

CASE NUMBER: Not Stated

INTERVIEWEE: Deputy Superintendent John Boyle

DATE: 01-05-23

TIME: 4:11 P.M.

PARTICIPANTS: Detective Lieutenant William Donoghue
Lieutenant David Brown
Attorney Kenneth Anderson
Deputy Superintendent John Boyle

**TRANSCRIPTION
COMPLETED BY** IW/al

Brown: All right. This room's being recorded now.

Boyle: Okay.

Donoghue: MOVE THIS BACK. The date is January 5th, 2023. The time is approximately 4:11 p.m. My name is Detective Lieutenant William Donoghue, D-O-N-O-G-H-U-E. I'm a Detective Lieutenant of Massachusetts ... with the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. We are currently conducting an interview of Cambridge, uh, Deputy Superintendant Boyle relative to the facts and circumstances surrounding a fatal officer-involved shooting, which occurred yesterday, January 4th, 2023 in the City of Cambridge. For the benefit of the record, if we could go around the room and identify ourselves.

Brown: Uh, Lieutenant David Brown, B-R-O-W-N. I'm a Lieutenant with the Cambridge Police Department Criminal Investigation Section.

Anderson: Uh, Attorney Kenneth Anderson, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N, for, uh, Deputy Superintendant John Boyle.

Boyle: Deputy Superintendant John Boyle, B-O-Y-L-E.

Donoghue: Okay. Thank you. Um, Deputy Boyle, you've had an opportunity to consult with your attorney?

Boyle: Yes.

Donoghue: And you're, you're here voluntary ...

Boyle: Yes.

Donoghue: ... voluntarily to speak with us?

Boyle: Yes, correct.

Donoghue: Okay. Attorney Anderson?

Anderson: No, that's correct. It's ... he's here voluntarily. He's not compelled. He's not under any duress.

Donoghue: Appreciate that. Um, what is your current occupation?

Boyle: I'm a, uh, police officer with the City of Cambridge. I hold the rank of deputy superintendent. I am the deputy superintendent in charge of night patrol operations and tactical operations, uh, which would include the special response team, the explosive ordinance division, tactical patrol force and the crisis negotiators. And I am also currently, also overseeing a day platoon of patrol officers and the traffic division and dignitary protection, as well.

Donoghue: And how long have you been a police officer?

Boyle: Uh, approximately 25 years.

Donoghue: And you started with a training academy?

Boyle: I did.

Donoghue: And, um, throughout your career, what other duties and responsibilities have you had?

Boyle: Uh, so I started in the Town of Arlington. I was a police officer there for five years. Uh, I was a detective there for three of those years. Came to Cambridge, uh, was a detective, uh, in the detective bureau for five or six years. Got promoted to patrol supervisor, uh, as a sergeant. Went back to the detective bureau as a sergeant in the night unit and then was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, uh, primarily in patrol and, uh, overseeing the, uh, tactical patrol force as a lieutenant, traffic lieutenant, records room. I've worked all over the police department. And approximately two years ago, I was promoted to the rank of deputy superintendent.

Donoghue: And now, you oversee those other operations?

Boyle: Correct.

Donoghue: In your capacity as police officer, um, and now as deputy SUPERINTEEN-, TENANT, I noticed you have some TACOPTICS ... TACOPS experience and particularly crisis negotiation as well. Can you describe the tra-, MORE breakout training that goes along with that? In particular ...

Boyle: Yeah, so I ...

Donoghue: ... with CRISIS NEGOTIATION.

Boyle: ... just took over the crisis negotiation team so I don't really ... uh, haven't been to their trainings yet. Um, it's a unit that I just recently took over, um, but in the department, we do receive, uh, training in de-escalation. Uh, the whole department has been trained in the, uh, ICAT system of de-escalation. Uh, it's a fundamental, uh, philosophy of the department, uh, to engage in de-escalation. It's part of our use of force, um, and so it's, it's really an underpinning of any type of situation we encounter.

Donoghue: And then, throughout your career, have you been through other, uh, tactical situations?

Boyle: Yes. Yes. Uh, as part of the tactical patrol force, we received, uh, advanced patrol rifle training out at Fort Evans, extra days at the range, that type of thing

Donoghue: And then, getting back to the de-escalation training, outside of your tactical experience, but the, the de-escalation training is throughout the department.

Boyle: Correct.

Donoghue: Every officer?

Boyle: Every officer.

Donoghue: Directing your attention to yesterday, January 4th, um, were you working?

Boyle: I was.

Donoghue: And what was your position and your role?

Boyle: Uh, I was the day deputy superintendant, day operations deputy superintendant.

