

1 TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF JEFFREY HOPKINS, JR.
2 INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE JEROLD WHITE

3 CASE NUMBER – 08-069208

4 JULY 24, 2008

5 JW – DETECTIVE JEROLD WHITE JH – MR. JEFFREY HOPKINS, JR.

6 JW: Okay, this is Detective White with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. The
7 following is in reference to case number 08-069208. It's an attempt to contact
8 Jeffrey Hopkins the second [REDACTED]

9 (Detective White exits his vehicle, approaches a house and rings the doorbell.

10 After about a minute Mr. Hopkins opens the door).

11 JW: Hey good morning. How are you?

12 JH: Good morning, Mr. White.

13 JW: Good to meet you man. Hey, uhm...

14 JH: Did you get my message?

15 JW: No, man, we were, we were running until about uh, one in the morning. I haven't
16 even got a chance to check my voice mails.

17 JH: Oh.

18 JW: So, do you know Casey Anthony?

19 JH: Uhm, I do.

20 JW: Do you have a second to talk?

21 JH: Yeah (affirmative), sure. You want to come in?

22 JW: Yeah (affirmative). How do you know Casey?

23 JH: (Inaudible) upstairs. (Inaudible.)

24 JW: (Laughs.) No doubt. Uhm...

25 JH: Let's see uhm, all the way back to middle school.

1 **JW:** Oh, so you guys go back to....
2 **JH:** From...
3 **JW:** ...little kids.
4 **JH:** About ten years ago uhm, her brother, I guess she was a year younger than me.
5 Her brother is probably about a year or two older than me.
6 **JW:** Right.
7 **JH:** Uhm, I played volleyball with him. Uhm, I really didn't know her too well.
8 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
9 **JH:** Got to high school. He was so I guess about two years older than me. So he
10 graduated. She was a year younger. Uhm, I still saw her around in school.
11 Didn't have, didn't have really the same friends or anything. Uhm, it wasn't until I
12 guess, I guess well I just, we just kind of knew each other like just growing up. It
13 was like we just, just knew each other I guess like that. We didn't really always
14 hang out or anything like that. But uhm, most recently, I guess I hadn't seen her
15 in about a year until about two or three weeks ago.
16 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
17 **JH:** I saw her at the Waterford Lakes Ale House.
18 **JW:** Right.
19 **JH:** Uhm, which I was telling the, the other officer I guess probably two days ago.
20 Uhm, and she was with some other people I recognized from high school. About
21 five or six other guys. She was the only fe...the only female there. And uhm,
22 let's see (sighs). I'm sorry. I literally just woke up. (Laughs.)
23 **JW:** (Laughs.) I know man. Take you time. I'm just getting up too.
24 **JH:** Uhm...
25 **JW:** It was a long night man.

1 **JH:** Let's see. Uhm, she was drinking. They asked me if she was drinking. She
2 was, she was having some beer I think.

3 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

4 **JH:** Uhm, so everything seemed normal. I didn't notice anything. Uhm, and what
5 they were ask, I guess the best thing I can do is give you know, people that are
6 closer to her and actually do hang out with her, I recognized you know a, a guy
7 named Sean Daly.

8 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

9 **JH:** I don't know if they took down that name.

10 **JW:** Hmm.

11 **JH:** And actually uh, they were asking me about having his phone number and, and
12 uh, I didn't give it to them at that time and I figured by now that they would have
13 gotten his phone number because I know that's one, probably her best guy
14 friend.

15 **JW:** Okay.

16 **JH:** And uhm, which I did you know, some research and I got his phone number. I
17 didn't know, I can, maybe...

18 **JW:** Yeah (affirmative), man, heck yeah (affirmative).

19 **JH:** Alright, let me, let me grab it. Let me grab it out of my phone.

20 **JW:** Alrighty.

21 **JH:** This was from uh, I got this from a ex-girlfriend of his.

22 **JW:** Okay.

23 **JH:** Who she hasn't been around for years. But she had his phone number. It's [REDACTED]

24 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

25 **JH:** [REDACTED]

1 JW: Right.

2 JH: [REDACTED] And like I said, I don't even know him. I know who he is from just going to
3 high school as well. We're not really like friends or anything. I don't have his
4 number personally. I've never called him. I just did research and got it for.

5 JW: Okay.

6 JH: But I know that is. I do see her like on her My Space page and stuff like that.
7 Uhm, I think her brother might have gotten into it already, but uhm, you can tell
8 already that that's probably her best guy friend. And then another uhm, female,
9 probably her best female friend....

