

Testimony of Sergeant Dean Poos

DIRECT EXAMINATION

17

18 BY MR. GREG DAVIS:

19 Q. Sir, would you please tell the members
20 of the jury your full name.

21 A. Sergeant Dean Poos.

22 Q. How are you employed?

23 A. I'm the communications and records
24 supervisor, the computer system administrator and public
25 information officer for the Rowlett Police Department.

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1

2 THE COURT: Would you spell your last
3 name?

4 THE WITNESS: P, as in Paul, O-O-S, as
5 in Sam.

6

7 BY MR. GREG DAVIS:

8 Q. Okay. Sergeant Poos, how long have
9 you been a member of the Rowlett Police Department?

10 A. Approximately seven years, sir.

11 Q. Directing your attention back to June
12 the 6th of 1996. What were your duties at that time?

13 A. As stated, I was a public information
14 officer, communications and record supervisor and
15 computer system administrator.

16 Q. Are you familiar with an individual by
17 the name of Janis Brooks Bloom?

18 A. Yes, sir, I am. She's a
19 communication's officer that works for me.

20 Q. Okay. Does she work as a dispatcher
21 there?

22 A. Yes, sir. We call them communication
23 officers.

24 Q. All right. In your capacity over the
25 communication's division, do you have care, custody and
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1 control of certain tapes that are made by dispatchers
2 there?

3 A. I do, sir.

4 Q. If you could, just in general, if you
5 could, describe for the members of the jury how the
6 communications are recorded out there in Rowlett.

7 Let's say, if I'm a dispatcher and I

8 need to call the fire department on an emergency, or if I
9 need to talk with the police officers in the field, how
10 would that be done in Rowlett and how would you record
11 those conversations?

12 A. At that time we had what's called a
13 10-channel Dictaphone play-back unit. It's just a big
14 tape recorder. In fact, the 10 channels that were
15 recorded were all of the 911 phones that came into the
16 dispatch center, the business phones and the police and
17 fire radio channels. Those tapes were active and live,
18 if you will, 24 hours a day. So, any calls coming across
19 on any of those phone circuits or radio channels would
20 have been recorded on to the tapes.

21 Q. Are you familiar with the 911 call
22 that was received by the Rowlett Police Department from
23 Darlie Lynn Routier?

24 A. Yes, sir, I am.

25 Q. And, is it your understanding that
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1 Janis Brooks Bloom was the communications officer at that
2 time?

3 A. That's correct, sir.

4 Q. Was she working by herself or with
5 someone else that morning?

6 A. She was the only communications
7 officer on duty at that time. There was a jailer in the
8 communications area that was trying to assist her as
9 needed.

10 Q. Do you remember what his name was?

11 A. Clint Praslicka.

12

13 THE WITNESS: And I can't spell that
14 for you, ma'am, I'm sorry.

15

16 BY MR. GREG DAVIS:

17 Q. All right. Was a recording made of
18 that 911 call, sir?

19 A. It was, sir.

20 Q. And, was that recording preserved by
21 the Rowlett Police Department?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Have you had that recording in your
24 possession since that date?

25 A. Yes, sir, I took custody of it and
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1 handled it as evidence.

2

3 MR. GREG DAVIS: May I approach, your

4 Honor?

5 THE COURT: You may.

6

7 (Whereupon, the following

8 mentioned item was

9 marked for

10 identification only

11 as State's Exhibit 18,

12 after which time the

13 proceedings were

14 resumed on the record

15 in open court, as

16 follows:)

17

18

19 BY MR. GREG DAVIS:

20 Q. Sergeant Poos, I'm going to show you

21 what has been marked as State's Exhibit 18, ask you

22 whether or not you recognize this to be the original

23 recording of the 911 tape that came to Rowlett from the

24 defendant in this case, sir?

25 A. Yes, sir, it appears to be.

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1 Q. This is on a -- I take it on some sort

2 of reel to reel basis; is that correct?

3 A. Correct, sir.

4

5 MR. GREG DAVIS: Your Honor, at this

6 time we'll offer State's Exhibit No. 18.

7 THE COURT: Any objection?

8 MR. RICHARD C. MOSTY: No, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: State's Exhibit No. 18 is

10 admitted.

11

12 (Whereupon, the item

13 Heretofore mentioned

14 Was received in evidence

15 As State's Exhibit No. 18

16 For all purposes,

17 After which time, the

18 Proceedings were resumed

19 As follows:)

20

21

22 BY MR. GREG DAVIS:

23 Q. Just so I'm clear on that evening,
24 were you on duty up there at the police station at 2:30
25 a.m.?

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1 A. No, sir, I was at home. I was called
2 by Communications Officer Brooks when the situation broke
3 and I came in shortly thereafter.

4 Q. But as far as taking part in any of
5 the recordings that are on that tape 18, on the 911, you
6 didn't actually, personally take part in any of the
7 recordings yourself, did you?

8 A. No, sir. The machine is automated, it
9 was running. My voice may be on there as I got there
10 shortly thereafter and began working on the telephones.

