Grant Smith Ellis Court Log

USA v. Matthew Farwell - October 21, 2026

Reporting by Grant Smith Ellis (@GrantSmithEllis)

About this report: This document reconstructs Grant Smith Ellis's contemporaneous courtroom reporting from his October 21, 2026 posts on X and is reproduced here in support of public access to the proceedings. Every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy and completeness; however, this document should be understood as neither an official court transcript nor a perfect reproduction of Grant's original reporting.

Opening, rulings, and pre-jury proceedings

8:34:49 AM ET | Status 2112885317116059676

Good morning from inside Boston's Moakley Federal Courthouse where I am seated and ready for the start of proceedings.

Yesterday, we learned that at least one Stoughton Police Officer other than Matthew Farwell was involved in a coverup of Sandra Birchmore's death.

Today, testimony from the DOJ's grooming expert is expected.

The live thread will begin below after 8:45AM when the parties enter the court.

Open original post on X

8:44:50 AM ET | Status 2112887837196722180

Okay, I have obtained a cookie and a coffee.

Judge has taken the bench.

We begin.

Open original post on X

8:45:48 AM ET | Status 2112888082059960709

"Counsel, just a few things before we get started. I went over the list of exhibits that were provided by the government. There was one, g-185, which my list said was a text chain but when I opened it it was another photo of Ms. Birchmore. If it's supposed to be a text chain, please send me a copy of it."

Farwell is seated at counsel table. Blue suit, green tie, light blue undershirt.

Open original post on X

8:47:36 AM ET | Status 2112888531911602613

"This exhibit, a consent to search by Mr. Pickard, any objection?"

"No, your honor."

"Your honor, 381 is a photo it was just mislabeled, to go back to the topic from earlier."

"So, counsel, is there a defense 403 argument about the number of photographs. I understand some of the photos, the one with the necklace for example, was being offered for another purpose. Why is 381 relevant?"

"381 depicts her arm in a sling. Ms. Birchmore had shoulder surgery in the summer of 2020 and she had shoulder pain in the fall of 2020. There are text messages suggesting that Ms. Birchmore had shoulder pain after her surgery and until her death and, given the position in which she was found, the government thinks the photo of her in a sling is relevant."

"Okay, I'll listen for that."

Open original post on X

8:50:13 AM ET | Status 2112889191591788565

"Your honor, for the defense, we'll get the reports Ms. Duval produced with regards to the DNA experts over to you tonight."

"Okay."

"Two other things, I got docket 366 which was Farwell"s motion to reconsider the admission of Q-10 and R-10, and I should say that there were a number of exhibits attached to that motion which I did have a chance to review. They were IEP reports, a psych assessment from the school district and one was from grade and one was from grade 11. I also got the government's opposition, docket 367."

"Counsel, I appreciate the attachments and the filings but it doesn't change my rulings. Having read through the IEP's and the assessment, they largely relied, and in fact I think they use the phrase historically, is relying on Q-10, r_10, the prior assessment which I concluded is inadmissible. So, my ruling on that will stand."

"Your honor we understand, but we may ask to revisit again in the future."

"Okay."

Open original post on X

8:53:03 AM ET | Status 2112889906640920625

"Regarding docket 338 and the evidence of the affairs, for the reasons I articulated on Friday and Monday, the limits I am going to allow on this comport with the two prongs of 404 B and the probative value is not outweighed by unfair prejudice under 403. I will give a limiting instruction to the jury. Counsel, I looked at the First Circuit's pattern instruction which is 206 and I also considered circuit law, U.S. Vs Garcia-Sierra 1 circuit 2021, US Vs Randazzo, 1st Circuit 1996, US. Vs Escobar De Jesus, 1 Circuit 1999 and US V Doe 1 Circuit 2013, counsel this is what I propose to read;

Jurors I previously mentioned to you that certain evidence will be introduced that you can consider for one purpose but for no other purpose, and I will instruct you when that occurs. The expected testimony from this witness is one of those instances. You may not use this evidence to infer that because of Mr. Farwell's alleged character he carried out the acts alleged in this case. You may only use it to determine if he had the motive, state or mind or intent to commit the crimes charged against him. This is the only purpose for which you may use this evidence."

Open original post on X

8:54:57 AM ET | Status 2112890383772377568

"No objection to the instruction but we preserve out 404 B objection."

"Understood."

"The government would like the word 'plan,' as well."

"Defense objects."

"Counsel, I will say, the pattern instruction anticipates that there may be multiple purposes of special relevance one of them is plan or preparation for the commission of a crime. So counsel, just give me a moment."

"Not to interrupt your honor thoughts, but as to timeline, the word plan is not a viable option under 404 b."

"Mr. Fogerty?"

"Yes, your honor; we are offering this evidence to show Mr. Farwell did not engage in disguises on Feb 1st, shows that he had a [plan to commit a crime that day."

"Counsel, I think that's a correct statement here, just give me a moment."

Open original post on X

8:57:52 AM ET | Status 2112891117540671493

"So, counsel, just again looking at the pattern instruction and adjusting what I proposed, when I get to the sentence, "you may consider this evidence only for the limited purpose," I will amend that to say "only for the limited purpose of deciding of whether he acted according to a plan, or whether he had the motive, state of mind or intent necessary to commit the crimes charged against him." So I'll amend it in that way."

"Thank your honor."

"Defense notes it's objection."

"Thank you."

"Anything else?

"Nothing from the government."

"With one witness today there may be a single page from a Facebook return, this is Mc. McGrath, I think the issue that we had was pulling excepts from larger exhibits. So one of the exhibits is Ms. Birchmore's full 1,000 page Facebook return. 20,000 pages, I'm sorry, wow that's a lot. So, our thought was to pull a single page and note it as exhibit number dash a."

"That's fine."

Open original post on X

8:58:35 AM ET | Status 2112891297874735283

"Counsel, we are waiting for a few more jurors. We can stand in recess until we have all of the jurors. Who is the witness this morning?"

"This is going to be Stephanie Wait from the crime lab due to scheduling."

"Okay, once we have all of our jurors, please bring her into the courtroom. We stand in recess."

Recess!

Open original post on X

9:05:18 AM ET | Status 2112892988548685859

Jurors entering!

Open original post on X

Stephanie Waite - Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab

9:07:13 AM ET | Status 2112893468435435886

The witness takes the stand.

This is Stephanie Waite.

She is in the Criminalistics Unit of the state police crime lab.

Open original post on X

9:08:00 AM ET | Status 2112893668839542945

"What do you do during crime scene response?"

"I do biological testing or collection of evidence."

"Who decides if you do that?"

"The law enforcement officers who call us."

"What if you are not called to the scene?"

"Then the evidence can be sent to us later."

Open original post on X

9:09:03 AM ET | Status 2112893929351790676

"What is your job?"

"I am a forensic scientist."

"What is a forensic scientist?"

"A forensic scientist uses sciences to analyze physical evidence from crime scenes, and helps law enforcement with that evidence during investigations."

Open original post on X

9:09:44 AM ET | Status 2112894102207390170

"You can test for the presence of skin cells?"

"I can' test for skin cells, but I can find that kind of data and send it off to another area of our lab."

"And you can test for biological fluids?"

"Yes, things like blood, semen, saliva and urine."

Open original post on X

9:10:36 AM ET | Status 2112894322282750335

"Is there in-house training required in your unit?"

"Yes, we have modules and units. We watch videos, we watch trained instructors, we practice the methods ourselves, then we take a test at the end of each unit. I passed each test."

Open original post on X

9:11:43 AM ET | Status 2112894600721403931

"Have you testified in court previously?"

"Yes, in state and federal court."

"Do you review the work of other people and do they review your work in the lab?"

"Yes, we use a peer-review system. They review the entire case file and ensure we have documented our results. Then we have an administrative review that is distinct and ensures the document has no typos, etc."

Open original post on X

9:12:23 AM ET | Status 2112894771949674918

"What types of items can you do testing on?"

"Clothing, types of weapons, anything like that, surfaces, water bottles, car door handles."

"What about skin cells?"

"I can collect those from almost anything that touches skin."

Open original post on X

9:13:51 AM ET | Status 2112895137558720882

"What do you do with those samples?"

"I collect them and save them for DNA testing?"

"Are you familiar with the case number for this matter?"

"Yes, it is 21-02589."

"Were you the person who looked at certain evidence submitted under the file?"

"Yes."

"You said earlier there are two ways you can collect evidence, going to the scene or getting evidence, were you asked to go to the scene in this case?"

"I was not."

"Did you receive evidence?"

"Yes, and evidence collection kit. Finger nail scrapings and a blood tube. Also a pair of underwear, and a ligature."

Open original post on X

9:14:46 AM ET | Status 2112895370640478640

"What is a known blood sample?"

"That is a blood tube that you would get for testing. They take the blood and put it into the tube and we can then use that to get a known DNA profile."

"From whom was the blood collected in this case?"

"Sandra Birchmore"

"And fingernail clippings?"

"Yes."

"And the underwear?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

9:15:19 AM ET | Status 2112895507500826850

"Do you recall when you received those items of evidence in this case?"

"March 5, 2021. I didn't start work on them until March 11, 2021."

Open original post on X

9:16:02 AM ET | Status 2112895687918760382

"The right hand fingernail clippings, were those evidence number 2-3?"

"May I look at my notes? I don't recall."

"With the court's permission."

"Yes."

"Yes that's the right number."

Open original post on X

9:16:28 AM ET | Status 2112895798295871788

"Where were the swaps collected from Sandra Birchmore's body?"

"The vaginal cavity, the oral cavity, the perirenal area and the anus."

Open original post on X

9:17:47 AM ET | Status 2112896127364190484

"When should these swaps be collected?"

"Within 5 days, ideally."

"Why?"

"Because the evidence can be lost."

"How long can sperm cells survive inside a vaginal cavity?"

"For someone who is alive, 5 days. For someone who is dead, the literature says about 34 days."

"What about the oral cavity?"

"24 hours for someone who is alive. For someone is dead, about 4 days."

"When were the swaps collected form Ms. Birchmore's body?"

"Feb 26, 2021."

Oh my dear God.

Open original post on X

9:18:07 AM ET | Status 2112896213150257494

"How long can sperm cells survive inside a vaginal cavity?"

"For someone who is alive, 5 days. For someone who is dead, the literature says about 34 days."

"What about the oral cavity?"

"24 hours for someone who is alive. For someone is dead, about 4 days."

"When were the swaps collected form Ms. Birchmore's body?"

"Feb 26, 2021."

Damn you Brian Tully and John Fanning. Damn you to hell.

Open original post on X

9:18:50 AM ET | Status 2112896391659827238

"Did you test Ms. Birchmore's body for the presence of DNA?"

"Yes, there was none on her body itself."

"What about on her underwear?"

"Yes, we found semen."

"What did you do next?"

"I sent that sample to DNA for testing."

"Do you try to find sperm cells at that time?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

9:20:56 AM ET | Status 2112896921106887047

"You also test for saliva?"

"Yes, via amylase."

"And if an item tests positive for amylase, what can it be?"

"It is presumptive positive for saliva but it can also be urine, feces or breast milk."

"What steps did you take to test Ms. Birchmore's underwear."

"I did a visual inspection for stains. Then I used an ALS, or alternate light source, like a black light. It helps me see stains I can't see with my naked eye. Then I documented those stains. Then I did a screen test, the AP test, for semen. I did the test where I did ALS positive indication. Anything that was AP positive, I did an extraction for sperm cells and semen."

"Exhibit 307 please."

Open original post on X

9:22:08 AM ET | Status 2112897222731768192

"What is exhibit 307?"

"This is a copy of the notes pages I generated while processing Ms. Birchmore's underwear."

We are now looking at images of Sandra's underwear.

There is semen on all sides of the underwear. On the top left back, middle back, bottom lower left back, under the vaginal area, and on six spots across the front.

Open original post on X

9:24:21 AM ET | Status 2112897782717566997

"Did you send these samples to the DNA section of your lab?"

"Yes."

Now we see a close up of the front of Sandra's underwear.

There is stain A in the top front right. ALS positive, AP test negative.

Center area near the crotch. Stain B was ALS positive. There was stain B-1 and b-2 that were AP positive. I then took my extractions from there.

"What were you trying to determine?"

"If sperm cells were present, and neither had determinative results."

Open original post on X

9:25:26 AM ET | Status 2112898054474887599

"What about the back of the underwear?"

"The exterior back had part of stain b and also stain c and d."

"Stain E was also there?"

"Yes, stain e is the top back right, it was ALS and AP positive."

"Were there sperm cells detected?"

"Yes, on stain e."

"What did you do next?"

"I cut out the entire stain and took a sample of it for DNA testing."

Open original post on X

9:26:56 AM ET | Status 2112898433426083938

"What steps did you take to examine the interior front?"

"On the interior front, you can see stain f, stain g, bottom left and stain h, right side. All three were ALS positive. My AP testing was negative for all 3 of those stains."

"What steps did you do on the interior back of Ms. Birchmore's underwear?"

"I could see stain D and E, and I found stain I, which was interior back upper left side, as it's worn. All three were AP negative so I did no further testing."

Wow, only one single sperm sample survived!

Wow!

Burn in hell, Brian Tully and John Fanning.

Open original post on X

9:28:13 AM ET | Status 2112898755028750742

The witness explains how debris gathers on a slide when doing DNA testing and, also, how the testing is done to avoid that debris (microscopic degree).

"What is this?"

"This is my notes on the interior crotch section of Ms. Birchmore's underwear."

Open original post on X

9:29:37 AM ET | Status 2112899108943872133

"What further tests did you do on the inside crotch?"

"I also found stain J, and I did ALS testing. My AP testing was negative however, per lab protocol, I still did extractions, so that black box that says J1 and J2, that is were I checked for the presence of sperm cells."

"What were your results?"

"No sperm cells in J1."

"What about J-2?"

"I found sperm cells."

"What did you do next?"

"I cut out a portion of the underwear, preserved J-2, sampled it and sent it for testing."

Open original post on X

9:30:03 AM ET | Status 2112899214930018433

"Have you examined other underwear from victim's before?"

"Yes."

"And that brown stain is something you have seen before?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

9:30:23 AM ET | Status 2112899299101245745

"What did you do with the samples you cut out?"

"I sent them for DNA testing after preserving them."

Open original post on X

9:30:52 AM ET | Status 2112899421063020784

The witness lists the evidence she catalogued and the evidence numbers she assigned.

Open original post on X

9:31:48 AM ET | Status 2112899654710866133

"What did you do with the fingernail clippings?"

"I preserved them for DNA testing and sent them to that part of our lab."

"What about your testing of the ligature in this case...what item number was that?"

"2-2."

"Exhibit 309 please."

Open original post on X

9:32:43 AM ET | Status 2112899887536750821

"What is exhibit 309?"

"This is a copy of my notes from when I examined the ligature."

"Admitted and published."

We now see the ligature at the crime lab. It is laid out on a white table. It is still knotted near the handle and it is

flipped over so each side is on the picture.

