

**# WS400023 INTERVIEW OF FFD CAPTAIN JOSPEH HICKS**

Good afternoon, this is Lieutenant Ed Forster assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. It is January 7, 2011 approximately 3PM and we are with Captain Joseph Hicks with the Framingham Fire Department and Deputy Chief Kenny Ferguson with the Framingham Police Department. We are investigating the shooting incident, homicide investigation of Eurie Stamps that occurred at 26 Fountain Street on January 5<sup>th</sup> at approximately 12:30 in the morning at 26 Fountain Street.

**FORSTER**

Captain I understand that you were a part of a team that night as acting in the capacity of a temp. Could you please explain that? Assigned to the SWAT team and your function that night there please.

**HICKS**

I'm a technical emergency support team leader assigned to the Framingham Fire Department is my job. We are a support unit for Framingham SWAT Team.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

As a team leader.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

Framingham SWAT Team

**FORSTER**

I understand you were called in to assist on the night of the fourth into the fifth.

**HICKS**

That is correct.

**FORSTER**

And if you could just go over you know the procedure is and you know how it comes to be with your men and how your assigned at the scene with your SWAT team.

**HICKS**

Approximately 9:30 at night we received a page to report to the roll call room at the police station. At 11 o'clock that night we went to report so that is exactly what I did. I showed up at 11 o'clock with three of my other men.

**FORSTER**

Ok, you can give us the names.

**HICKS**

EMT paramedic Dave Kay who works for American Medical Response part of the team. Firefighter EMT immediate Jeff Beckwith who is assigned to the temps unit and firefighter EMT basic Nick Ferry who is assigned to the medical tech unit.

**FORSTER**

So you had 4 total?

**HICKS**

That is correct?

**FORSTER**

Ok go ahead.

**HICKS**

We received our briefing from the SWAT team leaders of what was going to happen and our role, what to do and where to stage and I gave my men their assignments.

**FORSTER**

Why don't you give us those assignments that you had to give that night as far as your function?

**HICKS**

EMT Ferry was assigned to command post in the medical staging area and in charge of communications.

**FORSTER**

And that was at the Gulf Station.

**HICKS**

That was at the Gulf Station, that is correct. EMT immediate Beckwith was assigned as an operator and logistics was his goal was his job and if we needed anything other than what we had on scene and find a way to get it.

**FORSTER**

Would be on scene too?

**HICKS**

That is correct. He was with us as part of the team responding.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

Firefighter EMT I'm sorry AMR paramedic Dave Kay was also a tactical medical operator with myself to move in with the entry team.

**FORSTER**

Ok so what exactly what do you mean by move in, who actually moved in what do you do as you move in?

**HICKS**

After we received our briefing, we moved to the scene in vehicles the SWAT vehicles.

**FORSTER**

You go in the SWAT vehicles yourself ok, all right.

**HICKS**

That's correct. And when we get to the staging area, we wait for our orders. I held and waited to move out with our team. We had Nick Ferry at the command post with an ambulance and a paramedic waiting and Dave Kay, Beckwith and myself in one of the SWAT vehicles with a couple of SWAT operators.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

Waiting for the word to move.

**FORSTER**

All right so you move and go at some point. You just tell us.

**HICKS**

We got the execute order vehicle. We exited the vehicle with our medical equipment, and we were told to take cover on the A side of the building.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

Which is the front. There was a parked car maybe 10 15 feet in front of the house, and we did just that.

**HICKS**

We took cover.

**FORSTER**

I'm going to give you a sheet so you can, that's the front of the house. You can write on it, just put where you took cover.

**HICKS**

I was behind this car right here the orange car it looks like.

**FORSTER**

All right put in where the other guys were. You can put where ever all three of you were. There were three of you.

**HICKS**

I was right here; I believe Kay was. I was behind the orange car, Kay and Beckwith I believe where.

**FORSTER**

Write their names just so we have it. Ok and you were there taking cover. Ok

**HICKS**

We took cover behind the cars and they had a breacher team 2 men on the B side, they had a breach team of 2 men on the A side window here.

**FORSTER**

Just write the 2 breaches again you know, 2 on the A side, 2 on the B side. We already know that, but since you mentioned it. Ok.

