

07/08/25
11:38

Moscow Police Department
Law Supplemental Narrative:

1272
Page: 1

Details

Incident Number 22-M09903
Sequence Number 194

Name Brett Payne
Date 10:41:36 05/10/23

Narrative

(See below)

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Narrative:

Interview with Kohberger in PA-#157

1. WatchGuard Event: NA

Additional Responding Officers: NA

Case number added to WG: NA

2. Evidence

NA-video/audio and transcript of interview added to case file

3. Narrative

On December 29, 2022, ISP Detective Sergeant Gilbertson, FBI Special Agent Shirley and I arrived in Albrightsville, PA in preparation for the service of the arrest and search warrants for Kohberger and his family's residence at [REDACTED], Albrightsville, PA. After several coordination meetings, Det. Gilbertson, SA Shirley and I drove to the Pennsylvania State Police Barracks at Stroudsburg, PA to await the arrival of Kohberger after his arrest and to interview him upon his arrival.

At approximately 0200 hours on December 30, 2022, Kohberger was brought to the PSP Stroudsburg Barracks and placed in an interview room. The interview was recorded on the built-in video system at the barracks as well as Det. Gilbertson's pocket recorder. Det. Gilbertson and I were the interviewers present. This is a summary of our interview with Kohberger and is not a verbatim transcript of the interview. A full interview transcription will be attached to this case file.

Det. Gilbertson and I began by introducing ourselves and stating which agencies we represented. When I stated who I was, Kohberger stated "you do look familiar". Det. Gilbertson and I prepared our note taking materials and Det. Gilbertson read Kohberger his Miranda Rights Advisement. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger if he understood his rights to which he replied he did. After collecting Kohberger's personal information and inquiring about any medications, Det. Gilbertson and I began to speak to Kohberger. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger about the SWAT operation at the house to which Kohberger replied he was concerned about his parents and his dog.

Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger if he was going to Washington State University to which he replied he was. We made small talk with Kohberger about sports for some time. Kohberger stated he didn't follow WSU football much but was a baseball fan. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger if he had only been at WSU for one semester. Kohberger confirmed this and said he came to WSU with his father on July 1st. Kohberger then went on to say he was a first-year PHD student in criminal justice and criminology. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger what the process was to apply for a PhD. Kohberger stated he applied to two places: UC Irvine and WSU. Kohberger said he was going to graduate with his Masters in Criminal Justice from De Sales and was inspired. Kohberger then asked if it was OK to engage in small talk like we were to which we replied it was. After briefly mentioning he was strengthened by the fact his mother and father were OK, Kohberger said he applied to the two aforementioned schools because they did not require the GRE exam. Kohberger then spoke about the GRE for a brief time and then said he was accepted by WSU.

Det. Gilbertson then asked Kohberger what lead him down the road of becoming a professor. Kohberger stated it was because he loved being in college and stated knowledge was far more important to him than money. Kohberger added WSU had a good program to study under, and then said "you guys know all about this more than likely". Kohberger then asked questions about University of Idaho and other Idaho Universities before stating he didn't know much about Idaho or Washington and had not left the "tri state area much". Kohberger then returned to speaking about his focus on learning and how he thought he could obtain his doctorate degree. Kohberger then said he recently returned home to see his family.

Det. Gilbertson then asked Kohberger about his time at De Sales University. Kohberger spoke for some time about his time at Northampton Community College and De Sales. Kohberger then spoke about how he became interested in criminal justice and stated he thought about being a police officer but did not want to make that commitment unless he was absolutely sure. Kohberger then continued to speak about his education and universities. Kohberger also spoke more about the process to get into a PhD program and how competitive it can be.

Det. Gilbertson then asked Kohberger about his move to Washington. Kohberger said he drove across country and wanted the challenge of driving cross country and experiencing it with his father. Kohberger then said he took a different route back home with his father for Christmas Break to avoid snow. Kohberger spoke about his travels and the risks of such travels in winter. Kohberger then began to speak about the beauty of the environment and its relationship to God and a higher power. We spoke about this for some time and Kohberger said he was raised Christian but was always a skeptic except when confronted with the beauty of the natural world. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger if he had ever been to the Pacific Northwest prior to coming to WSU, and Kohberger said he had not.

I asked Kohberger if he and his father made any stops along their way back to Pennsylvania. He told me they visited Colorado but the main goal was to just drive. Kohberger then told a story about seeing an unmarked police car near Kansas City speed up behind him, catch up to another vehicle, turn on its emergency lights, then drive away. Kohberger thought this was strange and was unsure why it occurred.

Det. Gilbertson then asked Kohberger about the job he mentioned. Kohberger stated he was a teaching assistant. Kohberger then talked about how busy he was and how the funding package that comes along with being a teaching assistance is

what makes the extra work worth it. Kohberger then discussed ongoing projects with WSU PD and Pullman PD. Kohberger spoke more about how being a TA is essentially assisting the professors and the department. Kohberger stated he did not get to assist with teaching with the exception of assisting with office hours. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger if he would be a TA again next semester and Kohberger replied he would.

Kohberger then stated he understood why we were engaging in small talk but would appreciate it if we explained to him what he was doing there. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger why he thought we were there. He said he wanted Det. Gilbertson to tell him. Det. Gilbertson said we were there because of what occurred in Moscow but did not provide any further detail. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger if he watched the news. Kohberger said "I watch the news". Det. Gilbertson then asked Kohberger why he thought I looked familiar. Kohberger said he wasn't sure and stated I had a familiar face and looked like someone he used to know. Det. Gilbertson then said we were there because of what happened in November just off the University of Idaho Campus. Det. Gilbertson asked Kohberger if he knew what that was to which Kohberger replied "of course". When prompted to elaborate, Kohberger said it was the incident we had been investigating for "how long has it been?" Kohberger said there were probably several incidents, and then said he was aware of a homicide because of a WSU alert he received. Det. Gilbertson asked when Kohberger received the alert. Kohberger said he wasn't sure but thought it was sometime the previous month. Det. Gilbertson confirmed that was why we were there and asked if Kohberger wanted to talk about that. Kohberger replied "well, I think I would need a lawyer". Kohberger then asked if we would explain to him what we were there for specifically and added he was tired. Det. Gilbertson again stated we were investigating the homicides of the four students and that we had questions and things we hoped Kohberger would help us understand.

Kohberger sat back and said he had the utmost respect for law enforcement but stated it was a constitutional right to speak to an attorney. Det. Gilbertson affirmed this. Kohberger then reengaged and said the only thing he heard of from Moscow was an alert that came to his phone. Kohberger then said he wanted to talk to an attorney. Det. Gilbertson said we would stop now because Kohberger wanted to speak to an attorney. Kohberger then asked where his parents were and where his dog was. Kohberger reengaged again and asked what questions we would have for him. Det. Gilbertson then asked Kohberger again if he understood his rights and asked specifically what Kohberger wished. Kohberger asked what specifically we wanted to talk to him about and the reason. I told Kohberger he invoked his Fifth Amendment Rights and we were not going to ask him any further questions. Kohberger asked again for the reason he was there but added he would like to talk to an attorney. At this point, we concluded our interview with Kohberger and left the room.

4. Other

NA

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury pursuant to the law of the State of Idaho that the foregoing is true and correct.

CPL Payne #157
Wed May 10 10:43:06 PDT 2023

Reviewed by:

Sgt. Dustin Blaker #108
Thu May 11 09:35:29 PDT 2023