Open original post on X

9:33:32 AM ET | Status 2112900091115700586

"What do you do when you collect skin cells?"

"I run a scalpel, then I take a swap, then I rub a sample collection swap over the same area, then I collect any scrapings, then I swap the scalpel itself, then I put all of that into the sample kit."

Open original post on X

9:33:57 AM ET | Status 2112900195784491190

"What areas did you examine?"

"I looked at the areas that were not around Ms. Birchmore's neck to see if there was any DNA that did not belong to Ms. Birchmore."

Open original post on X

9:34:34 AM ET | Status 2112900350495633611

Now we see a close up of the ligature attached to the door handle in Sandra's apartment. This is what was swapped by the crime lab.

Open original post on X

9:35:23 AM ET | Status 2112900556171993138

"Did you also receive from investigators a product of conception?"

"Yes, that is a fetus."

"Can you do testing on a fetus?"

"We do not. Paternity testing can be done, but we don't do that in our lab."

"Was it sent to that other lab?"

"Yes it was."

"Nothing further."

Open original post on X

9:35:40 AM ET | Status 2112900631241396257

"Cross exam?"

"Yes, your honor."

It is Joanne Daley.

Open original post on X

9:36:23 AM ET | Status 2112900810313269649

"You've been there for 18 years at the crime lab?"

"Yep."

"And you started off as a Chemist 1?"

"Yes."

"Then Chemist 2?"

"Yes."

"And this is the first time you start doing casework, at Chemist 2?"

"Yep."

Open original post on X

9:36:50 AM ET | Status 2112900922254983184

"How does supervision change as you go from Chemist 1 to Chemist 2?"

"A chemist 1 has a trainer all the time. As a chemist 2, a supervisor is as necessary."

Open original post on X

9:38:09 AM ET | Status 2112901254074535959

"Once you get to chemist 3, what happens?"

"That is the supervisor themselves."

"When you say there is testing to train you, what is that?"

"It is competency testing."

"What's the difference between competency and profiency training?"

"Competency testing happens during training, profiency training happens afterwards."

Open original post on X

9:38:53 AM ET | Status 2112901439408468193

"And you are now a chemist 4?"

"Yes."

"And who accredits the crime lab?"

"ANAB."

"Any other associations that certify you?"

"Not to my knowledge, only ANAB."

"Do you have any certifications within forensic societies?"

"No."

"Do those exist?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

9:39:13 AM ET | Status 2112901521348444211

"Is the work you do called preliminary testing?"

"Some of our work, yes, but we also do confirmatory testing."

Open original post on X

9:39:56 AM ET | Status 2112901701308936402

"What kind of confirmatory tests?"

"Semen, saliva and blood."

Open original post on X

9:41:02 AM ET | Status 2112901981954072955

"And you said you did the criminalistic testing but did not respond to the scene?"

"Yes."

"Did anyone from the crime lab respond?"

"Not from the lab, but from crime scene services."

"What is that?"

"They are troopers who collect pictures of the scene. They can also collect evidence and do some initial testing."

Open original post on X

9:41:54 AM ET | Status 2112902197147050450

"The items in this case did not come directly from Ms. Birchmore's apartment?"

"No."

"Where did they go?"

"The medical examiner's office."

"And does the OCME often send you items for testing?"

"Yes."

"How did you get these items?"

"They were delivered in person, A police officer went to the OCME, collected them and brought them by hand to the crime lab."

Open original post on X

9:42:24 AM ET | Status 2112902322632204608

"And, so, umm within the box of items you got, were there multiple swaps?"

"Yes."

"And is a swap a long Q-tip?"

"Yes."

"Did you have the actual underpants?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

9:42:56 AM ET | Status 2112902459559391485

"Were there swaps done as well and put into the box?"

"Yes, there were swaps of her vaginal cavity, her external vaginal area, her anus and her perineal area."

Open original post on X

9:43:18 AM ET | Status 2112902551938941234

"What about clothing other than the underwear?"

"I only got the underpants."

"Did you see any photos of Ms. Birchmore from the OCME?"

"No."

Open original post on X

9:43:31 AM ET | Status 2112902603143331944

"The Strap, how was it packaged?"

"A brown paper bag."

Open original post on X

9:44:14 AM ET | Status 2112902785436160278

"The testing you did first, can you take us through step by step...you receive each item and document it?"

"Yes, the item is documented as it comes into the lab itself, then that documentation is in my file. Then I document the items as I work on them, too."

Open original post on X

9:44:54 AM ET | Status 2112902954629902666

"Did you take photos of the underwear and mark them?"

"Yes, I photograph without markings, sometimes I then photograph when I am doing the ALS dots, and then I photograph again when I am done."

Open original post on X

9:45:56 AM ET | Status 2112903212269215928

"You got these on March 5th and started work March 11 of 2021?"

"Yes."

"And you had two positive samples for sperm cells?"

"How is sperm spelled...sorry, I mean, the presence of sperm cells mean semen is present?"

"Yes, it's a confirmatory test for semen."

"But you don't do the DNA testing itself?"

"Correct, I collect the samples and send them to the other part of the lab."

Open original post on X

9:46:37 AM ET | Status 2112903383732359393

"Let me ask you a question; if a sperm cell is present, and if you know, if there is then a mixture, do you know what a mixture is?"

"Objection."

"Counsel, sustained, back up in your questioning."

Open original post on X

9:46:55 AM ET | Status 2112903461952196666

"The presence of semen doesn't tell you who contributed the DNA right?"

"Right."

Open original post on X

9:48:08 AM ET | Status 2112903766437449735

"Do you look for skin cells?"

"No, I don't have a test for that, I swap for areas that often have skin cells on them."

"In lay person's terms, this means if you touch something you will leave on that surface your skin cells, and from that surface your DNA can be extracted?"

"Yes."

"How is that possible?"

"What do you mean, what part?"

"Well, did I do a good enough of a job?"

"Sure, why not."

Rooms breaks out in laugther.

Open original post on X

9:49:18 AM ET | Status 2112904061347352922

"Is finding DNA on a surface....that might mean someone touched it?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Did you observe any swaps of any surfaces from Ms. Birchmore's apartment?"

"No I did not."

"And you were shown the strap around the doorknob?"

"yes."

"Was the doorknob ever swapped or fingerprinted?"

"Not to my knowledge. I don't know."

"But crime scene services has the capacity to do fingerprinting?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

9:49:37 AM ET | Status 2112904141093704087

"Did you observe any swaps of any surfaces from Ms. Birchmore's apartment?"

"No I did not."

"And you were shown the strap around the doorknob?"

"yes."

"Was the doorknob ever swapped or fingerprinted?"

"Not to my knowledge. I don't know."

"But crime scene services has the capacity to do fingerprinting?"

"Yes."

Shame on you, Brian Tully and John Fanning. Shame!

Open original post on X

9:50:16 AM ET | Status 2112904305694908739

"How long can sperm cells live inside the body?

"Five days for someone who is alive, 34 days for someone is dead."

"Why is that?"

"Because a living person engages in actions, like moving and otherwise, that degrade DNA."

Open original post on X

9:50:55 AM ET | Status 2112904467909935213

"Have you ever found the presence of an item suitable for DNA testing on a very old object?"

"Yes, we do work in cold cases and we take samples."

"What's the oldest object you have tested that has shown DNA suitable for testing?"

"I don't recall exactly. I think 1980."

Open original post on X

9:52:19 AM ET | Status 2112904817894944794

"You said you found some trace evidence on the strap?"

"Yes, it would have been some hairs, fibers or paint, however I am unable to test them."

"Why not collect hairs from the strap?"

"I did."

"Were they tested?"

"No."

"Where are they?"

"At the Sudbury State Police crime lab where our evidence is located."

Open original post on X

9:53:04 AM ET | Status 2112905008585007389

"Can we pull up 309 again. Is this the strap you received at the lab?"

"Yes, that is from my work station at the lab."

Open original post on X

9:53:52 AM ET | Status 2112905209412518334

"Did you put the straps down on paper?"

"Yes."

"And then on the paper you made markings?"

"No, the writing you are seeing is not on the paper itself, it's just on my notes pages."

"Oh, you wrote on the photo itself?"

"Yes."

"Oh, okay."

Open original post on X

9:55:11 AM ET | Status 2112905542821630280

"You took one photo of one side, one photo of the other side, then combined them on one page of your notes?"

"Yes."

"Where did you start the scrape?"

"I don't know which direction, I documented the area i scraped. It is between the brackets."

"So the loop wasn't swapped or scrapped at all?"

"That's correct."

"And the rubber...I don't know what...I can't think of the word...the rubber rectangular item that the loop is fed through, do you have a word for that?"

"That works."

"Was that swapped."

"yes."

Open original post on X

9:56:27 AM ET | Status 2112905858019426710

"Let's call is a carabiner clip. Did you start from there and go upwards?"

"Yes, that would be the start and I went up towards the loop on both sides."

"Does the rubber rectangular thing...was that ever fingerprinted?"

"Not to my knowledge."

"Was the carabiner clip ever fingerprinted?"

"Not to my knowledge."

"Did you ever get the bag this strap came from?"

"No."

Open original post on X

9:57:34 AM ET | Status 2112906142682677665

"And, umm, I think you testified that the strap is still at the lab?"

"The strap itself? I don't know. The collection I took from it? That's at the lab."

"But you wouldn't have thrown the strap out?"

"Me? Oh, no! No! Never!!"

Open original post on X

9:58:00 AM ET | Status 2112906250518515897

"Did you get anything else from the OCME other than what you have talked about so far?"

"No."

Open original post on X

9:58:23 AM ET | Status 2112906345733411059

"How do you test fingernails for DNA materials?"

"I don't do testing for DNA. I swap them for cells. Then I sent the samples to the DNA part of our lab."

Open original post on X

10:00:18 AM ET | Status 2112906829000786321

"Just one more question, would having the duffle bag assist you for matching the trace material on the strap?"

"I don't do trace analysis to that degree, but that could be done by the trace unit."

"You said hairs were on the strap."

"Trace material yes, but I can't confirm it was hair."

"But hair is a type of trace material?"

"Yes, trace material includes potential hairs or fibers."

"Was further examination done of those trace materials?"

"No."

"Thank you nothing further."

Open original post on X

10:00:42 AM ET | Status 2112906930012536886

Redirect.

"There was hair or trace material on the ligature?"

"It was trace material, but I can't confirm it was hair."

Open original post on X

10:01:52 AM ET | Status 2112907221310775483

"Ms. Wait is this one of the crime scene photos, exhibit 37, that you reviewed?"

It's a picture of the strap around Sandra's head. We cannot see her face. She is laying on the floor on her side (after she was taken down from the door handle).

Her hair is right next to the ligature.

Thankfully the picture crops out Sandra's face.

Open original post on X

10:02:29 AM ET | Status 2112907379125719506

"Do you see the defendant in the room right now?"

"Yes."

"Was he present in the room when you conducted the testing of the strap."

"No."

Open original post on X

10:02:39 AM ET | Status 2112907417914868155

"Nothing further."

Open original post on X

10:03:17 AM ET | Status 2112907580288983504

"Recross."

"Yes, your honor."

"Do you look at a photo and say, that's hair so I'm not going to bother with trace testing."

"Objection."

"Sustained as to form."

"What role do assumptions play in your job as a scientists."

"Objection."

"Sustained as to form."

Open original post on X

10:04:47 AM ET | Status 2112907958568820836

"When you saw hair on the strap did you assume it was Sandra Birchmore's?"

"No, I made no assumptions, I didn't even know if it was hair, I just collected it."

"And that's because assumptions aren't science?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"I have scientific methods when doing my testing. I don't make assumptions."

"Was the strap still around Ms. Birchmore's neck when she was transported from the scene."

"Yes."

"Thank you nothing further."

"You may step down."

Open original post on X

10:04:57 AM ET | Status 2112907999396114868

"When you saw hair on the strap did you assume it was Sandra Birchmore's?"

"No, I made no assumptions, I didn't even know if it was hair, I just collected it."

"And that's because assumptions aren't science?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"I have scientific methods when doing my testing. I don't make assumptions."

"Was the strap still around Ms. Birchmore's neck when she was transported from the scene."

"Yes."

"Thank you nothing further."

"You may step down."

Open original post on X

Dr. Lisa Rocchio - clinical psychologist

10:05:42 AM ET | Status 2112908188559589525

"The Government calls Dr. Lisa Rocchio!"

Open original post on X

10:06:30 AM ET | Status 2112908389487624442

"What is your profession?"

"I am a clinical psychologist."

"What is that?"

"A licensed mental health professional who specializes in the assessment, diagnosis, formulation, and evidence-based treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders across the lifespan"

Open original post on X

10:07:05 AM ET | Status 2112908535952482498

"Educational background?"

"I have an undergrad degree, a masters, a doctorate, and I did a fellowship at Yale."

Open original post on X

10:09:22 AM ET | Status 2112909110576353424

"Did you study inter-personal violence?"

"Yes, that is any sort of violence between people. This is different than the kind of trauma from a national disaster, like a flood. It is something one person does to another. Rape, SA, abuse and other forms of violence."

"Does it have to involve actual physical violence?"

"No, it can involve mental abuse, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, physical abuse, types of aggression or abuse of power in a relationship dynamic where someone is harmed even if it doesn't involve physical contact."

"What is childhood sexual abuse?"

"Sexual contact between an adult and a child, anyone under the age of 18, because the lack the cognitive capacity to engage in full informed consent."

Open original post on X

10:10:22 AM ET | Status 2112909361597087832

"Have you done clinical work with patients?"

"100's upon 100's, yes."

"What did you do after getting your Ph.D?"

"To become licensed, I had to do a 1-2 year post doctoral training. I did that working at the Butler Hospital where I worked in a partial hospital program and in a private practice setting. I also taught classes at Providence College."

Open original post on X

10:11:39 AM ET | Status 2112909685778985116

"Did you open your own practice?"

"Yes, in December of 1997."

"What do you do there?"

"I have several other colleagues who work for me. We provide therapy to patients who suffer from traumatic stress and interpersonal violence. I also provide treatments to first responders, police officers, firefighters, people involved in motor vehicle accidents. I do all of the supervision, training and I maintain my own caseload of patients."

Open original post on X

10:12:15 AM ET | Status 2112909835842814285

"What does your clinical work entail?"

"I provide therapy for folks who have experience a traumatic event. I also work with parents who have lost children under traumatic circumstances."

Open original post on X

10:13:12 AM ET | Status 2112910073261338910

"Are you also a clinical forensic psychologist?"

"Yes."

"What is that?"

"Clinical forensic psychology is a specialized field that combines clinical mental health expertise with the legal and judicial system."

"Do you work in both civil and criminal cases?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

10:13:58 AM ET | Status 2112910269709950982

"You work for prosecutors and defense attorneys?"

"Yes."

"Have you worked for both plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

10:14:25 AM ET | Status 2112910381815582740

How many states are you licensed in?"

