People vs. TIO SESSOMS (Case No.: 99F09238)

Interview with TIO SESSOMS, SPD Detective Pat Keller, and SPD Detective Dick Woods on November 20, 1999.

(TAPE CODE: DF1885) (sch)

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DET WOODS: (To someone in background.) It tastes good, and it, uh - it's done good. Tio, I'm Dick.

T. SESSOMS: How you doing, all right. You already know me.

DET. WOODS: You say --

DET. KELLER: Tio, Pat Keller.

DET. WOODS: You say Tio or Theo?

T. SESSOMS: It -- my name is pronounced Tio because it's spanish.

DET WOODS: Tio. Okay.

DET. KELLER: Why don't we swap corners here for a minute, you guys? Go ahead and sit here.

T. SESSOMS: So glad you fellows had a safe flight.

DET WOODS: Huh?

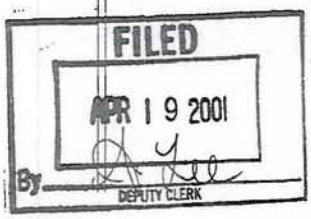
T. SESSOMS: I'm glad you fellows had a safe flight out here.

DET. KELLER: So are we. Huh.

DET WOODS: Well, we want a safe one back too.

T. SESSOMS: Oh, you know (Inaudible).

DET WOODS: Yeah. Uh, we both, uh -- both from, uh,



Sacramento PD and, uh --

T. SESSOMS: There wouldn't be any possible way that I could have a -- a lawyer present while we do this?

DET WOODS: Well, uh, what I'll do is, um --

T. SESSOMS: Yeah, that's what my dad asked me to ask you guys… uh, give me a lawyer.

DET WOODS: What -- what we're going to do is, um -- I have one philosophy and that's, uh, be right up-front and be honest, the same way we were with Frederick and Adam, and not bullshit you or try to hide anything from you, okay?

T. SESSOMS: Okay, sir my dad was worried about, about like, I'm not going to say how some detectives do it but like a lot of officers end up switching your words afterwords

DET WOODS: No, we're not playing no switch games or nothing else. In fact, if -- if you wouldn't mind, I'd like to --

T. SESSOMS: So there --

DET WOODS: -- record whatever conversation we have and that way there will be no -- you know, it's recorded and there -- there's proof that we ain't playing no switch games or nothing else. Now, would you mind if I pulled out a

recorder?

T. SESSOMS: No.

DET WOODS: Um --

DET. KELLER: Little chilly in here, isn't it?

T. SESSOMS: No kidding. They give us a sheet. They call it blankets, but (Inaudible).

DET. KELLER: Is it cold upstairs on the floors?

T. SESSOMS: Cold. And I'm on the floor. (Inaudible.)

DET. WOODS: I don't think I brought any tapes. You, Pat?

DET. KELLER: Yeah. Let me go grab one. Be right --

DET WOODS: (Audible gesture.)

T. SESSOMS: Woods, I have a question. Um, was it -- was that necessary, uh, to print -- to push my face all over the TV screen like that?

DET WOODS: That's automatic. That -- that -- son, we -- we don't have any control over that. The -- and that's just kind of a policy.

T. SESSOMS: Oh.

DET WOODS: We don't do that. Um --

T. SESSOMS: Because I know a lot of my friends' parents are -- are thinking -- you know what I'm saying? -- I -- and they trust me --

DET WOODS: No --

T. SESSOMS: -- me -- you know what I'm saying? And --

DET WOODS: But we, uh -- we don't -- you know, we're the -- we're at the bottom level of the working people, and that's management's decision. That's not our -- our, uh, decision.

DET. KELLER: You want to go ahead and start it?

DET WOODS: Well, if you're positive it's working.

DET. KELLER: Yeah.

DET WOODS: You positive?

DET. KELLER: Yeah.

DET WOODS: Oh. It's nine twenty -- twenty-six, and we're in a, uh -- a interview room at the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office Detention Center in Oklahoma City with Tio and Pat and Dick. Um, want to back up. This way there -- is a recording, and you know we can't play no switch games or nothing else. Uh, I want to back up to your question you asked about an attorney. Um, first, before you ask questions, uh, I'm going to tell you why we're here, just lay it out and be up-front. And then -- then I'm going to advise you of your rights. And then it's up -- for you to decide if you want the attorney or not.