10 JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

11 JH: Uhm, which I would think they might have that name. I don't have her number,
12 which is Annie Downing.

13 JW: Yeah (affirmative), I know Annie.

14 JH: Annie Downing.

15 JW: Is she Amy or...

16 JH: Annie.

17 JW: Oh, Annie. I thought you said Amy.

18 JH: Annie. Yeah (affirmative), Annie, Annie Downing is her best female friend. And I
19 think that uh, in my mind him and her would have to know anything that would
20 have to be known.

21 JW: Okay. Uhm, so tell me this. Can you...

22 JH: Oh, wait.

23 JW: ...think of any reason...

24 JH: (Inaudible.)

25 JW: ...why she would be calling uh, your parents' house?

1 **JH:** That's what my parents told me the other day. Well here's the thing. Anthony,
2 uh, Lee, Lee An... Lee Anthony, her brother...

3 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

4 **JH:** ...called me up on that night uh, Tuesday night whenever this whole situation
5 went down.

6 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

7 **JH:** And for, that's what got me like just totally threw me under the bus or something.
8 I haven't seen her before two weeks ago...

9 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

10 **JH:** ...for about a year and I, I guess what he was telling me, or what it sounded like
11 he was telling me was that she said uhm, uh, he said, "Oh, well who you staying
12 with?" She goes, "A Jeff Hopkins." And uh, he goes, I guess maybe she didn't
13 think he knew me.

14 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

15 **JH:** And he goes, "Oh, well I know Jeff Hopkins," is the way he made it sound like to
16 me on the phone as to what I'm understanding the story. And she said, "No, it's
17 a different one. He stays in Jacksonville."

18 **JW:** Okay. Okay.

19 **JH:** Does that makes sense?

20 **JW:** (Laughs.) Yeah (affirmative), that makes a lot of sense. I'm....

21 **JH:** He said, "Oh, that's a, that's," part of that, you know I guess when that first
22 officers came to his house I guess that's the story he was giving me over the
23 phone the best I could take it while I was you know, while I was listening to him,
24 was that uh, she said, "Oh, no it's the one in Jacksonville." Well I guess he took
25 her phone...

1 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
2 **JH:** ...and went through it and of course there was one Jeff Hopkins in there and it
3 was me. And I'm like, you know, yeah (affirmative), I don't even, I've never met
4 another Jeff Hopkins besides my dad. You know I don't even think I've met
5 another person with the last name Hopkins. But uhm, you know, Lee, I was like,
6 "You know let me know if anything, I, like any help I can do." You know, and...
7 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative). So, so tell me this. Have you ever seen her báby?
8 **JH:** Uhm, (sighs), n... I don't think I seen her baby in besides in pictures actually.
9 **JW:** You never met the little girl?
10 **JH:** No, I don't think I've ever come in contact with the little girl.
11 **JW:** Okay. So, before uhm, two weeks ago at the Ale House, you hadn't seen her in
12 years?
13 **JH:** Oh, about a year.
14 **JW:** About a year?
15 **JH:** About a year.
16 **JW:** So the last time you saw her was a year? And do you remember what that, what,
17 what, what type of uh, context that, that meeting was a year ago? I know it was a
18 year ago.
19 **JH:** Yeah (affirmative). Uhm, actually I think we might have, it might have been like
20 at a party or something. Everything, the same, usual, just high school, probably
21 high school reunion type thing.
22 **JW:** Right.
23 **JH:** Uhm...
24 **JW:** And what's up? How you been? I've been alright. Alright, cool....
25 **JH:** Yeah (affirmative), yeah (affirmative), yeah (affirmative).

1 **JW:** ...type deal?
2 **JH:** Yeah (affirmative), everything was (inaudible).
3 **JW:** So uhm, at the Ale House uh, would you say uhm, you say about a week ago, or
4 two weeks ago?
5 **JH:** Uhm, two, uh, it was, it was not last Tuesday. Probably the Tuesday before that.
6 **JW:** Okay. So uhm, what's today?
7 **JH:** Uhm, Thursday.
8 **JW:** Today's Thursday. So if today's the uh, 17th, 16th, the 15th, minus seven is what,
9 the 8th?
10 **JH:** So we're look....
11 **JW:** Uhm....
12 **JH:** We're working on a week and two days now.
13 **JW:** Okay. So somewhere around uhm, the first week of July...
14 **JH:** Uhm....
15 **JW:** ...would you say?
16 **JH:** Yeah (affirmative).
17 **JW:** Okay. So did you...
18 **JH:** The first Tuesday in July probably:
19 **JW:** Did you, uh, did you get to talk to her at all?
20 **JH:** Uhm, actually yeah (affirmative). We, we were sitting in the uhm, high top over
21 by the pool tables.
22 **JW:** Right.
23 **JH:** Uhm, which some people from actually the same high school, which are my
24 friends, and then I noticed her and the five other dudes from the high school as
25 well.