"Six and, also, I am licensed in 40 for telehealth."

Open original post on X

10:15:19 AM ET | Status 2112910606173196606

"Over the course of your career, what is the age range of patients you've seen who have experienced childhood sexual abuse?"

"Objection, may we be heard."

"No, not on this. Overruled."

"Hundreds."

Open original post on X

10:16:01 AM ET | Status 2112910782379823313

"Are you a professor?"

"Yes, at the Brown University School of Medicine. I am a clinical assistant professor. I have been there for six years."

"What do you do there?"

"I provide training to new therapists in residence and I teach lectures."

Open original post on X

10:16:33 AM ET | Status 2112910917272793166

"Have you published articles on the topic of sexual violence?"

"Yes."

"Any other academic experience?"

"Yes, I am a peer-reviewer for journals."

Open original post on X

10:17:37 AM ET | Status 2112911185746247867

"have you done trainings and presentations on the subject?"

"Yes, many."

"How do you keep up with the field?"

"I see patients, I participate in continuing educations, anytime I need to do a training I do a literature review, I

consult with peers and colleagues."

Open original post on X

10:18:23 AM ET | Status 2112911377564352907

"Have you interviewed any witnesses in this case? Or any documents?"

"No, I have not."

"Media reports?"

"I am aware they exist, but I have refrained from reading them."

"Do you have personal knowledge of the facts?"

"No."

Note; this is called a blind witness.

Open original post on X

10:18:59 AM ET | Status 2112911530195116256

"Will your testimony be about this specific case?"

"No."

"Are you compensated?"

"Yes, on an hourly basis for prep and the time testifying."

"Does the amount you're paid depend on the outcome of the trial?"

"No, that is ethically prohibited in my field."

Open original post on X

10:19:29 AM ET | Status 2112911655206294014

"How do instances of childhood sexual abuse happen?"

"It's normally a pattern. The most common way is deception, coercion and manipulation as opposed to overt physical force."

Open original post on X

10:20:41 AM ET | Status 2112911960240988242

"You said it is anyone under the age of 18?"

"Yes, that's the definition in the literature."

"Are preps strangers or people known to the victim?"

"80% are known to the victim."

"What is the term used for this behavior?"

"Grooming."

"What is grooming?"

"Grooming is a deceptive and manipulative process used by sexual abuse preparators which is exploited to develop a relationship with the intended or targeted victim."

Open original post on X

10:21:40 AM ET | Status 2112912204219514894

"When did grooming show up in the literature?"

"Since the late 1970's and 1980's."

"Where did you learn about grooming?"

"Reading the literature and having worked with a number of patients who were victims of grooming during abuse. It comes from also having worked with batterers and reading some of the literature on offenders and some of the strategies they used, as well as what victim's report have been done to them."

Open original post on X

10:25:08 AM ET | Status 2112913077565853798

"Does the research divide grooming into stages?"

"Yes, about five general stages."

"Walk us through them please. The first?"

"The first stage is the selection and targeting of a particular victim. What we have found in the research is that the perps will often identify a specific target for sexual abuse ahead of time. Most often, someone with particular vulnerability factors. We know groups of people are at higher risk for being abused."

"What kind of things make them vulnerable to abuse?"

"Four categories, the first is any child who has already their own history of being sexually abused in childhood. Second would be problems among the child's parents; conflicts in the home, exposure to violence in the home, parent's with substance use disorder, instable housing, frequent moves (more than 6 during childhood). The third is family structure; having one adult in the household, having lower socioeconomic status, a poor relationship between the child and their parents such that the child doesn't have someone looking out for them on a regular basis or they are own their own. Fourth, qualities specific to the child can increase risk, such as mental health issues, cognitive issues or physical issues are at higher risk. kids who are isolated, don't have a large friend group, kids who are mocked, marginalized for one reason or other, that can increase risk, and age."

Open original post on X

10:25:55 AM ET | Status 2112913275562201218

"How are teenagers vulnerable to abuse?"

"They have more time on their own away from adult supervisor, they often are very sensitive to how they are being viewed by peers, they want to be accepted, often they want to be seen as adults, they are more impulsive and likely to take risks, and all of them can put them at higher risk for abuse."

Open original post on X

10:27:44 AM ET | Status 2112913732770677092

"What's the second stage of grooming?"

"Isolation and access. Once a particular victim had been targeted and identified, the prep will often identify opportunities to engage in 1 to 1 contact with that child in ways that are not likely to raise concerns. They are often found in positions where they have routine access or children that won't raise concerns. Church, schools or youth groups like Boy Scouts. Anything with regular access to kids that won't raise eyebrows to be alone or interacting 1 on 1 with them. Finding or exploiting those chances to isolate the target or victim of sexual abuse."

Open original post on X

10:29:21 AM ET | Status 2112914139945287693

"What about positions of trust?"

"Yes, that ties into the third stage, they are more likely to be able to build trust via the 1 on 1 relationship with the child, but also their position within an institution or their position. Doctor, police officer, attorney. Anyone who has additional power, opportunity or respect that will give them greater access, greater trust of the child, or greater trust of the community. Often perps will hold themselves out as pillars of the community. They may be known to be great with kids. They will form bonds with the victim's family members so the family will let the child stay around the adult more often as a trust person. They do that with the child, too."

That is sickening.

Open original post on X

10:29:36 AM ET | Status 2112914201174053203

Burn in hell.

All of you monsters.

Burn.

Open original post on X

10:31:04 AM ET | Status 2112914571023311211

"You mentioned institutions, what did you mean?"

"Some intuitions, like the church or an educational institution, or a hospital, or anything like that....there is a sense that they are more worthy of trust than regular adults."

"What about police departments?"

"Objection!"

"Sustained."

Sidebah!

Open original post on X

10:34:51 AM ET | Status 2112915521783869491

We are back.

"What is the third stage of grooming?"

"Trust building and relationship building. I talked first about how the preds form relationships in the community or with the family. But building a relationship of trust with the child is a big one. They hold themselves as someone the child can confide in. Or the child confiding in the adult. The special relationship between the child and the adult. I often hear the children say, "he made me feel special when he..."

"Objection!"

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

10:35:12 AM ET | Status 2112915609835241714

"What strategies do preps of child sexual abuse use when the victim is a teenager?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

10:36:36 AM ET | Status 2112915964664631560

"What's the fourth stage?"

"Desensitization."

"What does that mean?"

"The prep uses desensitization to physical touch. Hand holding. Knee touching. Then sexual touching. But also desensitization to sexual topics. Talking about or showing porn. Talking about their sex life."

"Objection!"

"That can stand, overruled."

"How does desensitization make a victim feel about what's happening to them?"

"Objection!"

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

10:37:09 AM ET | Status 2112916100434526619

"Fifth stage?"

"The fifth stage of child sexual grooming is post-abuse maintenance. They keep the relationship going with the victim so the prep can control the child and hide the abuse."

Open original post on X

10:38:37 AM ET | Status 2112916471516983544

"How do perps use sex to maintain power and control over victim?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"Often times, the preps are introducing sexual contact, sexual arousal, interaction, at a level and age that is develo0pmentally inappropriate. It sets the norm for the child about what a sexual interaction is, it negatively impacts the child's own sexual development, as to what sex is, often with teenagers the prep presents themselves as as the boyfriend, lover or confidant and the child is led to falsely believe its a relationship between two equal actors instead of a power difference between an adult and a child."

Open original post on X

10:39:57 AM ET | Status 2112916805039669738

"What about painful sex?"

"Yes, actually, perps are the one who, during desensitization + trust building, are in control of the terms of engagement and the norms. Whatever the prep prefers, they normalize. Particularly sexual interactions. Often the child wants to please the prep, so as to not anger the prep, or they worry about losing the benefits or favor of the prep. That becomes a powerful incentive for the child to comply with the prep. Whatever they find sexually gratifying is what they impose on the victim."

Open original post on X

10:41:12 AM ET | Status 2112917121353023970

"Do child victims of sexual abuse normally disclose it to others right after the abuse?"

"No, because there are factors within and outside the child, but it's because victims of any sort of rape or sexual assault do not disclose right away. Disclosure is a process. For child victims, they have been made to feel what they are going through is not abusive. So they are not going to report something they have been made to feel is normal. They also feel a lot of shame. They may feel this person is their person, and they have misguided

loyalty sometimes to the perp."

Open original post on X

10:41:57 AM ET | Status 2112917310205808672

"You said disclosure is a process?"

"Yes, often with sexual abuse, victims will often disclose over time. It depends on who they are talking to. They will often test the water, at first, to see if they are going to be blamed. Then they will withhold the most intense details to protect themselves and avoid shame."

Open original post on X

10:43:02 AM ET | Status 2112917584308048235

"Wrap it up counsel."

"Nothing further."

"Cross?"

"Yes, your honor."

"It is Ms. Daley."

"The law for consent in Massachusetts is 16?""

"Yes, but that is not what the literature says about child abuse, but I am aware some states have lower ages of consent."

Open original post on X

10:43:48 AM ET | Status 2112917775375306927

"Have you ever reviewed someone's record to give your client an assessment?"

"Yes, in my practice, when I am treating someone."

"Do you review records?"

"Not really, I interview the patient."

Open original post on X

10:44:31 AM ET | Status 2112917954983792727

"Have you ever served as a non-testifying consultant?"

"Yes."

"Have you done that in this case?"

"No."

Nothing further. No direct.

"You are excused."

Open original post on X

Donyea Holloway - Stoughton Police Explorers

10:46:48 AM ET | Status 2112918528802120126

"The government calls Donyea Holloway!"

Former Stoughton PD explorer participant alongside Sandra Birchmore.

"Your honor we have a delay with the witness arriving, can we ask for the break early?"

"Sure, jurors we will take our 20 minutes now. Your snacks are upstairs."

Morning break!

Open original post on X

10:47:56 AM ET | Status 2112918817445671145

"Anything else?"

"Your honor, we are flying through witnesses. We are ahead of schedule as to where we expected to be. We expected a little bit more time on the first two. We have Hallow, McGrath and Barrett. We have two more witnesses today. Chandler and Dan Barber."

Open original post on X

10:48:10 AM ET | Status 2112918876597948477

"Who is Barret?"

"Stoughton Police Officer."

Open original post on X

10:52:05 AM ET | Status 2112919860522975567

"Your honor, the defense would like to be heard on Dr. Roccio opening the door to 412 evidence."

"I didn't hear that, counsel.'

"The question was would the groomer introduce their victim to a form of painful sexual contact, but in the defense motion the ID of that information is through a different Paramore."

"Counsel, her testimony in my view was on childhood sexual abuse, there was no opening of the door, in my

view. In the texts that the government alleges reflects the first encounter when Ms. Birchmore underaged, there is some discussion of the pain of that intercourse if I recall correctly."

"Your honor I don't think that is what the government was talking about, they were talking about using sex as punishment. Your honor, that comes from a different teen Paramore."

"Counsel?"

"Your honor the Paramore that counsel is referring to did not start a relationship with Ms. Birchmore when she was 18, but the court has evidence that when the defendant was her exclusive sexual partner when she was a child, the texts talk about it being uncomfortable or painful and Sandra doing it anyway to make the defendant happy. Ms. Birchmore also writes in her journal about being stripped, and having consequences for not being on birth control, and asking if she can leave her shirt on during certain sex acts."

Open original post on X

10:53:15 AM ET | Status 2112920153230889201

"Counsel, I understand. As I said before, I don't think the door was opened on this. As I said at the sidebah, the testimony was limited to childhood sexual conduct to which Ms. Birchmore, as a legal matter, could never consent. I don't think this has opened the door. Objection preserved."

20 minute break from now!

Open original post on X

10:54:15 AM ET | Status 2112920406416052287

God bless you all.

We are flying today!

Donation information below! I am off for a cigah for the next 20 minutes!

Venmo: https://t.co/aS1seZFGwv

Paypal = https://t.co/T02firu36i https://t.co/7qgpYn3xP0

Open original post on X

11:11:30 AM ET | Status 2112924745125499154

Taking 10 extra minutes on my towel break to rest my hands and have another cigah.

Thank you for your understanding. I am a towel.

Open original post on X

11:15:30 AM ET | Status 2112925753696194936

Dr. Rocchio leaving court.

Best I could do. Sorry. https://t.co/yu9xWTMk43

Open original post on X

11:21:27 AM ET | Status 2112927252505571439

We are back.

This is Donyea Holloway. She was a freshman in high school when she joined the Stoughton Police Explorer's program.

"How did you meet Matthew Farwell?"

"In the police explorer's program he was one of our instructors."

"What did he instruct you on?"

"The physical fitness portion and some of the classroom work."

Open original post on X

11:22:17 AM ET | Status 2112927461143200112

"Exhibit 6, please. Do you see where is says Stoughton Police Explorer's 2012, syllabus, have you seen something like this before?"

"Yes."

"And were you in this program in 2012?"

"Yes."

"What grade were you in at the time?"

"10th grade."

Open original post on X

11:24:00 AM ET | Status 2112927893818900487

"What did Officer Farwell do in the program that year for police explorer's?"

"PT and classroom instructor."

"Did you know Sandra Birchmore?"

"I did. We met in middle school. I got to know her more in the police explorer's program. She was a grade below me."

"Exhibit 90 please. What is this exhibit?"

"This is Sandra when she was in a police explorer's shirt."

"Exhibit 90 entered and published."

It is a picture of Sandra with bright blue eyes, a blue explorer's shirt, and her right hand on her chin. She is smiling. Her hair is pulled back. Her eyes are very open and very blue. I saw, "aww," out loud.

Open original post on X

11:24:49 AM ET | Status 2112928096848674898

"What is this photo?"

It is 7 children in the police explorer's program standing in a parking lot. Sandra is the smallest by far. Sandra looks like a toddler.

"She is so little!" someone exclaims in the media room.

Open original post on X

11:26:34 AM ET | Status 2112928536751128635

"Is the same blue shirt from the last photo?"

"Yes."

"What did you observe about Sandra Birchmore in the police explorer's program?"

"Sandra was vibrant, she was bright, very intelligent, very willing to learn, an over-sharerer at time. She was great, always willing to help others. I remember her always being a willing participant in the program."

"What about the physical parts of the program?"

"Sandra struggled but she would always keep trying."

"What about Sandra's home life?"

"I knew she lived with her mother and her grandmother at the time."

Open original post on X

11:27:19 AM ET | Status 2112928728619601921

"You graduated high school in 2014 and Sandra was a grade behind you?"

"Yes."

"Was Sandra in the police explorer's program every year until you graduated?"

"Yes."

"Where was the program held?"

"At the Stoughton Police Department."

"What did Sandra do after the sessions?"

"She would hang around the department sometimes."

Open original post on X

11:28:13 AM ET | Status 2112928954017362404

"Were you and Sandra friends in high school?"

"Yes."

"What did you discuss?"

"She would tell me about the boys, but that would it. She never named anyone she dated."

"Did she ever tell you she was dating a specific boy?"

"No, on one specific, she said she was seeing somebody though."

