E-R?

MILLER: Mm-hm.

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- 50 **BERRY:** Outstanding. And when I type up my notes from this interview, should I identify you as a first
51 responder? Is that the title for –
- 52 **MILLER:** Yeah, EMR.
- 53 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.
- 54 **MILLER:** Emergency medical responder.
- 55 **BERRY:** Oh, okay, thank you. I just like to try to make sure I get people's titles correctly – emergency
56 medical responder.
- 57 **MILLER:** Mm-hm.
- 58 **BERRY:** Right. And you work for the Harney District Hospital emergency medical system?
- 59 **MILLER:** Yes.
- 60 **BERRY:** All right. How – may I ask how long you've done that?
- 61 **MILLER:** Let's see probably 7 years.
- 62 **BERRY:** Oh, my gosh.
- 63 **MILLER:** Yeah.
- 64 **BERRY:** Excellent. And is – all of that time have you responded in the Catlow Valley area?
- 65 **MILLER:** Well, the Catlow Valley is a little bit removed from right here. We're on East Steens Road,
66 which just runs north and south on the east side of the Steens.
- 67 **BERRY:** Oh.
- 68 **MILLER:** And primarily that's our zone and they came from the Catlow Valley, which is west of us...
- 69 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.
- 70 **MILLER:** ...they came to Fields, which is on this east side.
- 71 **BERRY:** Oh, okay, I see. I gotcha. All right, well and I've just got a copy of the dispatch record in front of
72 me. It looks like this took place on April 21st. Does that sound right you, Thursday?
- 73 **MILLER:** No, I can't remember. It was a Thursday, I remember that.
- 74 **BERRY:** All right.
- 75 **MILLER:** I don't remember the exact date.
- 76 **BERRY:** No, I know how that goes. I'm sure a lot's gone on between now and then.
- 77 **MILLER:** Yeah.
- 78 **BERRY:** Probably the quickest way to get you through this and back to the cement mixing, will you just
79 briefly describe what happened that day?
- 80 **MILLER:** I just – I got a call from dispatch. They said there was a gunshot wound and that the people
81 were bringing the victim in from the Catlow Valley area and they were going to Fields and I was just to go
82 to Fields with my gear and wait for them to arrive and so that's what I did. I headed down there and set up
83 all my stuff and just waited and then they came in in a pick-up and the victim was in the back on the
84 passenger side.
- 85 **BERRY:** Oh, was it a 4-door pick-up kind of thing?
- 86 **MILLER:** Yes, mm-hm, right. And we didn't move him from that spot. We didn't want to cause any more
87 injury, so I started treating him then. I was with him probably an hour and a half before the ambulance got
88 there and then air life got there shortly after that. So, he and I had a lot of time to visit. He was in extreme
89 pain and we talked about what happened.
- 90 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.
- 91 **MILLER:** He said that they were sitting in lawn chairs all lined up, so they were next to each other.
- 92 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.
- 93 **MILLER:** And they were shooting rats, which is common. Everybody out here does it. We – I do it too.