Donoghue: Is that essentially the entire operation for the day?

Boyle: Correct, yes. Patrol operations, yes.

Donoghue: And, um, at some point, do you recall a disturbance call come in?

Boyle: Uh, yes.

Donoghue: And do you know what time, what time that was?

Boyle: I ... around 1:30 or so, 1:20, 1:15. Um, I didn't hear the initial broadcast. It was only, uh, the foot pursuit that perked my ears up that, that I ... my attention was drawn to the foot pursuit.

Donoghue: So as a, as a deputy superintendant, essentially I charge of the city for that day, where, where were you? Were you in the station? Were you on, on the road? Where were you?

Boyle: I just happened to be out on the street. I was, uh, at the intersection of, uh, Mass Ave. and Sidney, Mass Ave. and Main Street. It's a fairly large intersection.

Donoghue: And when you heard that call, what did you do with that information?

Boyle: Uh, I responded, uh, down Sidney Street. Uh, there's a WA-, eventually, uh, eventually, I ended up on Chestnut Street.

Donoghue: And prior to getting to Chestnut Street, you were monitoring the radio transmissions. So from the initial call, do you re-, from the initial call in ... while you were in route, do you recall any of the radio transmissions or any of the update information that you were receiving prior to the arrival?

Boyle: Sure. Uh, Officer Pugliares had broadcast that he was pursuing an individual, gray sweatpants, no shirt, uh, carrying a machete.

Donoghue: And do you recall where that started?

Boyle: Uh, I heard him saying that he was pursuing him down the tracks, uh, so I ... based on, uh, the Sidney Street area, I presumed it was the tracks that run, uh, parallel to Sidney Street.

Donoghue: And when you were in route there, what was your sense of the call? Was this someone ... was this a mental health issue, was ... or unknown?

Boyle: Uh, I mean, obviously, it was very serious given that somebody's blee-, you know, being pursued with a machete so, um, it was a high ... I could say a high level of stress.

Donoghue: Sure. And, um, how many officers responded for ... given the nature of the call, how many officers, if you recall, how many responded?

Boyle: I don't recall the number of officers. Uh, like I said, I didn't hear the initial broadcast so I didn't see ... hear who had called off.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: Um, but given that nature of the updated information with the machete, in my mind, I knew that there would be a number of officers responding.

Donoghue: Okay. So then at some point, you got to the area?

Boyle: Correct.

Donoghue: And where'd you first arrive?

Boyle: Uh, I came down ... I'VE ... what street did I come down? I came down Sidney, made a left on Putnam, right onto eventually ... left onto Putnam, right, right back onto Sidney. I, I kind of looped around 'cause I couldn't find where they were. Eventually, when I did see them on ... at Sidney and the Chestnut, Waverly area, made a right onto Chestnut Street.

Donoghue: Okay. And when you first got to Chestnut Street, what did you see?

Boyle: So as I came down Chestnut Street, uh, I saw a group of officers on the sidewalk. I saw the, uh, individual they ... matched the description given out by Officer Pugliares, uh, no shirt, gray sweatpants, blood on his hands, chest and a machete up to his neck.

Donoghue: And any statements?

Boyle: Uh, yes. I heard officers yelling at him to drop the knife.

Donoghue: And when you were looking at the, the decedent, when you saw, saw the blood, in your ... you, you were a detective, were these ... was the blood more consistent with blood that was transferred or did you actually see injuries on ...

Boyle: No. It looked like it was his blood. You know, he had injuries, trauma to himself.

Donoghue: Trauma to himself. And could you des-, further describe his demeanor and his facial expression? Was he responsive?

Boyle: Uh, unres-, he was not responding back to the officers, uh, had a, uh, 1,000 yard stare, if you will.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: Um, glazed look on his face, um, and, uh, not following the commands to, to drop the knife.

Donoghue: And those commands to drop the knife, it ... was that part of the training that you receive?

Boyle: Yes. Yeah. You want to de-escalate the situation. You want to try and take it down. Put the weapon down so then that way, you can safely interact with the individual.

Donoghue: And at some point, was the less-lethal deployed at that moment?

Boyle: Not at that moment. So that ... they were on the sidewalk previous to the location that we ended up WITH AT 59 Chestnut Street. I was still in my car, uh ...

Donoghue: Okay. So you could see this from your car?

Boyle: Yes. Yeah. I had the window dow- ...

Donoghue: And how close were you?