"Someone at Stoughton High? Did you understand it to be someone at Stoughton High?"

"No."

Open original post on X

11:29:02 AM ET | Status 2112929158917468454

"Did you stay in touch with Sandra?"

"It was hard, but I tried. I joined the Navy right out of high school."

"Did you move back to Massachusetts?"

"Yes, I moved back to Massachusetts and became a Nay recruiter in the Quincy officer."

Oh no. Jayson Pickard was a recruiter there for the Army!

Open original post on X

11:29:11 AM ET | Status 2112929198163505370

"Did you stay in touch with Sandra?"

"It was hard, but I tried. I joined the Navy right out of high school."

"Did you move back to Massachusetts?"

"Yes, I moved back to Massachusetts and became a Nay recruiter in the Quincy officer."

Oh no. Jayson Pickard was a recruiter there for the Army!

Open original post on X

11:29:47 AM ET | Status 2112929349510766623

"Did you stay in touch with Sandra after 2017?"

"Yes."

"Did she eventually tell you she was pregnant?"

"Yes."

"When?"

"I don't recall."

"Would looking at some text messages help refresh your recollection?"

"Yes."

"Read this to yourself please."

Open original post on X

11:31:28 AM ET | Status 2112929771751415896

"Does that refresh your recollection?"

"Yes."

"When did Sandra Birchmore disclose to you that she was pregnant?"

"In December of 2020."

"What, if anything, did Ms. Birchmore disclose to you about the father of her unborn baby?"

"She told me, do you remember the twins, and I said yea, and I said yea, and she said, yea I have been seeing him and he's the father."

"Did you affirmatively tell you the father was Matthew Farwell?"

"Yes."

"Did she tell you how she felt?"

"She was excited. Ecstatic. She was happy and wanted to have her baby."

Open original post on X

11:31:38 AM ET | Status 2112929812964614376

"When did Sandra Birchmore disclose to you that she was pregnant?"

"In December of 2020."

"What, if anything, did Ms. Birchmore disclose to you about the father of her unborn baby?"

"She told me, do you remember the twins, and I said yea, and I said yea, and she said, yea I have been seeing him and he's the father."

"Did you affirmatively tell you the father was Matthew Farwell?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

11:32:58 AM ET | Status 2112930148085313886

"What did Sandra say about how Matthew Farwell felt about the baby?"

"She told me he was upset because she wanted him to be on the birth certificate, and he said no. She said he was upset and they were going through difficult times."

"Why did she want his name on the birth certificate?"

"She wanted the baby to have benefits in case the father wasn't there in the future."

"Benefits of what type?"

"Police benefits."

"How long was she in the relationship with Matthew Farwell."

"I don't recall."

"No further questions."

No cross.

Open original post on X

Shawna McGrath - hairdresser

11:34:08 AM ET | Status 2112930443519504513

"The Government Shawna McGrath."

Getting video of the last witness. Brb. This is a hairdresser now.

Open original post on X

11:40:46 AM ET | Status 2112932110692393202

Donyea Holloway leaves court after telling jurors in the Sandra Birchmore and Matthew Farwell case that she attended Police Explorer's in Stoughton with Matthew Farwell and then became a Navy recruiter alongside Army recruiter Jayson Pickard in Quincy (the father of Sandra's unborn baby).

Open original post on X

11:47:04 AM ET | Status 2112933695338242531

Hairdresser up now.

"I talked to her two times after December of 2020. She wanted to have twins, and she really was hoping she was pregnant with twins so she wouldn't have to get pregnant again."

"What did she say about the father of the baby?"

"She said he wasn't happy about it. She showed me a message where she was talking about singing the birth certificate. It was a message to Matt. She showed it to me by, like, handing the phone to me. I saw the messages."

"Did Sandra tell you any steps she was taking with respect to that topic?"

"I don't remember."

"What did she say about her plan for the baby?"

"Um, she planned on raising it. Originally she thought they would be together, but then she ended up planning on raising the baby alone."

"Did she tell you that?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

11:48:54 AM ET | Status 2112934157726691466

"Do you recall this conversation from Jan 29, 2021?"

"And here Ms. Birchmore asks you about when you have time tomorrow for the valentines ay package? What's that?"

"It was a wash blow, blow dry and deep conditioning treatment with curls."

"I said back, hey I am on the phone with my mom, what are you looking to do tomorrow, girl?"

"She said I am making my baby announcement on the 14th, what did you say?"

"I said we aren't open on the 14th, because it's a Sunday, and you say I have time for 9AM tomorrow, yes?"

"Yes."

"Then she says can Kate get me in on the 13th, right?"

"Yes."

"And you say, yes, we're looking now."

"Yes, it was going to be about $40."

Open original post on X

11:50:37 AM ET | Status 2112934591589765371

"Did Sandra show up on Feb 13th?"

"No, she missed it."

"Did you learn that Sandra passed away at some point?"

"Yes, via a post on Facebook."

"How did you react to that?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"I was shocked and I was upset for her."

"And, did you reach out to anyone in law enforcement?"

"Yes, I reached out to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office."

"Why did you reach out to them."

"Because I believed that..."

"Objection!"

"Sustained!"

"Lead here."

"Did you you reach out to them to give them information?"

"Yes."

"And was that about Ms. Birchmore's relationship with someone named Matt."

"Yes."

Open original post on X

11:51:06 AM ET | Status 2112934713690079655

"And, did you reach out to anyone in law enforcement?"

"Yes, I reached out to the Norfolk District Attorney's Office."

"Why did you reach out to them."

"Because I believed that..."

"Objection!"

"Sustained!"

"Lead here."

"Did you you reach out to them to give them information?"

"Yes."

"And was that about Ms. Birchmore's relationship with someone named Matt."

"Yes."

Damn you right to hell, Michael Morrissey and Lynn Beland!

You, too, Brian Tully and John Fanning.

Open original post on X

11:51:15 AM ET | Status 2112934750990319883

"Nothing further."

"Cross?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

11:52:15 AM ET | Status 2112935000588902670

"You said you met Sandra when COVID started?"

"During covid, yea."

"You said Jan of 2020, but covid started in March of 2020, is it possible it was after Jan?"

"I don't know."

"Did you guys communicate on Facebook?"

"Yes."

"How soon into your relationship did you start messaging on Facebook?"

"I communicate with all of my clients through social media, so the first communication."

Open original post on X

11:52:42 AM ET | Status 2112935113134612538

"Would the date of the first message help you remember?"

"Um, no, because the clients call the salon first, and then they get the information to DM on Facebook."

Open original post on X

11:54:13 AM ET | Status 2112935498159141327

"How did you talk to Sandra?"

"Facebook messenger or the Salon interaction on the phone."

"Did you know Sandra Birchmore before that?"

"No."

"Did you see her outside of the salon?"

"No."

"Did you talk about anything besides hair?"

"Yes."

"You talked about more than appointments?"

"Only like, she called me once when she was like upset about something."

"She called you on your phone?"

"Either that or through messenger. I don't remember which."

"When you say called, what do you mean?"

"The Facebook call feature or my personal number."

"When was that?"

"I don't recall exactly."

Open original post on X

11:55:06 AM ET | Status 2112935718485999734

"You said Sandra and you began talking regularly after you first met her?"

"Yes, she got her hair done every two weeks or so."

"You said on direct that she told you about a boyfriend?"

"Yes."

"Did you tell the FBI that if Sandra was having sex with someone else that you would know about it?"

"I feel like I would know about it."

"Did she tell you about anyone else?"

"No."

Open original post on X

11:57:27 AM ET | Status 2112936309027168727

"If COVID started during march of 2020, and if she passed away in Feb of 2021, you knew her for less than a year?"

"Okay!"

"Is that correct?"

"It should be."

"So you knew her for less than a year?"

"If that's what the timeline says."

"I'm not trying to trick you, it was less than a year right?"

"I'd have to look back and check my client calendar?"

"Was it for sure during covid?"

"I have a picture in a mask with her, so I thought it was that. I could have seen her before that."

"You could have seen her before that?"

"Yes, we returned to work in May of 2020 and I had the picture with the mask with Sandra. That is the reason for the reference to covid. I could have met her before that."

"How long did you have the mask mandate in the salon?"

"For as long as their was a mask mandate in the state."

"Did Sandra wear a mask in every interaction with you?"

"When it was mandatory, but not every interaction."

Open original post on X

11:58:33 AM ET | Status 2112936585910006103

"Sandra wanted a full foil?"

"Yes."

"What is a full foil?"

"You have your hair lightened and put in tin foil like around your head."

"Did she mention her doctor told her not to color her hair?"

"She did."

"What was that conversation about?"

"Personally, I suggest putting color or lightener in foils so it doesn't absorb through the skin. You start at the roots in tin foil so it wouldn't effect like, skin contact or absorption."

Open original post on X

11:59:11 AM ET | Status 2112936747822616910

"Did Ms. Birchmore always pay for her hair services with you?"

"Yes."

"Did she ever ask to borrow money from you?"

"I don't remember."

"Would looking at your Facebook messages refresh your recollection?"

"Yes. Thank you!"

Open original post on X

12:00:11 PM ET | Status 2112936998168109298

"Did Sandra Birchmore ever ask you to borrow money?"

"Yes, on Jan 20th, 2021."

"And why did she need to borrow money?"

"To get her epi-pen."

"Were you able to loan her money that day?"

"No, I didn't have it myself."

Open original post on X

12:01:02 PM ET | Status 2112937213440798847

"Did Sandra send you more texts than you responded to?"

"Umm, yea, I guess?"

"More than twice as much?"

"I can't recall specifically."

"Did she text you a lot before you could get back to her."

"Most of my clients do."

"Did she ever call you and you wouldn't pick up?"

"Umm, yes?"

Open original post on X

12:02:23 PM ET | Status 2112937552688590901

"You said Sandra seemed cheerful to you?"

"For the most part, yes."

"When she asked you for money on Jan 20th, did she tell you about medications she was taking?"

"No."

"Did she tell you anything about Zoloft?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"I don't recall.":

"Did she share anything with you about her mental health?"

"Lightly."

"Like what?"

"When people sit in the chair they discuss things like anxiety or like normal stresses of life."

Open original post on X

12:03:28 PM ET | Status 2112937826505429249

"Did she discuss any mental health treatment she was getting?"

"I don't remember."

"Did she share with you any history where she may have umm...."

"Objection."

"You can finish the question assuming its a topic that has already been before the jury."

"You said you were surprised when she passed away?"

"Yes."

"And you said she told you stuff in the chair?"

"Yes."

"Did she ever tell you about prior attempts at self harm?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

12:04:33 PM ET | Status 2112938097956532717

"You spoke to the state police after Sandra died?"

"Yes."

"Then, years later, you spoke to the FBI twice?"

"Three times, actually."

"Three times."

"You said Sandra Birchmore told you Sandra Birchmore was around 13 when she first had sex with Matthew Farwell?"

"Yes."

"Did you say that before today?"

"I think so, but maybe not the exact age!"

Open original post on X

12:05:36 PM ET | Status 2112938363233726833

"Nothing further."

"Redirect."

"Did Sandra tell you she lost her virginity to Matthew Farwell?"

"Yes."

"How much did Sandra want to borrow on Jan 20, 2021 from you?"

"$20."

"Was it common to do that then from friends?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Nothing further."

"Recross."

Open original post on X

12:07:48 PM ET | Status 2112938915380249045

"Recross."

"Did Sandra Birchmore ever told you her doctor told her not to color her hair?"

"Most pregnant women don't color their hair within the first trimester."

"Did Sandra Birchmore tell you that her doctor said don't color your hair?"

"When you're pregnant on scalp applications..."

"It's a yes or no."

"I object and ask that she be allowed to answer."

"Sustained, you can ask a question and the witness will listen and answer."

"Did Sandra Birchmore tell you that her doctor told you not to color her hair?"

"I don't know."

"You don't remember that conversation?"

"I do."

"Did Sandra Birchmore tell you what her doctor said?"

"I don't know."

"It's not a big deal but, yes or no, did Sandra say her doctor told her not to color her hair?"

"I don't know."

"That's totally fine."

Open original post on X

12:08:41 PM ET | Status 2112939136348766462

"You said Matthew Farwell was the first person Sandra Birchmore told you she had sex with?"

"Yes."

"But you never told anyone until today that she was 13 at the time?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Nothing further."

"You may step down."

Open original post on X

Karlie Williams

12:09:09 PM ET | Status 2112939255018242431

"Your honor, the government calls Karlie Williams!"

Open original post on X

12:09:43 PM ET | Status 2112939397599338668

"Where did you grow up?"

"Stoughton. I am 29 years old."

"Can we pull up Exhibit 90?"

It is Brian A. Fogerty on direct.

Open original post on X

12:10:23 PM ET | Status 2112939564386168879

"Who is the person in this photo?"

"Sandra Birchmore."

"Move to admit exhibit 90."

Same picture as before. Sandra with big blue eyes in a blue police explorer's shirt. Right hand on her chin.

Open original post on X

12:11:19 PM ET | Status 2112939801787695106

"How did you meet Ms. Birchmore?"

"We had mutual friends in Spanish class and we started to talk. I went to Stoughton High School. Sandra knew my friend through the IEP classroom. Not 504's, IEP's."

"Did you get to know Sandra through that classroom?"

"Yes, my best friend was in that class."

Open original post on X

12:12:19 PM ET | Status 2112940050828734789

"What was Sandra like in Middle School and high school?"

"You could tell she was a little different."

"What do you observe about Ms. Birchmore's interactions with other kids?"

"They were not age appropriate. They were immature."

Open original post on X

12:12:45 PM ET | Status 2112940162502332530

"How did Ms. Birchmore's interactions with children compare with her interactions with adults?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Did she interact with adults?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

12:13:15 PM ET | Status 2112940287286714802

"Were they different than with children?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Exhibit 282 please. How did you communicate with Ms. Birchmore?"

"Facebook messenger."

Open original post on X

12:14:04 PM ET | Status 2112940493742985434

"You described your interactions when you two were at Stoughton Middle and High School?"

"Yes."

"Did you eventually graduate from high school in Stoughton?"

"Yes."

"Did you stay in touch with Ms. Birchmore after high school?"

"Not often."

"Did you eventually reconnect with Ms. Birchmore?"

"Yes, years after high school."

Open original post on X

12:14:43 PM ET | Status 2112940655215321093

"Are these your texts from that years later period?"

"Yes."

Publishes exhibit 282, already in evidence.

"Ms. Williams can you tell me the date of these messages?"

"12/31/2020."

Open original post on X

12:15:08 PM ET | Status 2112940759716417898

"Focusing your attention on the messages that start at the beginning, if you would please, I'll read Ms. Birchmore and you read your messages."

"Objection."

"Overruled."

Open original post on X

12:16:13 PM ET | Status 2112941033050739044

"I heard it's supposed to snow next week, if that's 100% and it's confirmed, can your BF shovel my car out and I'l pay him? I can't shovel or lift anything heavy. I can't say anything unless you can keep it very DL. it's a secret."

