

Guilt Innocence Phase  
August 17, 2017

1 MR. SECREST: Your Honor, I would call  
2 Scott Lacey.

3 THE COURT: (Swearing in.)

4 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

5 BY MR. SECREST:

6 Q. Mr. Lacy, would please state your name for the  
7 record and be so kind to spell your last name for the  
8 court reporter?

9 A. My name is Scott Lacy, last name, L-a-c-y.

10 Q. And Mr. Lacy, do you live in Houston?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. And what block do you live on?

13 A. Ninety-three --

14 Q. What's the name of your street?

15 A. Kelsey Meadows.

16 Q. And do you live on the same street that the  
17 Melgars used to live on?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. And do you know Sandy and Jaime Melgar?

20 A. I do. I know Jaime as Jimmy, that's how he  
21 introduced himself to me.

22 Q. Okay. And how long did you know Jimmy,  
23 approximately?

24 A. Approximately we moved in 2005 and he moved in  
25 approximately 2006, 2007, up until he died, maybe five

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1 years.

2 Q. Okay. Do you have a memory of going back to  
3 December 22 of 2012? Do you have a memory of being in  
4 the presence of Sandy and Jaime Melgar?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. And tell the jury about that. What caused you  
7 to be in their presence on December 22, 2012?

8 A. It was Christmastime and were going to a  
9 neighbor, lives on the next block north of us for a  
10 Christmas party and instead of driving, we walked. It's  
11 a nicer walk to walk down the street through the  
12 greenbelt and come about that way. They were in their  
13 driveway, in the car -- actually not in the car, getting  
14 ready to get in the car and we said hi. I say hi to  
15 mostly everybody. Jimmy said they were going out to  
16 eat. It was their 32nd anniversary. The next day the  
17 were having family coming over and they were going to go  
18 out to eat. We told them, congratulations, it was our  
19 35 years was coming up in the following February. So we  
20 were happy for them and they seemed to be happy, said  
21 Merry Christmas, and went on their way.

22 Q. That was my next question. Although I  
23 understand you only spent a short period of time with  
24 them, did they appear to be happy and having a good  
25 time, getting ready to celebrate their anniversary?

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1 A. Appeared that way to me.

2 Q. Now, let's go to December 23, of 2012. Did it  
3 come to your attention that there was something wrong  
4 going on in the neighborhood based upon emergency  
5 vehicles?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And just briefly tell the jury what you heard  
8 or what you saw?

9 A. Approximately between 4:00 and 4:30, I was  
10 working on the fence between my house and the house west  
11 of me. I was replacing the fence. He was out of town,  
12 so I told him I was going to replace the fence while he  
13 was gone and approximately some time about 4:00, 4:30 I  
14 see an ambulance and a police car come by. I could see  
15 the ambulance go past the fence and they turned the  
16 block and I have the fence open and see them go by.  
17 Normally I want to walk out and see what's going on, but  
18 I'm close to finishing the fence. I was close to  
19 finishing the fence, so I wanted to finish the fence,  
20 but then approximately about a minute or less later, two  
21 more sheriff's cars, vehicles came by; and so I said, I  
22 think I better go see what's going on. They hadn't come  
23 by yet. I could hear them go down Gessner, turn into  
24 our subdivision, they have to come back. So I heard  
25 them turn in and so I started walking out. I got to the

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1 corner of the house and I see the first sheriff's  
2 vehicle drive up, the black guy in there, pretty  
3 well-built. I noticed him right off the bat. I didn't  
4 notice the second car because I saw another neighbor who  
5 had come from two blocks over. He was getting out of  
6 his car at the same time.

7 Q. At any time during the process of seeing all  
8 the emergency responders come to the scene, did you see  
9 a person by the name of Chad Ryan Sullivan?

10 A. Yes. I did.

11 Q. And tell the members of the jury who Chad Ryan  
12 Sullivan is.

13 A. He apparently stays at -- he doesn't live in  
14 the neighborhood, although I think he was living with  
15 mother and stepfather at the time. They live two  
16 blocks -- we're on one block and there's a greenbelt, a  
17 cul-de-sac and there's another block over here with a  
18 cul-de-sac and he lives on and off with them or at least  
19 stays with them apparently; and I assume your question  
20 was do I know little bit about him?

21 Q. Do you know a little bit about him? Do you  
22 know who he is?

23 A. I know who he is. I've only spoken to him that  
24 night. But my wife was on the H.O.A. board and we were  
25 always concerned with crime. There was always little

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1 petty crimes going, every once in a while. So we had  
2 heard about him through different neighbors. He had a  
3 bit of a history with the law.