Boyle: Uh, 10 feet or so. It's a small street. I'm in my car. There's a ... there was a parked car. There were cars parked on the sidewa-, you know, in the parking lane and they were right on the sidewalk.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: So as I'm in my car ... I stayed in my car 'cause they were all on foot. If the individual took off, I wanted to be in position where I could, you know, quickly accelerate to where, you know, the

sus-, where the individual is going to go. Um, eventually, he did take off from the officers who were telling him to drop the knife. I sped up down the road to get up ahead of him. Uh, and while I was doing that, I heard somebody broadcast that he ducked into a backyard. I immediately stopped my cruiser, put it in park, shut it off and, and exited and I saw the officers running into a driveway.

- Donoghue: Now, just to go back TO THE ... when you first observed him, you stayed in your car. What ... do you re-, know what address they were in front of? Were they ... was ... were they all stopped for a moment?
- Boyle: They were all stopped for a brief moment.
- Donoghue: And do you know what address that was in front of by chance?
- Boyle: I don't know, no.
- Donoghue: Okay.
- Boyle: It was, it was a couple houses down from, uh, 59 Chestnut.
- Donoghue: Okay. In which direction?
- Boyle: Uh, so if you're facing 59 Chestnut, it would be to the right.
- Donoghue: Okay. So they're back on the move and he ... do you observe, um ... well, let me ask you this, subsequently, the, the decedent's been identified as Sayed Faisal. Are you familiar with him?
- Boyle: No.
- Donoghue: Did you rec-, when you saw him on the street or do you now know whether you recognize him or not or had any interaction?
- Boyle: I had no interaction with him. I've never heard his name ...
- Donoghue: Okay.
- Boyle: ... up until this incident.
- Donoghue: Okay. Do you see ... when he goes in the direction of 59, do you see how he gets ... does he go ... where does he travel ...

Boyle: I did not see ...

Donoghue: ... IN YOUR VIEW?

Boyle: ... 'cause like I said, I sped up to get ahead of the, uh, pursuit, if you will.

Donoghue: Yup.

Boyle: And somebody says ... broadcasted he ducked into a backyard so I, I couldn't see that, you know, focusing on the road and ...

Donoghue: So would he have been ... you got ahead, would you have ... did you actually go by him on ... and he was on your right?

Boyle: Yes.

Donoghue: And would he have ... WHERE you ended and he ducked in, would he have been behind you?

Boyle: He would have been behind me.

Donoghue: Okay. And when you heard that transmission, what'd you do?

Boyle: Uh ...

Donoghue: When he ducked in, what ...

Boyle: ... immediately put my cruiser in park, shut it off, grabbed the keys, ran out, uh, saw where the officers were running into a driveway and it was the driveway at 59. Turns out it was the driveway at 59 Chestnut.

Donoghue: Okay. And when you got to 59 Chestnut, who was present? If you recall.

Boyle: Sure. Uh, Officer Colbert, uh, Officer Maziarz, uh, Sergeant Sennott, Officer Pugliares, um, and that's all I can remember, uh, being in the driveway.

Donoghue: And you're in the, you're in the driveway. Where is the, the decedent subsequently?

Boyle: There was a vehicle ...

Donoghue: YUP.

Boyle: ... and he was at the ... the vehicle was parked facing nose in and he was at the front of that vehicle.

Donoghue: And what did you see at that time?

Boyle: I saw him, uh, again, with the blood on him and he had a machete up to his neck, um, and again, not responding to any, any commands or anything. Uh, he was continually being told to drop the knife and not responding.

Donoghue: And at some point, was the, was ... let me ask you this, at some point, the less-lethal was deployed.

Boyle: It was. Uh, Officer Colbert had that. Um ...

Donoghue: Whose decision is to deploy that? Is that an in-, is that a decision that can be made by an individual officer or is that the, the person that's trained in the less-lethal or is that something that ha-, would have to come from a patrol supervisor or how would that work by ...

Boyle: Uh, it would be ...

Donoghue: ... INAUDIBLE.

Boyle: ... the patrol supervisor to, you know, deploy that and, and make the determination that it was needed ...

Donoghue: Yup.

Boyle: ... on the scene but, uh, I was right behind Officer Colbert, uh, when that weapon was fired, um, only because when I got there, uh, you need lethal cover with that so I went behind him to take lethal cover in case somebody were to shoot back at him or assault him or something like that.

Donoghue: Is that positioning part of the protocol and training?

Boyle: Yes.

Donoghue: And is that protocol and training with the, with the less-lethal weapon?

Boyle: Yes.

Donoghue: Okay. So you took up that position?