"I can keep your secret. Do you need him to plow or shovel."

"I found out last week I am pregnant. I don't need plowing, just shoveling as my apartment complex will plow the lot."

Open original post on X

12:16:37 PM ET | Status 2112941132040839341

"What was your reaction to learning Ms. Birchmore was pregnant?"

"Knowing her, it didn't seem outlandish for her."

Open original post on X

12:17:09 PM ET | Status 2112941269702115419

"How soon after texting you did she tell you she was pregnant?"

"The same day."

"She references BF, was that your boyfriend?"

"Yes, he does plowing and I help him shovel."

Open original post on X

12:18:48 PM ET | Status 2112941682098421977

"When Ms. Birchmore reached out, let's go to page 3 of this exhibit, at some point did Ms. Birchmore provide her address?"

"Yes, on the same day."

"Can we go to page 5. Did you and Ms. Birchmore discuss how she would pay for your boyfriend to shovel out her car."

"We didn't discuss that because I said we wouldn't charge her."

Good woman here. Good woman.

Open original post on X

12:20:01 PM ET | Status 2112941988127428637

"Top of page 6 now."

"So my cousin was helping me out because I'm not allowed to do the little boxes for my cats. She went on vacation and tested positive for COVID. Can you help this week?"

"I'm sorry, I can't, I leave for vacation this Thursday!"

Oh, Barb, you are so kind (Barb Wright is Sandra's cousin and she loves cats, just like Sandra loved cats)!

Open original post on X

12:21:07 PM ET | Status 2112942265500885170

"How did you know where to find Ms. Birchmore's car?"

"Sandra told me she would give me the make and model of the car."

"Next page please. Can you read your messages at 3:43pm."

"When do you need it out by?"

"Wednesday night, I work from home Wednesday, so I would need it out for Thursday."

Open original post on X

12:23:04 PM ET | Status 2112942755299385455

The date is corrected. The witness said December 30th, but the correct date is January 30th, 2021.

It was Jan 30th, not December 30th.

These texts are now Feb 1st, 2021.

The woman reaches out to help Sandra with her car. Sandra sends back a picture of her car and where it is from.

"Did you reach out to Sandra again on Feb 3rd to check in?"

"Yes."

"Did she ever respond?"

"No."

"Nothing further."

"Cross?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

12:23:47 PM ET | Status 2112942937298624526

It's Ms. Stevens.

"So, you've never been to this apartment complex before, right?"

"Wrong, I have!"

"Oh, what kind of make and model was her car?"

"A Chevy Cruz."

"That's all your honor, thank you."

"No redirect."

"You may step down."

Open original post on X

Sandra Barrett - Stoughton Police Department

12:24:05 PM ET | Status 2112943012540280969

"The Government calls Sandra Barrett!"

Open original post on X

12:24:51 PM ET | Status 2112943205767324042

"Your honor, may I inquire?"

It is Ms. Riley.

Open original post on X

12:25:12 PM ET | Status 2112943292929253825

"How are you employed?"

"I am a detective for the Stoughton Police Department. I have worked there for 25 years. Since 2001."

Open original post on X

12:25:27 PM ET | Status 2112943354979794996

"How did you begin your career?"

"I was a patrol officer."

Towel bathroom break!

Open original post on X

12:27:52 PM ET | Status 2112943964797927542

"Have you worked with the CPAC unit in the past 10 years?"

"Yes, any death where they have accepted the case. An overdose, suicide or homicide."

"What do you do when you work alongside them?"

"Usually, when MSP does interviews, I would go with them as a liaison between the town of Stoughton and the state police as they investigate."

Open original post on X

12:28:45 PM ET | Status 2112944186689548657

"Did Matthew Farwell become a Stoughton Police Officer?"

"Yes, at some point after I joined the force. Maybe 8-10 years after I joined in 2001 and it was before I became a detective in 2016....actually I'm not per se confidant in that last answah! Maybe!"

Open original post on X

12:29:39 PM ET | Status 2112944414322499978

"What ranks and roles did the defendant have?"

"He was our union president, a firearms instructor at one point, he was involved with the police explorer's program."

"What was his role there?"

"I don't know."

"Beyond those roles?"

"A detective, a K9 officer...he did a lot of IT stuff in the building as well."

Open original post on X

12:30:04 PM ET | Status 2112944518664515720

Excuse me, Matthew Farwell was "doing IT stuff" for the Stoughton Police Department?

Open original post on X

12:30:38 PM ET | Status 2112944660314218761

"What shift did you work as a detective?"

"The day shift."

"When did the defendant work?"

"4pm to midnight."

"What was your office like?"

"A shared office space. Basically a big room down the hallway from the dispatch room."

Open original post on X

12:32:29 PM ET | Status 2112945128704786800

"What did you do with the defendant outside of work?"

"We would go to bars. He's been to my home. I've been to his. I knew his wife and family."

"Did you know Sandra Birchmore?"

"Yes, she was around in town at events. She was often where police officers were. She was always very interested in speaking with any police officer."

"Did you ever see her at the police department in Stoughton?"

"it's possible."

"Was she a member of the police explorer's program?"

"Yes."

"What was your impression of her?"

"She was nice, but she was immature. Even in her older years it felt like talking to a juvenile She was socially awkward. I thought she was maybe slightly on the spectrum."

"Objection."

"Sustained as to the last part. Strike. Jurors, you are to disregard the last sentence."

Open original post on X

12:32:54 PM ET | Status 2112945233109344605

"Did you know, when Ms. Birchmore was alive, that she was in a sexual relationship with the defendant?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"No I did not."

Open original post on X

12:36:02 PM ET | Status 2112946018740310486

"How many years were you friends with the defendant?"

"From the moment he joined the department until...." (trails off).

"What, if anything, did you notice about changes in the defendant's demeanor in Jan of 2021?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"He was agitated. Undergoing stress. Frequently going outside to take phone calls."

"Was that different than his prior behavior?"

"Yes."

"How about his mood."

"He was agitated, you could tell something was going on with him."

"Did you attempt to address that with him?"

"Yes, towards the end of January in 2021. I was at J and G Hillside Grill. It is a restaurant near a golf course. I asked the defendant if everything was okay, I told him he seemed agitated."

"What did he say?"

"He said a female in his life, other than his wife, was causing problems. He told me he was fine and the problem was going to take care of itself."

"Did he give you the woman's name?"

"No."

"What was the female threatening to do?"

"Tell his wife."

Open original post on X

12:36:26 PM ET | Status 2112946119302852769

"Did you attempt to address that with him?"

"Yes, towards the end of January in 2021. I was at J and G Hillside Grill. It is a restaurant near a golf course. I asked the defendant if everything was okay, I told him he seemed agitated."

"What did he say?"

"He said a female in his life, other than his wife, was causing problems. He told me he was fine and the problem was going to take care of itself."

"Did he give you the woman's name?"

"No."

"What was the female threatening to do?"

"Tell his wife."

Open original post on X

12:38:28 PM ET | Status 2112946630936715567

"Did you learn Ms. Birchmore had died?"

"Yes."

"Did you text with Mr. Farwell?"

"Yes."

"What did you say?"

"That Ms. Birchmore had hung herself."

"What did the defendant say back on Feb 4th?"

"How was last night."

Wow!

Open original post on X

12:38:49 PM ET | Status 2112946718572732832

"[Matthew Farwell] said a female in his life, other than his wife, was causing problems. He told me he was fine and the problem was going to take care of itself."

Oh my dear God.

Open original post on X

12:40:19 PM ET | Status 2112947097846653068

"Did you place a call to Dan barber on Super Bowl Sunday of that year?"

"Yes, I did."

"You indicated earlier that you knew for a period of time that the defendant's wife was going to give birth on that date?"

"Exhibit 424 for the witness please. Feb 1st, 2021, at 4:52PM you text the defendant, "good luck tomorrow."

"What did he say?"

"Thank you! Packing bags now!"

"Cause you can't leave right?"

"Yes, not supposed to leave so we are ordering food now!"

"And that was at 4:53pm right?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

12:41:17 PM ET | Status 2112947339816055257

"At some point after Ms. Birchmore died did you have further discussions with the defendant about Ms. Birchmore?"

"I don't recall."

"Did you eventually see video footage of the defendant at Ms. Birchmore's apartment, after she died, on the night of Feb 1st, 2021?"

"Yes."

Video plays.

"Who is that?"

"Matthew Farwell. That's the way he walks. Those are his jeans. That is how he holds his hands."

Open original post on X

12:42:00 PM ET | Status 2112947519852576922

"Did you notice anything on his face?"

"A mask."

"Did you have protocols at Stoughton PD at the time on mask wearing?"

"Yes, it was policy, but we all agreed not to wear them."

"What did the defendant say about masks?"

"He said he was against them are they are ridiculous."

Open original post on X

12:42:31 PM ET | Status 2112947653571166303

"Did anybody from the MSP reach out to interview you after Ms. Birchmore's death?"

"No."

"You worked with CPAC before?"

"Yes."

"You had as well?"

"Yes."

"Exhibit 427 please."

Open original post on X

12:43:59 PM ET | Status 2112948021675876414

"What is this communication?"

"A message between the defendant and myself."

"Have you been to this Brockton address before? It is the apartment on the 3rd floor" - Farwell

"I haven't" - Barret

"Ok" - Farwell

"Just know building."

Open original post on X

12:44:19 PM ET | Status 2112948105700368890

"Objection!"

"Can we be heard on this, your honor?" - DOJ

"Yes, on this."

Sidebah!

Open original post on X

12:46:29 PM ET | Status 2112948651689648298

Sidebah done.

Open original post on X

12:46:46 PM ET | Status 2112948720476311918

"Please read these messages to yourself."

"Yes, your honor."

Open original post on X

12:47:58 PM ET | Status 2112949025129554356

"Do you recognize this conversation with the defendant?"

"I don't recall but it sounds like something we would discuss."

"Move to admit.

Admitted and published.

Open original post on X

12:48:53 PM ET | Status 2112949255333613649

"What does it say next?"

"Two doors are labeled one on the garage level."

"What do you say back?"

"Maybe she what she drives...did you find it? Maybe we can Yuri."

"Who is Yuri."

"Yuri Bukhenik."

Open original post on X

12:49:28 PM ET | Status 2112949402302341214

"Were you and CPAC working a murder investigation five days before Feb 1st of 2021?"

"I don't recall."

Find this case now! This is big!

Open original post on X

12:49:35 PM ET | Status 2112949431943495865

"Nothing further."

Open original post on X

12:50:13 PM ET | Status 2112949588235543026

Holy shit.

It's on.

CPAC had multiple direct connections to Matthew Farwell (Brian Tully, John Fanning and Yuri Bukhenik."

"What do you say back?"

"Maybe she what she drives...did you find it? Maybe we can Yuri."

"Who is Yuri."

"Yuri Bukhenik."

Open original post on X

12:51:33 PM ET | Status 2112949926304887259

"Cross."

"How do you know Yuri?"

"I know him through work and also....I know him."

"What about John Fanning? Did he work in Stoughton with you as a police officer?"

"Yes."

"Is it common for MSP CPAC to have the cellphone numbers of people in their county?"

"Yes."

"So if John Fanning had your cellphone number in their phone that would be normal?

"Yes."

"Do you have John Fanning and Yuri Bukhenik's cellphone numbers?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

12:52:06 PM ET | Status 2112950063253147917

"What do you say back?"

"Maybe she what she drives...did you find it? Maybe we can call Yuri."

"Who is Yuri."

"Yuri Bukhenik."

Open original post on X

12:52:50 PM ET | Status 2112950246628274539

Brian Tully and John Fanning's Norfolk DA state police unit worked a murder investigation with the Stoughton PD detectives just five days before Sandra Birchmore's murder!

Open original post on X

12:54:29 PM ET | Status 2112950664070602962

"You just testified about a text exchange with Matthew Farwell on Feb 4th, 2021, where he replied 6 hours later?"

"Counsel, which exhibit?"

"Your honor, I'm sorry, it was the one the government...425, your honor."

"I'm sorry this is a different one, but we can talk about this. Here you say Sandra Birchmore hung herself...and he had responded back...he had texted you first saying, "I don't," what was that in reference to?"

"I don't know."

"Was this right after you learned Sandra Birchmore died?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

12:55:29 PM ET | Status 2112950913799274508

"You were in the group chat with other female Stoughton police officers?"

"I had left the group chat with the girls. I don't remember who was in it. The original text was most of the women in the department, but I had left the text."

"Who told you that Sandra Birchmore had died?"

"I don't know."

"Did you tell William Farwell that Sandra Birchmore died?"

"I don't believe so."

Open original post on X

12:56:36 PM ET | Status 2112951196231385254

"Who is Kim Lydon? You said you were reminded of Kim when you heard Sandra Birchmore died?"

"She was a personal trainer? She was out walking with Sandra Birchmore?"

"They were out walking yes."

"You said Kim was trying to help her? With what?"

"Kim had stated Sandra was not very social, and Sandra wanted to lose some weight and get fit."

"Did you reach out to Kim Lydon?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

12:57:53 PM ET | Status 2112951519498653954

"And you said Kim was at a doctor's appointment for her own pregnancy?"

"Yes."

"And Matthew Farwell texted you back 6 hours later?"

"Yes."

"And you had a phone call in between then?"

"I don't recall."

"Did law enforcement show you a record of a call between you and the defendant?"

"I don't recall."

"Okay. Did you tell law enforcement you were not surprised when Sandra Birchmore died?"

"I don't recall. I wasn't not surprised. I had no feeling about it either way."

Open original post on X

12:59:08 PM ET | Status 2112951832720933355

"How often did you see Sandra at the police station?"

"Not much at all. I recall seeing her other places."

"In a given day how many hours did you spend at the station as compared to out on the job?"

"It depends on the day."

"Were you aware of how many days per week the explorer program's met?"

"I don't know."

"Was Matthew Farwell in the explorer's program himself when you started at Stoughton PD?"

"I don't recall."

Open original post on X

1:00:24 PM ET | Status 2112952154273038570

"Did you ever see him doing anything with the explorer's program before Matthew Farwell transferred to Stoughton PD from Wellesley PD?"

"No."

"Uh, I think you said something about Matt Farwell, um, would, uh, you knew he did the explorer's program and firearms training?"

"Yes."

"Did he earn comp time for that?"

"I don't know if he took pay or comp time."

"How did that system work?"

"If you did something extra you could either get pay or comp time."

Open original post on X

1:01:01 PM ET | Status 2112952305482187153

"Could a detective take comp time off their shift?"

"Yes, we filled out a form. A paper system at the time."

"Did it work well?"

"It worked."

"Did slips ever get lost?"

"It's possible."

Open original post on X

1:01:39 PM ET | Status 2112952468510212484

"You said you also texted Matthew Farwell the day before his wife was scheduled to give birth?"

"Yes."

"What was his demeanor?"

"Alls I can recall is the text message. I don't recall speaking with him."