**HICKS**

Our job is to watch and keep eyes on all the operators and see if anybody needs assistance – we just want to know what they're doing. Also, the entry team at the A side door which was here. I don't recall at the front. We took cover behind the cars. We couldn't see what was going on but we were waiting on the words execute was what we were waiting to hear. Me and the breach would hold and wait to receive orders and we heard the diversionary devices go off and then we heard the breach order. I mean the execute order. Entry team breached and we held.

**FORSTER**

Did you hear, since I got you did you hear the announcement of the warrant if you did? We did. Let me back up. Yes, the entry team was at the back door and knocked and they said Framingham Police. I don't recall exactly the police terminology. There was a knock at the door, then a pause. I don't recall how long that pause was. I don't remember.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

Then order was to execute and after the word execute was given that when the teams, the breachers but the diversionary devices go off.

**FORSTER**

Ok, just tell us...

**HICKS**

Immediately after the breach team went in the front door and then we were monitoring our radio communications. Then within seconds we heard times up or medic up. Which is the code word for us to move in. So myself, Kay and Beckwith the three that staged behind the cars. Immediately moved through the A side of the door down the hallway. Lieutenant Downing one of the SWAT members was in the kitchen I believe was directing us to the rear of the house. And we did just that. We moved from the rear of the house immediately and immediately saw the victim on the ground. Laying face down.

**FORSTER**

Would that rear of the house be fair to say a room past the kitchen down the hallway area.

**HICKS**

That is correct. There is a hallway directly from the kitchen. Just behind the kitchen...

**FORSTER**

What was there? What did you see there?

**HICKS**

We noticed an adult male faced down to the ground. And when I first approached him, I noticed a pool of blood above his head and neck area. And the pool of blood was growing.

**FORSTER**

Ok, was there any other police officers there.

**HICKS**

Lieutenant Downing was standing over us, I saw his legs and that's the last time I really noticed who was standing there. Lieutenant Downing...

**FORSTER**

When you first saw the gentlemen laying on the floor, did you know any other police officers there. When you went in, do you remember?

**HICKS**

I walked by two SWAT operators in the hallway and Lieutenant Downing was on my right. There the only two SWAT operators, police officers I saw, and I went directly to the victim.

**FORSTER**

Ok when you went did you ask about what had happened? Or did you go right ...

**HICKS**

I went directly to the victim. I said we have a victim on the floor as I saw I saw the blood and I just went right to my patient assessment.

**FORSTER**

Ok, did you think he was shot at that time? What did you think?  
I didn't know.

**FORSTER**

You didn't know, ok.

**HICKS**

I didn't know what happened. I saw him on the ground, I did not know.

**FORSTER**

So did you ask anybody?  
I did not ask. I saw the pool of blood and I was with paramedic Dave Kay and we just did a rapid trauma assessment. Within seconds we figured out what was wrong. From what we saw, from our observations.

**FORSTER**

What type of medical did you perform on the victim at that point?

**HICKS**

We saw the pool of blood first we did the rapid trauma assessment while he was faced down to look for any obvious injuries. Head to toes quick rapid feeling the body. Then we log rolled the patient onto his back. That's when I first noticed on his left jaw a puncture wound. And I remember Dave Kay asking me or I asked him, I don't remember which way it went. Where the blood was coming from, that's what we were concerned with.

**FORSTER**

Yup

**HICKS**

I took out my sheers, I cut his shirt. As I cut his shirt, the shirt fell open. And I saw a wound at the top left of his chest. About a little smaller than my fist about 8 centimeter in diameter bleeding profusely. That's when we started to render care. We realized...

**FORSTER**

What do you do when you render care?

**HICKS**

Well we carry equipment on our person. With a gun shot wound, we look to plug up the wound with what we call a blood stopper or clog. There's different names, it's a bandage we pack into the wound and it has medicine so to speak on it to clog the plug. So we pack that wound and put pressure on it attempting to control the bleed.

**FORSTER**

Ok any other medical...

**HICKS**

The patient had a weak, we did a quick assessment. He initially was groaning and agger respirations we call it. He took a breath, almost immediately and we felt his pulse. He had a weak pulse. Then we packed the womb and looked for other injuries and we didn't see any.

**FORSTER**

Ok, can you tell me what happened next?

**HICKS**

We packed the womb and we held pressure and we gave the orders to go, to move to get him out to extricate. So we put webbing, which is a thin strap we carry on us. We put webbing around him, his is a large man. Probably I would say 300 pounds plus.