T. SESSOMS: All right.

DET. WOODS: Um, we obviously you know that the -- the warrant is -- is charging you with homicide and robbery and burglary.

T. SESSOMS: Uh-huh.

DET. WOODS: And, um, all three of you are charged with the same thing. There's no difference, uh, in Adam's charges or Frederick's charges or -- and we're working on the other part of it. But there's no difference in anybody's charges. Um, I don't know how long you've known Frederick, how long you've known Adam, how long you've known Joseph or any -- anybody. Uh, but we do know what happened, and I'm not going to lie or buffalo or bullshit you. Uh, Frederick waived his rights, which surprised me, and laid it out from A to Z. Adam also waved his rights and laid it out from A to Z. And we believe, due to what Adam and Frederick both told us, that you yourself did not participate in the stabbing. And I have no reason not to believe that. Now, there's -- there's two sides to every story, or three sides or four sides. But the situation is you brought up

attorney. We -- if you said you didn't want to make any statement without an attorney, we're not really going to be able to talk to you and get your version of it. Uh, most all attorneys -- in fact, all attorneys will -- will sometimes or usually advise you not to make a statement. But -- and -- and we don't need to have your statement to make this case because we've already got two and a half other complete statements. And we know what happened, and it's accurate with the evidence at the scene. So we know it's not being made up, what Adam and Fred said. Uh, we've got quite a bit of some of the property back except for currency.

SESSOMS: What's that?

DET. WOODS: Money. Uh, we still don't have a lot of the coins or the bills back, but we've got jewelry and jewelry boxes back, the Bible, and so forth. And you are a suspect in it, and we are -- you -- obviously, you were arrested in this and --

T. SESSOMS: I turned myself in.

DET WOODS: I know. Which -- which I think is good, okay? But, uh, what I want to do is, um --

I'm not trying to take any rights away from you or anything else. What I want to do, Tio, is advise you of your rights, make sure you understand them. Then you make the decision if you want to talk to us or not.

T. SESSOMS: Uh-huh.

DET WOODS: It's not for me to make, not for him to make; it's -- it's for you to make. Um, have you ever been advised of your rights before?

T. SESSOMS: (No audible response.)

DET WOODS: Okay. How old are you?

T. SESSOMS: I'm nineteen years old.

DET WOODS: Okay.

T. SESSOMS: (Inaudible.)

DET WOODS: You look older than that.

T. SESSOMS: Huh.

DET WOODS: (Inaudible.)

DET. KELLER: I think it's the glasses that make him look older.

DET WOODS: I don't know.

DET. KELLER: Uh, well, speaking of glasses --

T. SESSOMS: Would it be a possible chance that I can call my dad --

DET WOODS: Uh --

T. SESSOMS: -- ask him.

DET WOODS: I'm sure that -- well, no, because your da -- you've got to make your decision. You're an adult. We can make arrangements for -- after we're done talking to you, whether you talk to us or not, I'm sure that -- these guys here are pretty cordial. I'm sure that they would allow a phone call. But what -- what I want to do with you is I want to read these with you, see if you understand them, then you make the decision. D -- do you understand what I'm saying?

T. SESSOMS: I understand what you're saying.

DET WOODS: Okay. All right. Uh, do you have any problem reading?

T. SESSOMS: No, I do not.

DET WOODS: Would you read that first line for me?

T. SESSOMS: You may have a right to remain silent.

DET WOODS: Not you may have. It is you --

T. SESSOMS: Have.

DET WOODS: -- you have the right to remain silent. Do you understand that right?

T. SESSOMS: Yes, I do.

DET WOODS: Okay. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. Do you

understand that right?

T. SESSOMS: Yes, I do.

DET WOODS: Okay. You have the right to talk to an attorney and have an attorney present before and during questioning. Do you understand that right?

T. SESSOMS: Yes, I do.

DET WOODS: Okay. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed free of charge to represent you before and during questioning if you desire. Do you understand each of these rights I've explained to you?

T. SESSOMS: Yes, I do.

DET WOODS: Okay. Having these rights in mind, do you wish to talk to us now?

T. SESSOMS: Um --

DET WOODS: That's solely up to you.

T. SESSOMS: Let's talk

DET WOODS: Okay. All right. Is there something that I can tell you or Pat can tell you to -- to let you know that we're not lying or bullshitting you about we know what happened and that Fred told us the truth and Adam told us the truth? Is there something that you want to ask us just so you know in your

mind that we're not here trying to trick you?