Open original post on X

1:02:10 PM ET | Status 2112952595182399539

"You were working the day shift on Feb 4, 2021?"

"I don't recall."

"How did you learn Sandra Birchmore died?"

"I don't recall, it was multiple people discussing it in the station."

Open original post on X

1:02:44 PM ET | Status 2112952741215478056

"Sandra was well known to people on the Stoughton PD?"

"Yes."

"Counsel, as to the time, how many more questions?"

"25 more minutes."

"Okay, lunch break, see you all at 2PM ET!"

Open original post on X

1:05:32 PM ET | Status 2112953443388178844

"Counsel, anything before we break?"

"No, your honor" - DOJ

"We have a few things," says the defense. "Barber wasn't on any lists for today or tomorrow. We haven't been able to get our exhibits ready. We object to them calling him today."

"Counsel, was this someone on deck?"

"No, your honor, we expected this Friday. We are happy not to call him, but we would have to end Friday. It is a very small pool of people left who won't be coming form out of town or who is not an expert. We are happy not to call him today."

"Counsel, can you give me notice of the exhibit?"

"We can try to do so over lunch."

"Okay, in terms of the direct, though, how long does the government need?"

"15-20 minutes on direct. We can call him another day."

"Who else today?"

"Barret and Chandler."

"how long is Chandler?"

"25 minutes each side."

Open original post on X

1:06:38 PM ET | Status 2112953718979059809

"I expect to start with Barber for at least direct. As to notice, counsel, please take note of all witnesses on deck."

"Okay, your honor, but he wasn't on deck."

"That's okay. Anyone from the on deck list?"

"Your honor, everyone who is scheduled for tomorrow can only be here tomorrow."

"Okay, counsel, we won't go beyond Mr. barber's direct today. Counsel keep each other informed."

Open original post on X

1:08:10 PM ET | Status 2112954104834077037

"Your honor, the defense renews it's objection to Sandra Birchmore being on an IEP, we want to at least now bring up the BPD diagnosis in the context of the IEP."

"Counsel, Ms. Williams mentioned it in passing. There was no substance. It was just about the class that Ms. Birchmore shared with her friend."

"But to tell the jury that IEP, which stands for Individualized Education Plan..."

"I'm aware, counsel."

Open original post on X

1:09:48 PM ET | Status 2112954519562691021

"Counsel, there hasn't been any discussion of the substance of the IEP, assuming they even know what it stands for."

"Government counsel?"

"There was nothing about what IEP stands for, it was just a reference to the class the friend shared with Ms. Birchmore."

"Counsel, I don't think this opens the door. I didn't notice an objection at the time."

"Your honor I didn't object because I didn't want to draw further attention to the issue."

"Okay, counsel, this was a classmate who offered this for the purpose of showing how she knew Ms. Birchmore through a different class. All of this is to say I don't think the door is open."

"Anything else?"

"Yes, at sidebah"

Sidebah!

Open original post on X

1:10:27 PM ET | Status 2112954680489750937

God bless you all!

I am off to get some lunch!

See you at 2PM!

Donation information to feed the towel is below!

Venmo: https://t.co/aS1seZF8GX

Paypal = https://t.co/T02firtvgK https://t.co/xWh0JPAPTH

Open original post on X

1:30:50 PM ET | Status 2112959809762803739

@TheChauffeurX CPAC and Farwell were investigating a murder together five days before Sandra's death!

In Brockton.

Open original post on X

1:32:29 PM ET | Status 2112960227947511891

CPAC and Farwell were investigating a murder together five days before Sandra's death!

Yuri Bukhenik spoke directly to Farwell and another Stoughton Detective on January 26, 2021.

The case was in Brockton.

This is so wild.

The entire courthouse is buzzing right now.

Open original post on X

1:39:56 PM ET | Status 2112962100179927147

@Bb4Evah Yes, that is a good point.

I need to find out what case they were working to understand the context.

It is unclear if it was charged.

Open original post on X

2:00:55 PM ET | Status 2112967383761539098

Hello. We are back.

The late Jan, 2021, murder investigated by CPAC was a shooting that occurred in Stoughton.

The victim lived in Brockton.

That is why CPAC and Matthew Farwell were working together on the case just five days before Sandra's murder.

Clear conflict of interest.

Open original post on X

2:02:33 PM ET | Status 2112967791443587542

Hello. We are back.

The late Jan, 2021, murder investigated by CPAC was a shooting that occurred in Stoughton.

The victim lived in Brockton.

That is why CPAC and Matthew Farwell were working together on the case just five days before Sandra's murder.

Conflict of interest.

Open original post on X

2:03:04 PM ET | Status 2112967924713767182

Jurors entering!

Witness retakes the stand.

Barrett.

Open original post on X

2:03:55 PM ET | Status 2112968136857428004

Defense team is very nervous and huddling.

Prosecutors are light and smiling.

Open original post on X

2:04:17 PM ET | Status 2112968229127684510

Jurors actually entering now.

"All rise!"

Cross of Detective Barrett from the Stoughton PD resumes.

Open original post on X

2:06:13 PM ET | Status 2112968713498415482

"Counsel, I think you are up, Ms. Daley."

"Thank you, Your Honor."

"Good afternoon, just a few more questions."

"On direct you said Matthew Farwell would earn comp time as to the explorer's program and firearms trainings?"

"Yes."

"Did he also help out with IT issues, did he also earn comp time for that?"

"I don't know."

"Was he a go-to person when things got wonky with IT in the department?"

"Yes."

"Would it be unusual for him to call in and check on that, even off duty?"

"I don't know if he would call in, but people would call him."

Open original post on X

2:08:22 PM ET | Status 2112969255218184448

"What could you do on your meal break?"

"You had to be ready to respond at all times to calls. I don't know the policy word for word."

"Can we pull up exhibit 425. So, um, showing you the text exchange on 2:38PM on Feb 4th;

"So, Sandra Birchmore hung herself, last time I saw her, she was out walking with Kim trying to help her. I thought of Kim and sent her a text."

"Yes."

"Then, five hours later, Matthew Farwell replied, so what happened last night?"

"Yes."

"And was there a phone call between those two messages?"

"I don't remember."

"Would looking at a phone log help you refresh your recollection?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

2:09:55 PM ET | Status 2112969644894298292

"I don't recall the conversation but if it's here we spoke on the phone."

"Was the phone call on Feb 4th at 2:40PM with Farwell?"

"I don't recall."

"Counsel, please move back to the microphone."

"So you texted Matt Farwell that Sandra Birchmore hung herself, then the two of you, I understand you can't remember, had a phone call?"

"It appears so."

"Was his response at 8:19PM, 'how was last night,' in reference to your phone call?"

"I don't recall."

"Did you have other conversations that day?"

"I don't recall."

"Nothing further."

Open original post on X

2:10:32 PM ET | Status 2112969801811562914

"Redirect."

"You said you didn't know Sandra Birchmore, you knew of her?"

"You called the defendant on Feb 4, 2021?"

"Yes."

"Did he express any sadness?"

"Objection!"

"Sustained as to this."

Open original post on X

2:11:27 PM ET | Status 2112970034595106923

"Did the defendant ever, ever express sadness to you about the death of Ms. Birchmore?"

"Objection!"

"Sustained."

"You have CPAC members phone numbers?"

"Yes."

"And that's because you are co-workers with the members of CPAC?"

"Yes."

"And you were co-workers on Jan 26, 2021?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

2:11:50 PM ET | Status 2112970127863865489

"Nothing further."

"Recross."

"You only knew Sandra by reputation?"

"No, by interaction."

"Nothing further."

"You're excused."

Open original post on X

2:13:08 PM ET | Status 2112970458203148767

I'm going to get footage of Barrett!

I shall return!

@ameliarstern1 is live posting!

Open original post on X

2:19:56 PM ET | Status 2112972169403617305

@ameliarstern1 Footage of Barrett obtained! https://t.co/j2EFmk60NS

Open original post on X

Rebecca Chandler

2:23:29 PM ET | Status 2112973061838266817

I am back.

Rebecca Chandler is now on the witness stand.

"Do you recognize these as your texts from November of 2020?"

"Yes."

"Did you learn around November of 2020 that Sandra would be moving to Canton?"

"Yes, she lived in Stoughton before that."

"When did you visit with Sandra in Canton, if at all?"

"When we were working on a school project at Massasoit."

"Exhibit 390 please?"

"Ms. Chandler, again if you can look at exhibit 390, and I'll read the part that is Sandra and i'll ask you to read your part"

"He never came by the way."

"You're lying."

"No, apparently you were bombarded with work at 2:15AM this morning, I was like when are we talking because you're the one who told me, and I'm like you're the one who didn't show up, and then I was like, well, lol, I won't go to your wife, lol."

"Was that what Sandra said?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

2:25:02 PM ET | Status 2112973449387774157

"Did you discuss with Ms. Birchmore about her plan to disclose information to the defendant's wife."

"She told me if she didn't get pregnant then she would tell the wife."

"What type of information did she say she would share with the wife?"

"That he was cheating and that it had been going on for quite some time."

"Around November, of 2020, was this discussion between Ms. Birchmore and Mr. Farwell ongoing?"

"Yes, that was when she was sending me the text messages."

"Objection!"

"Overruled, the answer can stand."

Open original post on X

2:26:34 PM ET | Status 2112973838095126886

"Ms. Birchmore says, I don't even know if he acknowledged it. I told him we're not friends anymore. I told him he didn't have the respect to stay true to his word. I told him I have cried most of the night. 10 years is a lot to throw out."

"I'm sorry, are you actually giving up on it?"

"It's fine, I tried to be flexible as to moving it for him. He better pray I don't run into her."

"Are you going to cut him off now?"

"Yes, but I have to tell him if I do or do not get into UMass because he was part of that process. He didn't fear losing me, he feared what I would do if he lost me."

Open original post on X

2:27:01 PM ET | Status 2112973950578004079

@ameliarstern1 "Ms. Birchmore was applying to UMass?"

"Yes, to their nursing program."

"What was the defendant's role?"

"He was pushing her to apply and encouraging her to keep going."

Open original post on X

2:28:20 PM ET | Status 2112974281369915845

"Pull up exhibit 391. Do you see at the top it says, from Ms. Birchmore, tonight he decides to come?"

"Who is he?"

"Ms. Birchmore."

"What do you say?"

"Is he really."

"Ms. Birchmore says yea and then there is a letter depicted at the top."

It is dated November 29, 2020. Handwritten by Sandra Birchmore.

Open original post on X

2:30:36 PM ET | Status 2112974851879141735

"Matthew, over the4 last few weeks, we have hurt each other and said things that are unacceptable. I'm glad we came to a conclusion about things. 10 years is a long time to have a friendship. This year has tested us in more ways than one. I am glad you stayed by me. I am glad I stayed by you as well. I am glad we are friends and have the bond we do. I have always put in full effort to make things work. There are times I want to throw my phone against the wall and block you, and I know the feeling is mutual, but I know it's always worth it when it's a friend like you. The fights have taught us something even if we don't believe it. Thanks for not giving up when I'm a bitch. I'm glad you never judge me about anything serious. Thanks for making me laugh when I want to cry and laugh when I want to frown. I cherish us. I have gotten better at expressing things. I'm sorry you feel I am passive. I am sorry for hurting you. I am always a text or call away for you. Signed, Sandra."

Open original post on X

2:31:50 PM ET | Status 2112975161532035114

@ameliarstern1 "Does Sandra say she tried to be as gentle as she could?"

"Yes."

"What does Sandra say then?"

"I said goodbye."

"What did you say?"

"What happened."

"She said what in response?"

"I can Zoom you for a little bit if you want."

"What did you say?"

"I can, for a bit."

Open original post on X

2:33:10 PM ET | Status 2112975499177967826

"Sandra then says, Zoom you soon, and what do you say?"

"He just wants to fuck."

"Sandra says, yep, I'm cold and shaking and scared. Not scared, but you know what I mean."

"Proud anxious, is what you said back?"

"Yes."

"And she said, proud anxious?"

"Yes."

"What did you understand Sandra to be doing with him that night in November of 2020?"

"Ending things with him."

Open original post on X

2:34:34 PM ET | Status 2112975850534531487

"Can we go please to exhibit 392. Do you see where Ms. Birchmore says, "but our issue is pretty much solved, we'll talk when you get out of work"'

"Yes."

"What do you say?"

"Yes."

"She says she came to an agreement about kids, we won't try every month, but if it happens we'll figure things out. We aren't going to stop doing things. I'll talk to you TN about it."

"Yes."

Open original post on X

2:35:12 PM ET | Status 2112976010002207049

@ameliarstern1 "Who was Sandra referring to when she says him?"

"Matthew Farwell."

"Did you then have a discussion with Ms. Birchmore about her actually being pregnant?"

"Yes."

"Exhibit 393 please. What date did this discussion begin?"

"December 16, 2020."

Open original post on X

2:37:44 PM ET | Status 2112976647343546531

"Ms. Birchmore says, I need to tell you how my doctor's appointment went?"

"Yes."

"Down to page 8 please. And what is your question to Ms. Birchmore?"

"Oh, you're pregnant?"

"And she says, yea they're thinking so, I wouldn't have been told and given what I was given. I have been categorized high risk already and prime gravita 1."

"And you say?"

"Damn."

"And she says, he has no idea I have any of that. I am not saying anything yet but my doctor thinks I might be soon. I will know next week. My doctor didn't tell me the test results from yesterday, its def coming though."

"Congratuations."

"Hopefully, don't say it yet though, like if my doctor is wrong or if the blood test says something different. I'll tell him once it's 100% a thing. I'm not forcing him to sit with me right now either. I'm just doing my thing."

"Who is Ms. Birchmore referring to when she talks about him here?"

"Matthew Farwell."

"And these texts end December 17, 2020, right?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

2:38:48 PM ET | Status 2112976914650435914

"Exhibit 394. What is the date of these texts?"

"December 28, 2020."

"And she writes she got the positive blood work today."

"And you say?"

"Oh my God, did you tell him."

"And Ms. Birchmore says, I'm scared, I don't want to do it in text."

"How do you think he will react."

"No idea, so, hey umm, he's all pissy. Can I call you?"

Open original post on X

2:39:40 PM ET | Status 2112977133085553042

@ameliarstern1 "Did you have more discussions with Ms. Birchmore after she found out she was actually pregnant?"

"Yes."

"And did Ms. Birchmore tell you she told the defendant about being pregnant?"

"Yes."

"How did the defendant react?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Exhibit 395 please."

Open original post on X

2:42:13 PM ET | Status 2112977775887839295

"According to Ms. Birchmore, how did the defendant react to learning Ms. Birchmore was pregnant?"

"He was upset."

"When there are references to Zooms in your texts were those video conferences on Zoom?"

"Yes."

"So on December 30th, at 1040pm, Ms. Birchmore writes it is 9:30, I can Zoom at 10:20 if you want, and she writes he is just coming and then she writes I was almost asleep."

"OMG is what you say?"

"Yes."