**FORSTER**

Yup

**HICKS**

So we did a webbing drag to extricate him, we dragged him into the kitchen. Once we got him...

**FORSTER**

You and Kay? Just the two of you at this point.

**HICKS**

That is correct. Just before we did that. Back up EMT Beckwith was us behind me assisting also.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

He was waiting for orders for something he had to do. While we were assessing him, Dave Kay was filling the wound. I asked him to call for the ambulance. To get the ambulance moving up to the scene and to get a back port ready to extricate this patient for immediate transport. And he did just that right before we dragged him with the webbing.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

Once we got the webbing around him, we dragged him to the kitchen. And at that point the police officer at the front door let the medic in the door with the stretcher and transferred the patient to back port on the floor. That's the long spinal board and then we transferred him onto the stretcher and we gave the word we were going out and transport to the hospital. We immediately went into the ambulance and we checked his wound again and put a breathing tube in his airway and we gave a report to the hospital and drove away.

**FORSTER**

Who was in the ambulance with you?

**HICKS**

We had Ferry was driving the ambulance. In the back of the ambulance we had Dave Kay at the head of the patient. I was working on chess compressions. EMT Beckworth was doing air way ventilations.

**FORSTER**

That's just like a CPR.

**HICKS**

That is correct. Chess compressions on the chest. By that time the victim was in cardiac arrest.

**FORSTER**

Was there a police officer in the vehicle?

**HICKS**

There was a police officer in the vehicle. I don't recall his name, he was a detective. He was behind us, with us. Then AMR paramedic Tom Cannings, he was a civilian, not on the temps team. He was in the staging area with the ambulance. He was with the ambulance. He was brought to the scene. He was in the back with us also.

**FORSTER**

I just have to ask, the victim never said anything the whole time. He has basically unconscious.

Initially, when I first reached him, he had movement in his arm and he groaned and that's it. Within 10 to 15 seconds there was no movement, there was no sound.

**FORSTER**

Did you have any conversations at all, you know? I know you guys are basically you know working on the victim getting him to the hospital as quickly as you can. Did you have any type of conversations at all with the police about what's happening over there?

**HICKS**

The only conversation we had was one way we were moving into the kitchen. We gave the command we were moving into the kitchen. The next time we were moving out. And that's all, we had no conversation with anyone other than Dave Kay and myself going back and forth with where the blood was coming from, questions about medical care.

**FORSTER**

You went to the hospital and then from there you secured...

**HICKS**

We went to the hospital transferring in from the emergency department and then we assisted the emergency room personnel of performing CPR and lifesaving measures until the lead doctor called the code. And we communicated that there was nothing we could do.

**FORSTER**

Ok, deputy

**FERGUSON**

Just in the beginning there where they entered, how many flash bangs do you think you heard?

**HICKS**

Ya know, I heard one flash bang.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

I don't know if it was two at once or one. I don't know, I heard one flash bang and then I heard the breaches go in the door.

**FORSTER**

Ok

**HICKS**

Then a few seconds later I heard one long pop.

**FORSTER**

Did you form an opinion on with what that pop was?

**HICKS**



Ya know what I heard the pop and I just looked at Dave Kay. I didn't know what it was.

**FORSTER**

How soon after the pop did they call you for assistance?

**HICKS**

Immediately, I heard the pop and before I could finish what the? I was like what the heck is that. And before I could two words out, I heard medic up, medic up and that was our cue to go in. It was immediately. It all happened so fast. It seems like it happened in seconds.

**FORSTER**

Is there anything you want to add?

**HICKS**

Honestly all the medical care I described, there is really nothing else to say.

**FORSTER**

We basically covered it. Your function is to save life. They call you, you go in there. That's what your zoned in on.

**HICKS**

Exactly our job is to save life and provide medical care and transport.

**FERGUSON**

So from the time they called medics up to you got the guy out, how much time do you think had past? From the time they called medic up and we got him out. I would say a few minutes, three minutes, four minutes. I honestly haven't looked at the time frame yet. I know the overall time frame was like less than ten minutes to the hospital. I haven't reviewed the times yet. We moved, urgency was everything. Key is travel as fast as possible. That's what the time is.

**FORSTER**

All right Captain, we appreciate for you coming here. We are going off tape. It is ten past three in the afternoon.

End call