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94 **BERRY:** The sage rats there?
95 **MILLER:** Yeah, mm-hm. Yeah, they're such a problem.
96 **BERRY:** Well I thought – like I saw a lot of them on the road when I was driving.
97 **MILLER:** Oh yeah, mm-hm.
98 **BERRY:** Yeah.
99 **MILLER:** Yeah and they just ruin the alfalfa crops and so instead of poisoning them, which then the birds
100 of prey come down and eat the poisoned rat and they get poisoned.
101 **BERRY:** Oh, sure.
102 **MILLER:** If you can shoot them, then that's okay. It's entertainment for a lot of people. So, that's what
103 they were doing and they said they had .22s and they were lined up in line. I did ask – I had to ask him
104 about drinking beer and I – that's a confidential deal. Am I allowed to reveal that to you?
105 **BERRY:** Well, I did want to ask you about drinking. I won't – I won't ask about the drinking as it relates
106 to the medical care you provided –
107 **MILLER:** Okay.
108 **BERRY:** – but I would like to know what he said about drinking as it relates to what he was doing.
109 **MILLER:** Okay. He just indicated – he said we were lined up in lawn chairs, shooting rats, drinking beer
110 and he – and I said well I needed to know how many beers you've had. Not for any kind of legal aspect, but
111 just because if they give him medication –
112 **BERRY:** Oh, sure some of that medication can –
113 **MILLER:** Right, if they're going to give him morphine or something, they have to know how much
114 alcohol is in his system. So, he said that since lunch he had had three beers.
115 **BERRY:** Okay.
116 **MILLER:** And usually what we do out here is whatever anyone tells us we double it.
117 **BERRY:** Mm-hm. I've heard that rule of thumb before.
118 **MILLER:** Yeah. So, anyway and then I gave that information to the ambulance when they came so they
119 would know what kind of sedation to give him and he was in extreme pain. The other guys that were there
120 were very concerned with – I think there were five of them. I'm not sure of the exact number, but they were
121 very concerned. One guy was kind of the spokesperson and I didn't get his name. He was tall, slender, gray
122 hair. I don't know which one he was. But they indicated they – all of them were very articulate. They were,
123 you know, I didn't smell alcohol. They were very concerned about his care and that he get, you know,
124 whatever he needed. You could tell they were good friends and they were very, very distinct about the
125 information they knew. They said – what they told me was we don't know what happened. We were just
126 shooting rats and it must have been a ricochet and after – I know from shooting rats that it wasn't a
127 ricochet, but probably what he did – the guy next to him put the gun over the arm of the chair to load the
128 clip.
129 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.
130 **MILLER:** Which is what we do. That's how we load it. And it – it just went off accidentally probably.
131 **BERRY:** Okay.
132 **MILLER:** But, and then we just talked about then him and the victim and his medical condition, including
133 his medical history. You know, whether that he had any concerns with heart issues or high blood pressure
134 or anything that would compromise his health.
135 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.
136 **MILLER:** And that's all that was said about the incident.

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137 **BERRY:** Okay. Well, I just have a couple of detailed questions for you based on that and then I think I can
138 wrap it up.

139 **MILLER:** Okay.

140 **BERRY:** In your conversation with the victim – well, first let me ask is it—

141 **MILLER:** Yes.

142 **BERRY:** – would you say that you had the most contact with the victim out of anybody in the party?

143 **MILLER:** Yes.

144 **BERRY:** Okay.

145 **MILLER:** Yes, oh yeah.

146 **BERRY:** So you were in the back of the truck there with him?

147 **MILLER:** Yeah and then every 15 minutes you take vital signs and stuff and I was – I was the only one
148 there until the sheriff got there and one of the deputies had been an EMT.

149 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

150 **MILLER:** So, he came and, you know, sort of double checked what I was doing to make sure we were –
151 just trying to make sure we had covered all the bases.

152 **BERRY:** Well, that’s good. Must have been nice to have that back-up. That’s a –

153 **MILLER:** Yeah, yeah it was nice so.

154 **BERRY:** Yeah, that’s – well so that’s a lengthy amount of time that you’re responsible for providing care
155 –

156 **MILLER:** Yeah.

157 **BERRY:** —on your own.

158 **MILLER:** Yeah. Yeah, we’re thinking about putting a sign up. You know, before you enter this area,
159 know that you’re two hours from medical help.

160 **BERRY:** Well, you know, they put the signs up to let you know when you have 50 miles until you can get
161 more gasoline so.

162 **MILLER:** Yeah, yeah so.

163 **BERRY:** Kind of makes sense.

164 **MILLER:** Yeah.

165 **BERRY:** Well, so you kind of described a little bit of conversation you had with the victim. Do you
166 remember –

167 **MILLER:** Mm-hm.

168 **BERRY:** ...did he ever say anything about what he thought might have happened to him?

169 **MILLER:** No, he just – he was in horrible pain.

170 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.

171 **MILLER:** So, he was not thinking very clearly. He just said he didn’t know what happened.

172 **BERRY:** Okay, okay.

173 **MILLER:** And the other – the other guys were the ones that said they didn’t know even maybe a ricochet.

174 **BERRY:** Okay.