"Then she says, OMG I am so annoyed. I am tired and grumpy. Look at how well I can make the emoji in the snap I just sent you."

"OMG hahaha is what you sent back?"

"Yes."

"Then she says, I'm proud of it hahahaha."

"And you tell her to then make that face when he walks in the door at 11:01PM on December 30th?

"Yes."

"And then 26 minutes later Ms. Birchmore texts a sad emoji face and asks if she can call or Zoom you?"

"Yes, and you ask if she can send you a link?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

2:43:25 PM ET | Status 2112978076460331147

"Thank you for being there and understanding why I was scared of what he had done. Is that what Sandra said to you?"

"Yes."

"Who was she referring to there?"

"Matthew Farwell. He came out and when she was standing at the door and he was leaving he pushed her out of the way."

"How did Ms. Birchmore react?"

"She was kind of scared and shocked that he did that."

"And that was the late evening of December 30 into December 31st, 2020?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

2:44:49 PM ET | Status 2112978428378890453

"Exhibit 397 please. Ms. Chandler do you see where Ms. Birchmore texts, 'good, I threw up after my coffee earlier, but good.'"

"And you respond, starting the morning sickness?"

"Yes."

"And she says, I have been fine, but I've been super hot. I am not at all having nausea so I'm thinking it's a coffee thing."

"And you write, aren't you not supposed to have coffee while pregnant?"

"Yes."

"And she writes back, you can have one cup a day up to 200mg. I think it's just a coffee thing."

Open original post on X

2:45:18 PM ET | Status 2112978552765518158

@ameliarstern1 "Did Birchmore make any lifestyle changes at that time?"

"Yes, she was trying to drink less coffee and work out more. She said it would be better for her baby."

Open original post on X

2:46:34 PM ET | Status 2112978871653921250

"Exhibit 398 please. What is the date?"

"Jan 23, 2021. Does Ms. Birchmore say, so he's coming over tonight, I'll let you know how that goes."

"Yes, and then I say when."

"Does she say, "I don't know, he told me later, and I can tell you when you get out of work. In case you're wondering, he brought me a ginger ale, so it might go okay, I'll let you know."

"Yes."

"Who brought her a ginger ale?"

"Matthew Farwell."

Open original post on X

2:49:22 PM ET | Status 2112979572828373213

"At 10:59PM, she writes, 'are you awake, he just left?' Then she writes, 'IDK why but he was looking around my closest, and my bedroom, and then he was looking around and asking about the dolly I was using to move stuff. Thank you for never telling anyone about this. Thank you.'"

"Yes."

"Do you respond."

"Not at that time."

"Do you respond the next morning?"

"Yes, I say the next morning, did it go good with him?"

"Yes, I got hit with a shocker question. He asked me if I could give him a key, and he told me that he will always be around if I stay quiet. Then he admitted I have the upper hand, which is not really a good thing."

"Then she writes, "I'm not going to give him the key yet but he did bring me a ginger ale last night. I still have to verify the p[in code for him if he rings for me and I don't answer. Last night, he went in to my closest. He was looking in my bathroom. he was asking why I had my dolly for moving. he started looking around. It was really weird. IDK."

Open original post on X

2:50:49 PM ET | Status 2112979940761076094

Long pause.

"Can we go now to exhibit 399. What date were these texts?"

"Yes, Jan 31, 2021."

"What did Ms. Birchmore send you in the text on Jan 31, 2021?"

"Screenshots of baby clothes."

"When is the next text between the two of you?"

"Feb 2nd, 2021, I sent her a text."

"Did Sandra respond?"

"No." the witness's voice cracks.

Long pause.

Open original post on X

2:51:28 PM ET | Status 2112980103617524223

@ameliarstern1 "How did you learn Ms. Birchmore passed?"

"A facebook post."

"How did you react?"

"I was confused and shocked."

"Why?"

"I wasn't expecting it."

"Did you ever believe Ms. Birchmore was suicidal."

"Objection."

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

2:52:33 PM ET | Status 2112980375710388690

"After Ms. Birchmore passed, did you get a telephone call from the state police?"

"Yes."

"Do you remember talking to that police officer?"

"Yes, somewhat."

"What did you tell that police officer about the defendant?"

"I don't remember exactly."

"During that call did you use any names other than Ms. Birchmore?"

"Yes, I think I said Matthew Farwell, but I don't remember that call very well."

Open original post on X

2:52:48 PM ET | Status 2112980438255853604

"After Ms. Birchmore passed, did you get a telephone call from the state police?"

"Yes."

"Do you remember talking to that police officer?"

"Yes, somewhat."

"What did you tell that police officer about the defendant?"

"I don't remember exactly."

"During that call did you use any names other than Ms. Birchmore?"

"Yes, I think I said Matthew Farwell, but I don't remember that call very well."

Damn you, Brian Tully and John Fanning!

Open original post on X

2:55:55 PM ET | Status 2112981222100001254

"Beyond changing her diet, did Ms. Birchmore do anything else in planning to become a mom?"

"She was planning in every way she could for the baby. Buying clothes, buying items for the baby's room."

"After you learned Ms. Birchmore was pregnant did Ms. Birchmore ever tell you something about a sexual encounter she had with Mr. Farwell?"

"Objection!"

"Basis, in a word?"

"Form."

"You can rephrase."

"What, if anything, did Ms. Birchmore tell you about a specific sexual encounter she had with Mr. Farwell while she was pregnant?"

"She told me they had sex after she was pregnant and he was aggressive towards her stomach. When they were having sex he was more forceful with his hands on her stomach."

"When did Ms. Birchmore describe that to you?"

"It was just after she told me she was pregnant."

Oh my dear God.

Open original post on X

2:56:05 PM ET | Status 2112981264957649255

"What, if anything, did Ms. Birchmore tell you about a specific sexual encounter she had with Mr. Farwell while she was pregnant?"

"She told me they had sex after she was pregnant and he was aggressive towards her stomach. When they were having sex he was more forceful with his hands on her stomach."

Oh dear God.

Open original post on X

2:56:46 PM ET | Status 2112981436420718798

@ameliarstern1 "What, if anything, did Ms. Birchmore tell you about how that sexual encounter made her feel?"

"Objection."

"Sustained as to that question."

"Nothing further."

"Cross."

Open original post on X

2:57:42 PM ET | Status 2112981669712113830

@ameliarstern1 Joanne Daley on cross.

"Good afternoon, ms. Chandler, you said you attended Massasoit with Ms. Birchmore in 2020?"

"Yes."

"Did she ever tell you she was on..."

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"What did she tell you about her mental health struggles."

"Objection."

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

2:58:13 PM ET | Status 2112981802512163123

@ameliarstern1 "You said you were shocked and surprised to learn Ms. Birchmore killed herself?"

"Shocked and confused."

Note; impressive memory by this witness. She has a better recall that Joanne Daley! Wow.

Open original post on X

2:58:59 PM ET | Status 2112981995106214081

@ameliarstern1 "Did Sandra ever tell you anything about medications she was on?"

"Not that same of it, no, just that she was on anxiety medication that she started during her pregnancy."

"Did she say aneixty or depression?"

"Objection, asked and answered."

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

3:00:05 PM ET | Status 2112982269665186126

"Did she tell you about any prior self harming behavior?"

"No."

"Did she ever show you any self harm notes?"

"No."

"She told you about communications she claimed she had with Matthew Farwell?"

"Yes, she showed me the texts."

"Did you see any texts from when Sandra texted Matthew Farwell was on hgis honeymoon in Thaiti."

"No."

"Did she show you any texts where they were texting during his actual wedding?"

"No."

Open original post on X

3:00:50 PM ET | Status 2112982459860070853

@ameliarstern1 "Where were you in your training program for nursing at that time?"

"I was doing undergrad course work."

"Did Sandra tell you she was rejected from the Simmons nursing program?"

"Yes."

"Did she tell you about her cramping or bleeding?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:01:06 PM ET | Status 2112982527501873156

@ameliarstern1 "Do you know Diana Akhalil?"

"No."

Open original post on X

3:01:29 PM ET | Status 2112982623853347256

@ameliarstern1 "She you about other relationships she had, right?"

"Objection, 412."

"Counsel, ask another question here."

Wow.

Open original post on X

3:04:14 PM ET | Status 2112983314688610387

"When Sandra saw Matthew looking in her closest, you surmised it was because he was looking for another man, right?"

"No."

"Your honor, may I have a moment?"

"Sure."

"Did you tell the FBI that when Farwell started looking in Birchmore's closest you thought he was looking around to see if Birchmore was cheating?"

"Yes I thought it was possible."

"Was there another man that she told you about?"

"Objection."

"Overruled."

"Yes."

"And do you know who that person was?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Is this someone she said Matthew Farwell knew about?"

"I'm not sure."

"Your honor may we be heard on this?"

Sidebah!

Open original post on X

3:09:02 PM ET | Status 2112984524543979749

@ameliarstern1 "Ms. Chandler did Ms. Birchmore tell you at this time she was also involved with William Farwell, the defendants brother?"

"Yes."

Wow.

Open original post on X

3:12:02 PM ET | Status 2112985280076542039

"Did Sandra Birchmore tell you she baby sat for Matthew Farwell's children?"

"I don't know."

"Would looking at the FBI 302 help you refresh your recollection?"

"Yes."

"Did she say she babysat his children?"

"Yes."

"How many kids did she say Matt Farwell had at the time?"

"Two."

"Did she tell you she ran into Matthew Farwell's wife at Starbucks?"

"Yes."

"And this was in 2020?

"Did Ms. Birchmore tell you about plans to join the military?"

"She had a few meetings in 2020 about that, yes, she told me about them."

Open original post on X

3:12:58 PM ET | Status 2112985514651320460

"You told the FBI about discussions Sandra was having with a recruiter?"

"Objection."

"Counsel, sustained, there is nothing to impeach. Next question."

"Did Sandra tell you about the death of her mother and grandmother?"

"Yes, she was sad about it."

"Did she wish her mom was here?"

"Yes, she told me that before and after she got pregnant."

Open original post on X

3:13:58 PM ET | Status 2112985763780432154

@ameliarstern1 "Sandra had to move out of her home with her aunt?"

"Objection. Scope."

"Sustained."

"What was her demeanor like when she was moving out of that house?"

"She was excited but frustrated with the moving process."

"What made her frustrated?"

"Objection. Hearsay."

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

3:14:59 PM ET | Status 2112986022770278701

"What, if any, statements did her aunt make to her?"

"Objection."

"Sustained on this counsel."

"Did Sandra Birchmore ever tell you that she was on pelvic rest?"

"Yes."

"She called you the night of Feb 1st, 2021?"

"I don't remember specificlly."

"Do you remember a missed call to her at 7:16PM ET on Feb 1st, 2021?"

"I don't remember."

"Did someone from MSP speak to you on Feb 8, 2021?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:15:55 PM ET | Status 2112986258129756608

"Do you recall they spoke to you because you were in Sandra's phone?"

"Objection."

"Sustained."

"Did you speak to Trooper Dunne from the state police?"

"I don't remember his name."

"Do you remember what you told him?"

"No."

"Would looking at the report help refresh your recollection?"

"Yes."

The witness looks at the report.

Open original post on X

3:17:29 PM ET | Status 2112986649302864299

@ameliarstern1 "Does looking at that report help you remember what you said on Feb 8, 2021, to the trooper?"

"Yes."

"A week after Sandra passed away?"

"Yes."

"And there was a missed call to you from Sandra and that's why they reached out?"

"Objection. Foundation."

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

3:18:03 PM ET | Status 2112986793465487494

@ameliarstern1 "Did the state police tell you how they knew to call you?"

"No."

"Did they ask you about your communications with Sandra on Feb 1st?"

"I don't know the specific date. They asked about communications."

Open original post on X

3:18:25 PM ET | Status 2112986885815718152

@ameliarstern1 "You said Matthew Farwell pushed Sandra away and was rough with her during sex with her hands on her stomach?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:19:19 PM ET | Status 2112987113801359692

"In a text exchange, Ms. Birchmore expressed something that Matthew Farwell had done that had scared her?"

"Yes."

"And when you spoke to MSP on Feb 8, 2021, you said you knew Matthew Farwell had raised his voice to Sandra Birchmore before but had never done anything more than that?"

"Yes, somewhat, I don't recall exactly."

Open original post on X

3:19:48 PM ET | Status 2112987235045789946

@ameliarstern1 "And in the discussions with the FBI, those started in 2024, right?"

"Yes."

"And that was 3 years after Sandra's death?"

"Yes."

"One moment, please, your honor."

"You may."

Open original post on X

3:20:56 PM ET | Status 2112987519268553104

@ameliarstern1 "When you missed that call from Sandra on Feb 1, 2021, did she leave you a voicemail?"

"I don't believe so, no."

"Just one more moment, your honor."

"You may."

"Nothing further."

Open original post on X

3:23:13 PM ET | Status 2112988094311936196

"Redirect."

"Do you remember calling the state police after Sandra died?"

"I don't know if I called them or if they called me."

"Would looking at the phone logs help you refresh your recollection?"

"Yes."

The witness looks at the phone records.

"Ms. Chandler, did you call the state police after Sandra died?"

"I guess so, yes."

"Did a trooper call you back?"

"Yes."

"Did anyone from MSP offer to meet with you in person?"

"No."

"Did the person you spoke to seem interested in all of the information..."

"Objection!"

"Sustained."

Open original post on X

3:23:55 PM ET | Status 2112988270502023344

"Do you remember calling the state police after Sandra died?"

"I don't know if I called them or if they called me."

"Would looking at the phone logs help you refresh your recollection?"

"Yes."

The witness looks at the phone records.

"Ms. Chandler, did you call the state police after Sandra died?"

"I guess so, yes."

"Did a trooper call you back?"

"Yes."

"Did anyone from MSP offer to meet with you in person?"

"No."

"Did the person you spoke to seem interested in all of the information..."

"Objection!"

"Sustained."

Damn you Brian Tully and John Fanning!

Open original post on X

3:24:51 PM ET | Status 2112988505190076814

@ameliarstern1 "Do you know where her body was found?"

"On her closest."

"Nothing further."

"No recross."

Open original post on X

Daniel Barber

3:25:10 PM ET | Status 2112988584261095738

@ameliarstern1 "The government calls Daniel Barber!"

Open original post on X

3:26:01 PM ET | Status 2112988798258754012

@ameliarstern1 He is a tall white man. Crew cut. Balding. Black suit. White under shit. Blue checkers. Pink tie.

He is a Stoughton Police detective.

Open original post on X

3:26:18 PM ET | Status 2112988869071077724

@ameliarstern1 He has been a police officer since 2013.

He "made" detective in 2019.

Open original post on X

3:26:44 PM ET | Status 2112988977737380026

@ameliarstern1 He is going through his job duties as a patrol duty on the midnight shift from 2013 through to 2019.

Open original post on X

3:27:22 PM ET | Status 2112989138735767788

@ameliarstern1 "Did you respond to any unattended deaths?"

"Yes."

"How many were suicides?"

