

Transcript of Grand Jury Testimony  
June Johnston:  
July 29, 2003

Appearing: June Johnston:

[The witness was duly sworn]

Q [U.S. Attorney Wil Langelier]: State your name.

A: June Johnston.

Q: By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A: I am a Marshall City Police Officer, assigned to the Internal Affairs Division as an investigator, currently assigned to investigate the activities of Jan Bridges, a Marshall City police officer who is assigned to the Narcotics Division of the Marshall City Police Department.

Q: How long have you been a police officer?

A: Twelve years total, the last seven with the Marshall Police Department.

Q: Where else did you serve as a police officer?

A: I was downstate with the Sandy City Police Department from 1988 -1993. I left because of a health problem which is now cleared up.

Q: What kind of health problem?

A: It was a mental health problem - something similar to Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

Q: O.K. When you were first hired by the Marshall Police Department?

A: My first date with the Marshall Police Department was, January 1, 1996.

Q: When you were hired, what was your position?

A: I have always been assigned to the Internal Affairs Division, "I.A.D.", as an undercover investigator.

Q: You conduct undercover investigations. Explain that process.

A: If there is a serious indication that a police officer is engaging in improper conduct - such as using excessive force, making false reports, or committing thefts -- an investigator would be assigned to that officer's unit. Preferably as a member of their team, ideally as their partner. The investigator stays close to them and then reports to a controller. This is what I did. Sometimes, I would even wear a recording device, if we deemed it important.

Q: Wouldn't your cover be blown the first time your investigation ended with a complaint?

A: Yes. But I.A.D. took steps to prevent that from happening.

Q: How so?

A: Well, for example I had one case where an officer was accused of constantly using excessive force. To avoid suspicion, I had to join in the beating of a suspect who actually was another undercover investigator. The offending officer and I were both reported. The offending officer was fired. I was suspended for ninety days; that was only on paper. My files were later adjusted to delete the bogus material. I was then given my next assignment.

Q: O.K. When were you assigned to investigate Jan Bridges?

A: March 1, 2002, following a complaint from a drug dealer, Lucky Stokes. Stokes was being shaken down by Bridges, for drugs and money. We felt that Stokes might be credible because of his testimony in a case involving the former Chief of Police, Ronald Bridges.

Q: Did you ever speak to Stokes?

A: No, however I did have a chance to read his written complaint before starting this assignment. Right after I was assigned to the case, but before I could join up with Bridges, Bridges shot and killed Stokes.

Q: What were the facts surrounding that shooting?

A: Bridges shot Stokes right after Stokes' filed the complaint. According to Bobbie Lee, Bridges' partner, Bridges shot Stokes to save Lee's life. That's Bridges story, too. Both Bridges and Lee said Stokes was holding a knife to Lee's throat at the time of the shooting. When I first read the reports I thought it might have happened that way, but now I don't think so.

Q: Why's that?

A: Some time later, while I was wearing a wire, Bridges and I were having a discussion about life in general and snitches in particular. We were at a restaurant called, "Mr. Pat's," a hang-out for both police and lawyers. The restaurant was located right across the street from police headquarters. Bridges claimed, "I'd kill anybody who tricks on me."

Q: "Tricks?"

A: Snitches.

Q: What exactly did Bridges say?

A: If I may refer to my notes, he said, "If someone tricks on me, I would not only kill them. I would kill their brothers, their sisters, their aunts, and their uncles. If they had a parakeet, I'd even kill their parakeet." Bridges said that with a smile. I asked, "like Lucky Stokes?" Bridges stopped smiling, stared at me with the coldest eyes you ever want to see. Then Bridges said, "How about them Cubs?" At that point the conversation ended.

Q: What can you tell us about Bridges' relationship with Dale Davis?

A: Bridges and Davis had a close relationship. I found it a little too close. They were supposed to be on different sides of the law.

Q: How so?

