



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SUFFOLK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
CRIMINAL CASE NO. 2025-CR-4721**

EXHIBIT A – TRANSCRIPT OF POLICE INTERVIEW

Subject: Darnell Brooks

DOB: 02/17/1987

Age at Time of Interview: 16

Date of Interview: May 17, 2003

Time: 4:12 PM

Location: South Boston Police Department – Interview Room B

Interviewing Officers: Det. Lisa Moreno (Badge #5178), Det. James Callahan (Badge #2304)

Guardian Present: Ms. Loraine Brooks (Mother of Darnell Brooks)

Recording Method: Audio and video recorded

Purpose: Custodial interrogation related to homicide investigation (Victim: Jalen Cruz)

[BEGIN TRANSCRIPT – 4:12 PM]

Det. Moreno: Okay. This is Detective Lisa Moreno, I'm here with Detective James Callahan. We're in Interview Room B. Present with us is Ms. Loraine Brooks, mother of Darnell Brooks, and her son, Darnell. Darnell, you're sixteen, right?

Darnell: Yeah. I turned sixteen in February.

Det. Callahan: Okay. Before we ask you anything, we need to read you your rights, alright? So listen carefully.

You have the right to remain silent.

Anything you say can be used against you in a court of law.

You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have them present with you during questioning.

If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be provided for you.

Det. Callahan: Do you understand these rights as I read them?

Darnell: Yeah... yeah, I get it.

Det. Moreno: And do you still want to talk to us today, with your mom here?

Darnell: (glances at his mom, nods) Yeah. She said I gotta do the right thing.

Ms. Brooks: Tell them what happened, baby. Time to atone for your sin.

Det. Moreno: Okay, Darnell. Can you start by telling us what happened earlier today on Tremont Street? Around 2:15 PM?

Darnell: (fidgets) I was out there... on Tremont... and I seen Jalen. He be talkin' mad mess about me all week, sayin' stuff online, sayin' I ain't about it. So when I seen him, I— I pulled it out.

Det. Callahan: Pulled what out?

Darnell: The gun. I had it in my hoodie. I ain't mean to... like... I ain't plan it like that. But it just happened fast, y'know?

Det. Moreno: You shot him?

Darnell: (quietly) Yeah.

Ms. Brooks: (softly) Tell them how many times, Darnell.

Darnell: Twice. First time he stumbled. Second time he dropped.

Det. Callahan: Where'd you get the gun?

Darnell: I ain't gonna say who. Just... somebody in the neighborhood. He let me hold it. Said I needed to protect myself.

Det. Moreno: Darnell, were you part of any gang? There's been talk around the neighborhood about you being affiliated.

Darnell: (shakes head) Nah, not like that. I ain't *jumped in* or nothin'. I hang with some boys, sure, but we just from the same block. That don't mean I bang.

Det. Callahan: You weren't wearing any colors today?

Darnell: Just my hoodie. And my cap.

Det. Moreno: The Tigers hat?

Darnell: Yeah, that's mine. I wear it all the time.

Det. Callahan: We found it near the scene. It had your DNA on the sweatband. That's how we knew it was yours.

Darnell: I guess it flew off when I ran. I ain't even know.

Det. Moreno: Darnell, did anyone tell you to do this? Was anyone pressuring you?

Darnell: Nah. Ain't nobody tell me nothin'. I was just tired of being disrespected. Folks think just 'cause I don't go to school regular that I'm soft or somethin'. I ain't soft.

Ms. Brooks: He been strugglin'. School ain't been easy, and he been tryin' to stay outta trouble, but they kept pickin' on him.

Det. Callahan: You realize you could've walked away, Darnell?

Darnell: I ain't think. I was mad. Real mad. I ain't think about nothin' 'cept makin' it stop.

Det. Moreno: We also found two shell casings at the scene. 9mm. Same as the gun that was found in the alley a block down. You recognize this photo?

[Detective slides photo of handgun across table]

Darnell: (nods) That's it. That's the one.

Det. Callahan: Were you trying to get rid of it?

Darnell: I tossed it after. Didn't want it on me.

Det. Moreno: Did you know there were people around? Witnesses?

Darnell: I ain't care. It was broad daylight. I just snapped.

Ms. Brooks: (tears in her eyes) He's tellin' y'all everything. Please remember he's still a kid.

Det. Moreno: We understand, Ms. Brooks. Darnell, thank you for being honest with us. We're going to step out and talk to your mother privately now, alright?

Darnell: Yeah... okay.

[END TRANSCRIPT – 4:39 PM]

CERTIFICATION:

This is a true and accurate transcript of the custodial interview conducted on May 17, 2003, at the South Boston Police Department. The recording was preserved per department protocol.

Submitted by:

Det. Lisa Moreno

Boston Police Department – Homicide Division

Badge #5178

Date Submitted: August 3, 2003