Boyle: Yes. And Officer ... like I said, the decedent was told multiple times to drop the knife, uh, Officer Colbert and I were to the left of that motor vehicle, if you will, on the driver side. The other officers that I spoke of were on the right side. Uh, before Officer Colbert fired, I could see Officer McMahon behind the house in the backyard. I could see his head, uh, coming out from the side of the house and we yelled at him, you know, Officer McMahon to get back 'cause we had the less-lethal. You know, get back, get back, we don't want to, we don't want ... we didn't want him to get hit.

Donoghue: And, and is that to ... when you say get hit, is that to avoid a, a crossfire situation OR ...

Boyle: Correct.

Donoghue: ... if something is missed?

Boyle: Correct.

Donoghue: Okay. OKAY. Talking about Officer McMahon for a moment, when you, you saw, uh, the decedent running down, you went before, do you know how Officer McMahon got in the backyard?

Boyle: I don't.

Donoghue: Okay. Um, what happens next?

Boyle: Uh, Officer Colbert, uh, fired one round from the less, less-lethal launcher. Um, I believe it hit the decedent in the backside or the hip, bounced off, had zero effect whatsoever. Um, he then turned and ran into the backyard. Um, like I said, I was behind Officer Colbert in a stack formation and so I was telling him, "Get down range. Liam's in the backyard. Liam's in the backyard. Get down range." And before we could get any further into the backyard, I heard, uh, someone yelling for him to drop the knife. Uh, and then, after a few seconds, I heard gunshots.

Donoghue: Do you recall how many gunshots?

Boyle: Between three and five. I'm not exactly sure of the number.

Donoghue: In regards to that less-lethal weapon, have you, um, have you, yourself, deployed it before?

Boyle: Have I ...

Donoghue: Or have you been present when that, that weapon's been deployed?

Boyle: Uh, not actively on the street, only in training scenarios.

Donoghue: Okay. Um, being familiar with the weapon and it having no effect, what ... how do-, how does that affect your ... what your concerns are at a scene?

Boyle: Uh ...

Donoghue: Based on your experience. If you've seen that deployed, you've witnessed a hit with no effect, what, what i-, what happens or wha-, how does that change the dynamic and what are your concerns and what goes through your mind as an officer ...

Boyle: Uh ...

Donoghue: ... INAUDIBLE?

Boyle: ... number one, that we have an individual who is, uh, not feeling, uh, any, any pain, is not going to be compliant, that we're gonna have some type of, uh ... we're gonna have difficulty taking that individual into custody or controlling them because given the speed that comes out with that weapon, uh, it should have, uh, in most instances, uh, elicited some type of pain response and there was no response from this individual. It was like it never even was fired at him.

Donoghue: And he held onto the, the machete?

Boyle: Yes, he did. He had it up under his neck and, uh, right up until I saw him run into the backyard.

Donoghue: And after you heard the shots, where did you go? What, what did you do?

- Boyle: Uh, called on the radio that we had shots fired. I ran into the backyard, um, saw the decedent on the ground, saw Officer McMahon. Immediately called for an ambulance. Um, wanted to get Officer McMahon out of there, brought him out to the street while I, you know, tried again to check on the status of the ambulance. Um, while I was on the street, someone asked me if my cruiser was close by 'cause all the other officers had pursued this individual on foot. My cruiser was the closest one. They asked ... someone asked for my medical kit. I ran to the cruiser, grabbed the medical kit, box of, uh, latex gloves, went to the backyard and, uh, you know, handed off my medical kit to the other officers that were going to be rendering aid. At that point, I needed to take command of the scene so I went back out to the street to again, ask for the updated response of the ambulance, start to shut streets down, things of that nature.
- Donoghue: And talking about the streets and the neighborhood, can you describe the neighborhood?
- Boyle: Residential neighborhood, a lot of ... uh, you got a fair amount of foot traffic walking in and out of there. It's on the edge of the MIT campus. Uh, you know, regular neighborhood, if you will.
- Donoghue: In, um, knowing that and as ... given your role and responsibility of getting down there and seeing what you're seeing, did you have concerns fo-, for the neighborhood?
- Boyle: Absolutely. Uh ...
- Donoghue: And why's that?
- Boyle: You had an individual ... like I said, when I arrived on scene, he ... uh, glazed look on his fa-, face, had a weapon, uh, was bleeding, uh, concerned that he could, uh, assault somebody coming out of their home, somebody walking, uh, there's no telling what could have happened if somebody had encoun-, encountered him on the sidewalk.
- Donoghue: And based upon your experience with a weapon like that, what would be the result potentially?
- Boyle: Uh, potential, fatal injury to somebody that tried to encounter him.

Donoghue: Were you aware at the time, um, there was a daycare center to the left of 59?

Boyle: Uh, I, I did not become aware of that until after the incident.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: Um, Lieutenant?