A: Well, I know that Bridges and Davis went to Las Vegas together a number of times and that Bridges has gone to Davis' kids' birthday parties. Bridges invited me to go with on a few occasions, but I always refused. I mean, like, no way. I could blow my cover. Even so, I asked Bridges about this and Bridges said, "Fire, my friend, keep your friends close but keep your enemies closer."

Q: Fire?

A: Yeah. Bridges gave me that nickname. June is a hot month. I showed a bit of a temper. Bridges' nickname is "Ice". Jan as in January, a cold month and Bridges is as cold as they come. Bridges likes that nickname stuff. Soon, on the streets we were known as "Fire" and "Ice". I thought it was stupid, but I went along rather than antagonize Bridges.

Q: Was Davis an informant for Bridges?

A: I really can't say. Davis wasn't a registered informant as regulations require. That is, if you have an informant, you are supposed to bring the informant in to the station and have their name, fingerprints and code name entered into a password -- only computer data base. A password-only computer data base means that you can only view it by using a secure password that is given only to the top command. On Super Bowl Sunday, 2003, I was doing paper work in the office when I answered Bridges' phone. It was Davis calling. I recognized Davis' voice. I told Davis that Bridges was not in and Davis told me, "No problem. I'll just call Bridges at home." The next day, Bridges came into the office all pumped up and announced, "Partners, mount up. We got some busting to do."

Q: Then?

A: We went out. In the next week, we made arrest after arrest. I think there were 15 arrests in total. Almost all was in the Smithereen gang's turf.

Q: Were all of them good arrests?

A: Some were; some weren't. A lot of the evidence got suppressed, but we got it off the street. In a couple of cases, I think Bridges planted drugs while searching the suspect's. When any of them gave us some lip, we tooled them up.

Q: Tooled them up?

A: Yeah. Rough them up. Let them know who's in charge. We teach them a little respect for the law. I'm not saying it's the right thing to do, but it happens.

Q: Did you tool some of them up?

A: Yeah. It was all a part of my act.

Q: Act?

A: So as not to raise any suspicions, I had to act the part.

Q: Is there anything else about these raids that you think we should know about?

A: When we got back to the station after the last arrest - the one where we almost caught the leader of the Smithereens - Bridges made a phone call. Instead of using the desk phone, Bridges went to the pay phone in the office - the phone we let suspects use. I don't know who Bridges called; all I heard was Bridges say, "I told you if you had trouble, I would make it go away. All clear. You can come out now." Bridges saw me looking over and ended the call without another word.

Q: One last question about that group of arrests. Were you there when Bridges made a 4 ounce seizure, February 3, 2003?

A: I was in the building, but Bobbie Lee and I were in one apartment and Bridges went into another and came out of carrying something like 4 ounces of crack all the while smiling like the cat that ate the canary. We went out and celebrated that night - Bridges was buying.

Q: Have you ever seen Bridges skim any money or drugs from raids?

A: Drugs, no. Money, definitely. A number of times Bridges didn't even try to hide it from me. Bridges said that because the Department was not supplying money for controlled buys or paying snitches, we would do a little (and these are Bridges' words) "self-help." Bridges said that was law school talk.

Q: Did you take any money?

A: I had to. If I refused, Bridges would have been suspicious. I gave most of it to the Salvation Army.

Q: Most of it?

A: Yeah. I had to keep some of it and spend it so that Bridges could see me spending it. That gave me more credibility. Again, all a part of my act.

Q: What about Bobbie Lee?

A: Bobbie is a hero-worshipping fool. Bridges talked a lot in front of Lee, but never skimmed in front of Lee. Because of that Stokes thing, Lee thinks that Bridges can walk on water.

Q: Is there anything else you want to add?

A: No. I hope this investigation ends soon, because I think Bridges is getting suspicious. I don't think it's a healthy situation for me.

Q: The witness is excused.

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Ann Murray  
Court Reporter