1 JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

2 JH: Uhm, and I didn't really talk to the guys or anything. Like I said, you know I
3 recognized them from school. We're not really that close friends. I know her a
4 little bit better so she did walk around. She said hello to me and another buddy.

5 JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

6 JH: And uhm, that was the gist of that. She said, "Hey".

7 JW: So just kind of like, hey, how you guys doing?

8 JH: Once again. Yeah (affirmative), once again it was, "Hey, how's it, how's going?"
9 You know, "Everything's been good." She's like, oh, she actually mentioned
10 uhm, going to this club uh, Fusion.

11 JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

12 JH: I don't know if it's a new one uh, that you've been mentioning, but she started
13 sending out uhm, text messages even after that, like a mass text message.

14 JW: Right.

15 JH: Like uh, you know drink specials Friday night at this Fusion place. So I assumed
16 she's been going out Friday nights to this Fusion place.

17 JW: Right.

18 JH: Uhm, you know and, and I'm not the only one that had gotten a text message on
19 that. So that's, I mean that's the only other thing. I never really wrote her back
20 on that I don't think.

21 JW: Okay. Uhm...

22 JH: I don't go downtown really too, too much.

23 JW: (Sighs.) Man you're a hard man to find though man I'm telling you. Hey, uhm...

24 JH: (Laughs.)

25 JW: Well what, I know I haven't, I haven't got a chance to look at my...

1 JH: Okay.

2 JW: ...voice mails. What's a good phone number for you?

3 JH: [REDACTED]

4 JW: [REDACTED]

5 JH: [REDACTED]

6 JW: [REDACTED]

7 JH: [REDACTED]

8 JW: [REDACTED]

9 JH: Yeah (affirmative), my parents called me right after you left there yesterday and I
10 called, they gave me your card number and I called and left you a message
11 yesterday just to...

12 JW: Yeah (affirmative).

13 JH: ...get in contact with you, you know?

14 JW: Yeah (affirmative), we, we've been running non-stop. Yeah (affirmative), we....

15 JH: Oh.

16 JW: ...we stopped maybe for a, I think I had four hours of sleep. We stopped for just
17 a couple hours....

18 JH: I haven't uhm...

19 JW: ...to recharge the batteries.

20 JH: ...seen the news yet but my, my parents were telling me that maybe, did they, do
21 they, do they have Casey in custody?

22 JW: Yeah (affirmative), we, we have, well we have Casey. We just don't have
23 Caylee.

24 JH: Wow, and she's still not budging on that?

25

1 **JW:** No. We, we can't find her little baby. You know that's, right now that's our sole
2 existence is to find that little baby. You know at least make sure she's okay.
3 **JH:** Yeah (affirmative).
4 **JW:** You know.
5 **JH:** I can't believe that.
6 **JW:** So you think Sean would be uhm...
7 **JH:** And, and that, you know that's, that's, you know my personal opinion. I think that
8 if you look Annie Downing, or, and/or Sean Daly in the face....
9 **JW:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
10 **JH:** For them to be as close as they are they'd have to know how long this baby's
11 been missing.
12 **JW:** Right.
13 **JH:** They have to know how long this baby's been missing. Because Annie Downing
14 is her best girlfriend and Sean is got to be her best guy friend.
15 **JW:** Okay.
16 **JH:** How long the baby's missing they would have to know. If you saw it in their face
17 that they would have to know.
18 **JW:** Right.
19 **JH:** That's the way I see it. Uhm, if someone's that close to me and they see me
20 every day they're going to know the day that my baby went to a babysitter's
21 house and didn't come home.
22 **JW:** Right. Alright, well listen man, I appreciate you getting up (laughs)...
23 **JH:** Hey.
24 **JW:** ...and spending some time with me man. You shed a whole bunch of light. And
25 uh, you know, hopefully we can track this baby down.

1 JH: Yeah (affirmative).
2 JW: Let me give you my card. If you hear or know, find out anything, give me a, give
3 me a shout. Uhm, like I said, it might be a few hours before I get back to you,
4 depending on when I get back to my desk and check my voice mail. But man,
5 you know, everything helps man.
6 JH: Yeah (affirmative), no problem.
7 JW: And I appreciate your, your time. I know it's, you're up pretty early in the
8 morning.
9 JH: (Inaudible.)
10 JW: Alright, well you take care of yourself man.
11 JH: Yeah (affirmative).
12 JW: And, and air this place out man.
13 JH: (Laughs.)
14 JW: Open up a window or something man.
15 JH: (Laughs.)
16 JW: Alright you take care.
17 JH: Okay, see you later.
18 JW: Alrighty. Okay, today is, today is July 17, 2008. It's 9:02 a.m., and that will
19 conclude that interview.

20 **End of recorded statement.**

21 **This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.**

22
23 
24

25 **CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**