Brown: I don't have anything for the deputy.

Donoghue: Anything you want to clarify, Attorney?

Anderson: Just a couple quick questions. Deputy, how, how were you dressed yesterday? Were you dressed as you are today?

Boyle: Uh, similar uniform. I, I had a uniform that ... Cambridge Police patch, it was a sewn on badge, no tie, but it ... it's a, it's a police uniform.

Anderson: Okay. And was everybody else who was on scene, were they all dressed in full uniform, as well?

Boyle: Correct. Yes.

Anderson: That's all I have

Donoghue: Marked car?

Anderson: I have an unmarked car. Uh, the other responding officers were in marked cars.

Donoghue: Emergency lights?

Anderson: Yes.

Donoghue: Were they on?

Anderson: Yes.

Donoghue: So this is an, this is an overhead shot of 59 Chestnut. Chestnut Street is here. Um, if you could, um, maybe for the benefit of this, mark where you ... estimate where that first slow down was you described maybe with an X and then, this is the

driveway. If we could talk about your positioning where the decedent was at that ... your initial approach ...

Boyle: Mm hmm.

Donoghue: ... and then when that, that was discharged. And the-, this is for a refresher and then, if you could just draw a basic diagram with some estimated ... where ...

Boyle: Okay.

Donoghue: ... reflecting the house, the driveway, the car, where the decedent was, uh, less-lethal and the other officers
INAUDIBLE.

Boyle: So the first slowdown, if you will, was somewhere ... how, how would you like me to mark that?

Donoghue: You can just mark with a, with a, a good sized X. That pen is not so fantastic.

Anderson: I have a red pen. I don't know ...

Donoghue: Yeah, that might be BETTER.

Anderson: ... if the red pen will show up any better.

Donoghue: That's the first slowdown.

Boyle: Slowdown and then ...

Donoghue: So you can ... for ... this is difficult to draw on but if this refreshes your memory ...

Boyle: Mm hmm.

Donoghue: ... and this is a ... this is an aerial shot and then we can flip this over and you ... if you could just do a basic diagram of, of where ... particularly the driveway and where you guys ... where you were.

Boyle: Okay.

Donoghue: Um, my ... I guess my ... the bi-, the ... were you in a position to witness the shooting?

Boyle: I did not see the actual shooting because of ... like I said, I was on the far left of where that vehicle was, which was next to the ... you know, close to the ... parallel to the house.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: Um, and I had Officer Colbert in front of me and I was trying to get him to move down range. So when he took off, I ... my ... I tried to push Officer Colbert forward and my vision went down towards Officer Colbert.

Donoghue: Okay. Okay. So if you could, on the flip side, again, just, just a basic diagram of Chestnut Street, the house, the ... and the driveway ...

Boyle: Okay.

Donoghue: ... as to, to your best ability of positioning.

Boyle: Yup.

Donoghue: IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ... if you could, um, just mark the officers that you recall were present and their ...

Boyle: OKAY.

Donoghue: ... estimated positioning.

Boyle: So IF THE-, for the guys on the other side, I don't know what order ...

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: ... or where they were. I just know that they were on that ... on the other side of me so I'm ...

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: ... just gonna write their names, but it's in no particular order.

Donoghue: That's fair.

Boyle: My attention was on, uh, the individual, which was probably right around here.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: I mean ...

Donoghue: Yeah, that's fair. It's helpful for, for the investigation just to see, you know, in your own words and I ... what would you estimate the distances between ... and you're, you're close with Colbert here.

Boyle: Yeah.

Donoghue: The distance between Colbert and the decedent when ... or at the time that less-lethal round was deployed.

Boyle: Yeah. Pro-, probably about 15 feet maybe.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: Okay. If you could just an estimate here INAUDIBLE approximately 15 feet distance there for ... it's obviously, not to scale ...

Donoghue: Yup.

Boyle: ... so that would be helpful.

Donoghue: Anything else, Lieutenant?

Brown: I don't have anything. No.

Donoghue: Attorney Anderson?

Anderson: I don't have anything else.

Donoghue: Anything else you want to add. Anything else you KNOW is important that we didn't cover?

Boyle: No. Like I said, throughout the whole ordeal, uh, you know, many officers had shouted for the individual to drop the knife and he just refused to listen so, um, you know, the less-lethal had zero effect of ... it was like it wasn't even fired.

Donoghue: Okay.

Boyle: Um, you know, and I, I didn't see what happened in the backyard so ...

Donoghue: Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you.

Brown: I'm going to request the tape be stopped.

THIS STATEMENT IS COMPLETE AT 4:37 P.M.

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