175 **MILLER:** And, you know, we weren’t – they weren’t even sure what kind of bullet they – I said was it a
176 .22 or a .17 and they knew .22 but that didn’t know if it was a hollow point or because it makes a difference
177 in what kind of damage it does to something.

178 **BERRY:** Yeah.

179 **MILLER:** And then so they finally just brought out a bullet to show me, but no he didn’t say – he just was
180 quiet on that issue.

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181 **BERRY:** Okay, okay, and you talked about if the rest of the hunting party there's kind of a taller, more
182 slender man with gray hair kind of seemed to do most—
183 **MILLER:** Mm-hm.
184 **BERRY:** – of the talking.
185 **MILLER:** Yes.
186 **BERRY:** Okay.
187 **MILLER:** He was kind of a spokesperson.
188 **BERRY:** Yeah.
189 **MILLER:** Seemed to be the spokesperson for the group.
190 **BERRY:** Yeah, well then you also told me earlier that you didn't smell alcohol on any—
191 **MILLER:** Right.
192 **BERRY:** —of the other guys.
193 **MILLER:** Correct.
194 **BERRY:** Did any of those guys talk about drinking beer themselves?
195 **MILLER:** No, no.
196 **BERRY:** Okay.
197 **MILLER:** Not one word about that and they made – of the guys that were there, the one, just that one guy
198 was the one I had the closest contact with and the most conversation with –
199 **BERRY:** Mm-hm.
200 **MILLER:** – other than the victim.
201 **BERRY:** Okay, then that's the spokesperson you had the most –
202 **MILLER:** Yeah.
203 **BERRY:** Okay, I gotcha.
204 **MILLER:** Yeah.
205 **BERRY:** I gotcha. And about how long do you think you were out there before the deputies arrived?
206 **MILLER:** Let's see. Wow, probably an hour.
207 **BERRY:** Okay, then they got there and then you said it was about an hour and a half for the ambulance to
208 arrive so.
209 **MILLER:** Right, they were 30 minutes then after the sheriff.
210 **BERRY:** Wow, wow. Well, in the, in the time that you were there, did you observe any contact between
211 either the deputies and anybody that was there?
212 **MILLER:** I just know they were going around and finding out who everybody was. They were finding
213 ID's of – I'm sure they looked at driver's licenses, but I can't – I don't know.
214 **BERRY:** Right.
215 **MILLER:** I just know that they went to each person who was involved, who was there, but the other guys
216 and the victim and found out their ID's.
217 **BERRY:** Okay, okay, but it doesn't sound like you overheard any of the statements that they gave or
218 anything like that?
219 **MILLER:** No, no.
220 **BERRY:** Okay.
221 **MILLER:** I didn't hear a thing.
222 **BERRY:** All right, and then shortly thereafter the ambulance arrived then the helicopter arrives and—
223 **MILLER:** Yes.
224 **BERRY:** – get the guy up in the air and away he goes.

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225 **MILLER:** Yep, yep.

226 **BERRY:** All right, well I tell you Ms. MILLER that's all the questions I, I had prepared for you. I wanted
227 to ask you though is there anything that stands out in your memory about the incident or anything you'd
228 like to add to our interview while we're on the phone together?

229 **MILLER:** No, other than just to emphasize that it was obvious that they were friends and that they cared
230 about each other and that they were doing everything they could for the guy.

231 **BERRY:** For the fella who got hurt?

232 **MILLER:** Yeah.

233 **BERRY:** Yeah.

234 **MILLER:** Yeah.

235 **BERRY:** Well, I'm make sure to make note of that in the notes as I type up our interview.

236 **MILLER:** Okay.

237 **BERRY:** Thank you so much for giving me some of your time today. I really – I appreciate –

238 **MILLER:** Yeah.

239 **BERRY:** – your availability and I sure am glad you were out there for those guys.

240 **MILLER:** Yeah, but okay, well good luck with your investigation. Hope things turn out okay.

241 **BERRY:** Thank you very much ma'am. You take care.

242 **MILLER:** Mm-hm, mm-hm, bye-bye.

243

244 16b0014trs-miller.debby – IPR

245 Transcribed 06/10/2016 @ 11:14 a.m. Cathy Daley