4 Q. So let me ask you -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

5 A. So I just -- everybody knew kind of who he was,  
6 at least in our little part of our neighborhood.

7 Q. All right. So when the responders are coming  
8 to what turns out to be a murder scene, what is Chad  
9 Ryan Sullivan doing?

10 A. He just happened to park his car right there at  
11 the corner of Village Terrace and our street, Kelsey  
12 Meadows.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. And he was getting out of his car and started  
15 walking all the way down to where crime scene turned out  
16 to be.

17 Q. How would you describe his demeanor? Did he  
18 appear to be normal? Did he appear, something was going  
19 on there? I mean, what did you observe? I don't want  
20 to put words in your mouth, but accurately, to the best  
21 of your ability, characterize what you saw.

22 A. He didn't seem to be acting strangely. He was  
23 very calmly walking down there. He's a very noticeable  
24 guy. You would know who he was if you were to see him.  
25 He has a real bad -- in the part of his nose. It's

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1 pretty much gone or least it was at that time. I've  
2 seen him sense and it seems to be better and he had a  
3 pair of sunglasses on and he had on a elf's hat. So it  
4 was pretty easy to see him. It was Christmastime, so I  
5 assume they were doing something at their house. He has  
6 young son.

7 Q. How long did he stay at the scene?

8 A. From what you understand, he stayed there quite  
9 a long time. We probably went inside, watched the  
10 10:00 o'clock news and went to bed; and from what I  
11 understand, he was there most of the evening, if not  
12 until late into the night.

13 MR. SECREST: May I approach the witness?

14 THE COURT: You may.

15 MR. SECREST: What's my next number, Your  
16 Honor, if I may inquire?

17 THE COURT: Your next number is number 11.

18 Q. (BY MR. SECREST) So let me show you what's been  
19 marked as Defense Exhibit No. 11. On that piece of  
20 paper there's a photograph of an individual. Do you  
21 recognize who that is?

22 A. That is Chad. That is Chad Ryan Sullivan.

23 MR. SECREST: Very well. Your Honor we  
24 tender Exhibit 11 to Ms. Barnett.

25 THE COURT: Any objections?

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1 MS. BARNETT: I would agree to the  
2 photograph only. There's other things on this piece of  
3 paper that are hearsay.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. SECREST: I'll agree to redact it  
6 before it goes to the jury.

7 THE COURT: So Defense Exhibit No. 11, the  
8 booking --

9 MR. SECREST: It's a booking photo.

10 THE COURT: The photo is admitted.

11 Q. (BY MR. SECREST) Finally you have any  
12 information as to whether the Melgar garage door was up  
13 or not back in that timeframe? What do you recall  
14 seeing. If anything, concerning one of the garage doors  
15 to the Melgars' residence?

16 A. I take my dog almost every morning for a walk  
17 and at that particular time we would go east on Kelsey  
18 Meadows and do a loop around and I noticed that the left  
19 side garage door is up and that's normally where Sandra  
20 Melgar parked. The car was in the garage. The door was  
21 up and that was approximate 7:15, 7:30, at the latest,  
22 and walked our loop and came back. It was still up. I  
23 didn't think much of it. It was getting close to  
24 Chistmastime and people want to get their yards done.  
25 He was not a yard guy, and I was yard guy. It didn't

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1 phase me at all.

2 Q. At any time did you see whatever door you saw  
3 up, was it, did it remain up by the time the police  
4 arrived?

5 A. I assumed it was. I did not go back down that  
6 way on the block because I was working in my backyard,  
7 and I go to Home Depot the other way. I never drove  
8 back down that way.

9 Q. You said you think that was what time?

10 A. I would say between 7:15 or 7:30 the latest.

11 Q. So that would be at 7:00 or 7:30 on December  
12 23, 2012?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Did you ever bring that to the attention of the  
15 Harris County Sheriff's Department?

16 A. An investigator came up to -- after everybody  
17 showed up, all the emergency vehicles, a guy came down,  
18 introduced himself, but I don't recall his name. He was  
19 not a deputy or a constable. He did not have a gun, but  
20 he did have a badge. He asked me if we knew who lived  
21 there and what their phone numbers were and so my wife  
22 went inside and got phone numbers. She had the phone  
23 inside and we told them it was Sandra and Jimmy Melgar,  
24 and I told him then that I had seen the garage door up  
25 at 7:00 o'clock, when I went by. And all he said was --



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1 he thanked me for and said it's really gruesome and  
2 that's all he said to me. He turned around and walked  
3 away and that's the last I talked to him.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Secrest, we need to stop  
5 for day.

6 MR. SECREST: Very well.

7 Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, that  
8 completes our testimony for today. Please remember  
9 everything that I've told you each day and we'll see you  
10 at 9:30 in the morning.

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