11 So, that was my involvement.

12 Q. All right.

13

14 MR. GREG DAVIS: No further questions.

15 THE COURT: Anything?

16

17

18 CROSS EXAMINATION

19

20 BY MR. RICHARD MOSTY:

21 Q. Mr. Poos, you say that you have a
22 10-channel communications system. What does that tell
23 me?

24 A. At the time that this happened, we had
25 a 10-channel Dictaphone tape logger unit, that would be,
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1 I guess, the technical term model number. That means we
2 had 10 available channels for recording. Some of those
3 channels were telephone lines. Some of them were 911
4 phone lines, which are separate and distinct from the
5 business lines in our building. And then, some of them
6 were radio channels for our police and fire units.

7 Q. Okay. So, for instance, if you had
8 two or three 911 calls come in at once, you had the
9 capacity to take all of them?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. And, it sounds like a fairly
12 sophisticated system?

13 A. No, sir. As a matter of fact, that
14 particular unit was over 10 years old, and we had
15 problems with it at some point, and it's been replaced.

16 Q. But it is able to pick up the

17 communications from the other end, from the caller?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And, as a matter of fact it was

20 sensitive enough to pick up communications of a person

21 other than the person on the phone. If there are other

22 people in the background, it picks up those as well,

23 doesn't it?

24 A. You can telephone off hook, whatever

25 the microphone there would pick up could get to the tape

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1 if it was loud enough.

2 Q. Okay. So anybody who's standing

3 around talking while the person is on the phone could

4 also be picked up?

5 A. Correct, sir.

6 Q. And, in fact, in this case they were,

7 weren't they?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. So all the communications of the

10 person that's actually on the phone are on the tape.

11 Correct?

12 A. Yes, sir. Whatever would get to the

13 microphone, that was sensitive enough or strong enough to

14 get on the tape, would have made it across the open line.

15 Q. In fact, on this tape you have had it

16 enhanced, haven't you?

17 A. I haven't done anything to it, sir. I

18 don't know.

19 Q. You don't know what's happened to it?

20 A. I've had -- it's been turned into

21 evidence. How it was processed prior to this trial, I'm

22 not really aware of.

23 Q. Well, have you reviewed the transcript

24 of it?

25 A. I made a transcript myself of it, sir.

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1 Q. Okay. Have you reviewed the latest

2 enhanced transcript of it?

3 A. I have seen it. The transcript.

4 Q. Then you know that there are other

5 people on that tape, don't you?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And you know, for instance, the

8 officers are on the tape?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And the instructions that they're
11 giving to Darlie Routier are on that tape?
12 A. Yes, sir.
13 Q. And, matter of fact, the tape has
14 Darlie Routier having conversations with her husband, and
15 having conversations with the officer, talking to her
16 children, and talking to the communications officer.
17 She's talking to all four of those people at the same
18 time, isn't she?
19 A. I don't recall her talking to the
20 children. Again, I don't recall is my statement to that,
21 but that may be correct. She's talking to several people
22 at the same time, yes, sir.
23 Q. Well, for instance, did she say,
24 "Devon, no. Oh my God." Do you remember her saying
25 things like that?
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1 A. There was a whole lot of that going
2 on, sir, I can't remember that specific comment.
3 Q. She was talking about, "Hold on, baby.
4 Baby, hold on"?"
5 A. Yes, sir.
6
7 MR. GREG DAVIS: I'm sorry. I'm going
8 to have to object to that being read, it's not in
9 evidence.
10 THE COURT: Sustained.
11 MR. RICHARD C. MOSTY: Well, I'm
12 asking him if he remembers that on the tape.
13
14 BY MR. RICHARD C. MOSTY:
15 Q. You remember that on the tape, don't
16 you?
17 A. I remember comments to that effect,
18 yes, sir.
19 Q. Her saying, "Oh my God, my children
20 are dying."
21 A. Correct.
22 Q. "Hang on baby"?"
23 A. Yes, sir.
24 Q. Okay. "Hold on baby."
25
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1 MR. GREG DAVIS: I'm sorry, I've got
2 to object again, he's clearly reading the document.
3 THE COURT: Sustained. Let's --

4

5 BY MR. RICHARD MOSTY:

6 Q. Well, I'm asking: Do you remember
7 that? Do you remember, "Hold on, baby"? Her saying,
8 "Hold on, baby"?

9 A. Well, there was a lot of stuff on that
10 tape, sir, as you're well aware. And without the
11 transcript in front of me that I made, there were
12 comments similar to that made, sir, yes.

13 Q. And do you remember comments like, "My
14 God, when's the ambulance going to get here"?

15 A. Again, specifically I'm not going to
16 be able to answer that. Comments similar to that were
17 made, yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. I'm just asking you similar.

19 There's questions of talking about my baby and there's
20 screaming and there's, "When is the ambulance going to
21 get here?" All of those things are on the tape that Miss
22 Routier is doing, isn't it?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. So it's fair to say she was talking to
25 her children, wasn't she?

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1 A. I don't know who she's talking to,
2 sir, but there was a lot of conversation going on.

3 Q. And matter of fact, the dispatch
4 officer, during this same time, she's having several
5 conversations with not only Mrs. Routier, but various,
6 either paramedics or police officers who are in route to
7 the scene?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay.

10

11 MR. RICHARD C. MOSTY: That's all.

12 MR. GREG DAVIS: No further questions,
13 your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. You may step
15 down.

16 Your next witness.