"10."

"Did any involve seated hangings?"

"No."

Open original post on X

3:28:00 PM ET | Status 2112989297066299670

@ameliarstern1 "Did you come to know someone named Matthew Farwell."

"Yes."

"Identify him?"

"Farwell is in a blue suit."

Farwell shoots a look at the witness.

Open original post on X

3:28:41 PM ET | Status 2112989469930660026

@ameliarstern1 "When did you meet Matthew Farwell?"

"In 2012 at a Stoughton Police event in 2012."

"Did you meet him again after that?"

"When I gradated the academy, Mr. Farwell was one of my field training officers."

Open original post on X

3:29:50 PM ET | Status 2112989756518961650

"How long was the defendant your field training officer for?"

"Aprox. one month. August until September of 2013."

"At any point when the defendant was your field training officer did he mention Sandra Birchmore to you?"

"No."

"Did he mention any need to go to the local library?"

"No."

Open original post on X

3:30:50 PM ET | Status 2112990010609934706

"Was the police explorer's program active in 2012 and 2013?"

"Yes, it was a program where kids came to the department and took courses in law enforcement related activities, took ride alongs with members of the police department, etc. It is for kids ages 12 up to 19."

"Did you have any involvement with the explorer's program at any time?"

"No."

Open original post on X

3:31:17 PM ET | Status 2112990123210260552

@ameliarstern1 "Were you aware of whether any part of the explorer's program required sessions at the library?"

"No sessions were ever at the library. It was at the police department."

Open original post on X

3:32:28 PM ET | Status 2112990419617456483

"Did you work with the defendant after that point?"

"Yes, we were on the overnight patrol shift until he was assigned as a K9 officer a few years later."

"What interactions did you have with him?"

"Mr. Farwell was an integral member of the department. He was involved with firearms. Radios. IT stuff with CJIS. He was involved in the K9 program and then detectives."

Note; Billy Farwell, Matt's brother, used CJIS to track Sandra's plate.

Open original post on X

3:33:51 PM ET | Status 2112990769988431927

"Did Mr. Farwell have a role in the union?"

"Yes, union president. I was the vice president and secretary at the time. Now I am the president."

"What were your duties?"

"When I was VP, mostly about contract negotiations, members involved in disciplinary proceedings arranging representation and counsel for those people, and advocating for the well being of our members."

"What about the union's role in IA investigations?"

"When a union member is under IA investigation, they can have a union rep present. Usually I was that union rep."

Open original post on X

3:34:12 PM ET | Status 2112990858123559122

@ameliarstern1 "In your experience, have IA investigations led to criminal investigations?"

"Objection!"

"You can answer."

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:34:48 PM ET | Status 2112991009873469446

@ameliarstern1 "When did you become a detective?"

"The end of 2019."

"What training did you receive?"

"80 hour course, very in depth."

Open original post on X

3:35:59 PM ET | Status 2112991306641248692

"What was the defendant's role when you became a detective?"

"He was already a detective. He was a more senior detective than me."

"How many detectives are employed by the Stoughton PD at once?"

"Four to five plus a supervising detective."

We have lost one of our lights in the overflow room!

The blub went out.

Open original post on X

3:37:44 PM ET | Status 2112991747403907198

What else did detectives do?"

"We had a vice role. We would proactively look for street level criminal activity in plain clothes."

"Did you respond to deaths with CPAC?"

"Yes, I would have had occasion to respond to calls with them in my patrol and detective capacity."

"Did the defendant work with them at all?"

"Yes."

"Did you and the defendant work the same shift?"

"Yes, the 4pm to midnight shift. We shared an office. our desks were 10 feet apart."

"How close is that office to the dispatch room?

"Directly across the hall."

Open original post on X

3:38:10 PM ET | Status 2112991857039057262

@ameliarstern1 "When was roll call for the 4pm shift?"

"3:45pm or so."

"When would the shift end?"

"When the oncoming shift arrived so you could be relived from duty."

Open original post on X

3:39:53 PM ET | Status 2112992285512376329

"Were you working together on November 28th, 2020 with the defendant?"

"Yes."

"Do you recognize what is on the screen? What is it?"

"It's a text between Mr. Farwell and me. I am in blue he is gray. It is November 28th, 2020."

Admitted as 409.

"Here, detective, the defendant says at 10:18pm I will be off the air for a few call my phone if anything comes

up?"

"yes."

"What is off the air?"

"It means Mr. Farwell may not be able to respond to a radio call, so he was requesting I contact him by cellphone in case any calls for service come in that required him to respond."

"And you said, RGR?"

"Yes, that means roger or received."

Open original post on X

3:40:50 PM ET | Status 2112992527561142512

@ameliarstern1 "Did he get back to you to tell you he was on the air again?"

"No."

"What did you text him an hour later after 11PM?"

"You good sir?"

"What did he respond after 11PM?"

"Yes, sir."

Open original post on X

3:42:26 PM ET | Status 2112992928310182237

"Now, these messages, from November 28th, between the defendant and Mr. Farwell, can you review them?"

"Yes.

"Are they from between 10 and 11pm or so on that night?"

"Yes."

"Are they texts where Ms. Birchmore says she will come down to Mr. Farwell's car at her apartment?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:42:48 PM ET | Status 2112993022132596943

@ameliarstern1 "Is it a violation of state law to deal drugs?"

"Yes."

"What would you do if you saw someone selling drugs?"

"You would report it."

Open original post on X

3:44:09 PM ET | Status 2112993360231227436

"From 2013 to 2021, how close did you become with the defendant?"

"Very close, professionally and personally."

"What would you do together?"

"Mr. Farwell and I were very good friends. We had occasion to travel for work. We socialized together outside of work. We were good friends."

"Did you observe the defendant in stressful situations at work?"

"Yes, Mr. Farwell was very good under stress. He was very competent as a police officer. He didn't go to high or two low ever during stressful situations. Always calm, cool and collected."

Open original post on X

3:45:58 PM ET | Status 2112993817313902794

"At some point did you notice his demeanor to change?"

"End of 2020 into the beginning of 2021. He became very stressed out, flustered on occasion. There appeared to be a lot on his mind. he switched from the calm and collected person I knew to something different."

"What specifically?"

"I observed Mr. Farwell texting constantly. Incessantly. I have never noticed him to do that before. He was constantly texting at the end of 2020. He also began to take phone calls outside of my presence. We were the only detectives in our office in the 4pm to 12am shift, and I never noticed him take calls outside of my presence, but at the end of 2020 he started stepping out in to parking lot to take those phone calls."

Open original post on X

3:47:19 PM ET | Status 2112994159938404461

"Did you drive to Taunton with the defendant at the end of 2020?"

"Yes, I was driving, we were going to find a witness in a case."

"Who was in the passenger seat?"

"Mr. Farwell."

"How did he appear that day?"

"He was nervous and said, I have to put crazy back in the bag."

"What did you say?"

"What are you talking about?"

"He repeated again, I gotta put crazy back in the bag and it will be alright, everything will be alright."

"Did he ever tell you anything more?"

"No."

Open original post on X

3:49:45 PM ET | Status 2112994768552870116

"What is this exhibit?"

"Screenshots text messages on Feb 2nd, 2021, between me and Mr. Farwell."

"Admitted and published as 410."

"Is this the morning the defendant's wife gave birth?"

"It says

"You working?" - Farwell

"Yes sir."

"Anything going on lol I'm bored as hell sitting in this hospital?"- Farwell

"Hahaha nothing at all sir, it's been quiet all night. Just traffic stops."

"Nice, this place blows. I'm not supposed to leave the room." - Farwell

"How is that possible?"

"Covid baby!" - Farwell

"Had the defendent ever reached out to you while he was off duty to ask what was going on overnight?"

"No, never."

Open original post on X

3:50:46 PM ET | Status 2112995027123318908

"Had you ever met Ms. Birchmore before?"

"In 2016 I was our court prosecutor, I interacted with Sandra. She was very immature, socially awkward, almost child like. She appeared a little off to me."

"How long did the conversation last?"

"An uncomfortably long amount of time. We were in the Stoughton District Court."

"Did she mention she was in the stoughton police explorer's program?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:51:13 PM ET | Status 2112995138653876365

@ameliarstern1 "Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 7th, 2021, did you receive a call?"

"Yes, from Detective Sandra Barrett."

"Did that impact what you did next?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:51:39 PM ET | Status 2112995250000252998

@ameliarstern1 "Your honor, permission to have the detective say what detective Barrett told him?"

"Objection."

"Sustained but you can ask what he did next."

Open original post on X

3:54:41 PM ET | Status 2112996013262733758

"Please bring up 411. What is this?"

"From 5:08PM to 6:18PM, the defendant and I are discussing work related things."

"I'm not sure I'm a few beers deep going to watch the game. I'll give it a sober read tomorrow."

Do you then call the defendant?"

"Yes."

"Why?"

"I got a call from Detective Sandra Barre3tt and after that I called Mr. Farwell."

"What happened in that call?"

"I told him that there was a rumor circulating that he had a sexual relationship with Sandra Birchmore and I asked if that was true. He denied it, he asked how I found out, he asked me who else knows about this."

"What was his tone?"

"Frantic, angry and very surprised."

"Then, at 11:22pm you got another text."

"Yes."

"Can you text me more what you heard, I thought this was just some crazy bitch but it def seems like more now;' is that what Mr. Farwell said?"

"Yes."

"And you say, 'trying to find out more now.'"

"And he says okay?"

"Yes."

Open original post on X

3:55:17 PM ET | Status 2112996163930788238

@ameliarstern1 "Did Stoughton PD have a mask mandate during COIVD?"

"Yes."

"Did the defendant ever wear a mask on duty?"

"No."

"Social settings?"

"Never, he told me he was opposed to wearing masks at all."

Open original post on X

3:56:56 PM ET | Status 2112996579246473419

Now we see the video of Farwell entering Sandra's apartment again.

"Who is the person in this video?"

"The defendant, Mr. Farwell."

"How can you tell?"

"I spent a significant amount of time with him over my career. His attire, his general build. I know that to be him."

"Did he ever tell you he was at Ms. Birchmore's apartment on the night of Feb 1st, 2021?"

"No."

"Nothing further."

"Thank you counsel" says the witness.

"Jurors, we have to end here so I can talk with counsel about something."

"Sir, we will have to continue tomorrow. You can step down."

Open original post on X

End-of-day proceedings and Jason Pickard immunity

3:59:35 PM ET | Status 2112997243364225535

"Counsel, give me a refresh on who is next?"

"Tomorrow will be Sarah Scrule, Jason Pickard, Samantha Rinaldi/McCue, Betsey Duval (DNA anylast from MSP crime lab), and, if we have room, then we will bring Stoughton PD Officer Shannon Isabelle and Timothy Hansler (May 14, 2020, responding officer, the alleged sectioning) on call.

Friday will then be; Dr. Akhalial, Sarah Rowen/Oddoms."

Open original post on X

4:04:49 PM ET | Status 2112998561709535555

"Anything else from the government?"

"Yes, we would like to be heard on Mr. Pickard. Given that he is testifying tomorrow, and given the rulings on rule 412 evidence about Mr. Pickard, he is someone who either party has a right to explore a limited aspect of the sexual relationship under the 1st and 3rd exceptions to rule 12. He is obviously testifying so there is a constitutional right to ask him about the sexual relationship in this case, as to the fetus and the DNA, but not the source of the injury. The proffer is..."

"I recall."

"Given there was no physical contact past December 28th, 2020, no physical contact with Pickard could have caused injuries to Ms. Birchmore, and the questioning should be restricted to the fact, inception, duration, how it began, what kind of penetration..."

"I understand. Defense counsel?"

"Your honor, the extent of their relationship is relevant to the chest abrasion. It's relevant to the credibility of Sandra Birchmore. How the relationship started and what it encompassed. There's also texts between Sandra and Jason Pickard that talked about Sandra Birchmore engaging in auto-erotic self bondage. So the questions we intend to ask are all from text messages..."

"Counsel haven't I already ruled on this? What has changed?"

"Your honor we a5re at trial now!"

"Counsel, I have listened carefully. Nothing has opened the door as to the 412 issue. Counsel, as I've heard to date, and I've ruled in whatever order it was about the 412 evidence, and here, as counsel well knows from my order, the admission of this is an exception to 412. Counsel just give me a moment. When we were talking about another matter related to this, I ruled about Mr. Pickard?"

"Your honor can I ask about Sandra Birchmore engaging in sexual conduct while she was on pelvic rest?"

"Your honor, the answer will be no, but I think it's a fair question."

Open original post on X

4:06:55 PM ET | Status 2112999090808029394

"Your honor there is also a text exchange where Pickard asks Sandra if she has ever engaged in choking behaviors during sex and she says no, so I don't think that is about Sandra's sexual predisposition. She says no. It is only about her credibility."

"Your honor, i think this comes down to the date."

"Counsel, send me the text, but let be clear, the nature of sexual contact between this witness and Ms. Birchmore, I already ruled on, and nothing that has been said at trial that opens that door."

"Your honor, if I lay foundation, I'll ask for WhisperTech?"

"Counsel, I understand, but before you ask about the nature of any sexual contact, you can ask about the existence of the sexual relationship, but before you ask about the nature of the contact, I want to hear you on WhisperTech."

"Yes, your honor."

Open original post on X

4:09:29 PM ET | Status 2112999736265330863

"Your honor, the defense has two out of state witnesses and we need an order of the court to compel the US marshal to pay airfare and travel for these fact witnesses. They are not experts."

"Okay, submit it."

"Anything else?"

"Your honor, the government has a witness tomorrow subject to a witness compelling his testimony, does the court want to have a colloquy with him outside the presence?"

"No, because he's aware of the order right...why would I colloquy?"

"Your honor, in some sessions, the court has asked to do it, I see no reason here though."

"I mean, I guess what I anticipated is that if there is an invocation (of the fifth) then you'll provide the order."

"I don't think the witness is going to invoke on the stand, it sounds like the court is fine with us letting the witness

know about the order."

"The defense asks the court to give the immunized witness the instruction."

"Your honor, the pattern instruction will be at the end."

Open original post on X

4:10:22 PM ET | Status 2112999957204779262

BREAKING NEWS:

Jason Pickard has been given immunity by the DOJ, and via an order from Chief Judge Denise J. Casper, compelling his testimony at the Matthew Farwell and Sandra Birchmore trial on Thursday.

Oh my word.

This is the first confirmed immunity in the case!

Open original post on X

4:12:25 PM ET | Status 2113000475565985824

@ameliarstern1 Jason Pickard --the father of Sandra Birchmore's unborn baby-- is being compelled to testify against Matthew Farwell, and Pickard has been given federal immunity by the DOJ and Chief Judge Denise J. Casper.

This is wild!

Wild I tell you!

Open original post on X

4:12:42 PM ET | Status 2113000544776106186

@ameliarstern1 "Anything else counsel?"

"No, your honor."

"Thank you all."

See you tomorrow morning, we are done!

Open original post on X

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