

1                                   **TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF JEFFREY HOPKINS, II**  
2                                   **INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

3                                   **CASE NUMBER – 08-069208**

4                                   **OCTOBER 6, 2008**

5                                   **YM – CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

6                                   **JA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN**

7                                   **JH – MR. JEFFREY HOPKINS, II**

8 **YM:** The date right now is October 6, 2008. The time right now is 1539 hours,  
9 correction 1529. I'm Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office.  
10 This is reference to Orange County case number 08-069208. Also present is  
11 Sergeant John Allen with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. And uhm, sitting  
12 across from us is uh, Jeffrey Hopkins. Uh, Jeffrey, please state your name and  
13 birthday for the record.

14 **JH:** Uhm, Jeffrey Dale Hopkins the second. Uhm, December 10, 1984.

15 **YM:** Uhm, Jeff you know this is being recorded?

16 **JH:** Yes.

17 **YM:** Any objection to that?

18 **JH:** No.

19 **YM:** Okay. The door is closed just for privacy. But obviously it's unlocked. So if you  
20 feel uncomfortable or if you felt uncomfortable you can get up and walk out at  
21 any time. Uh, I just want to make sure we're clear about that. I also wanted to  
22 go over a couple of things. I called you this morning because there were some  
23 questions that had come up in the Caylee Anthony case I wanted to get some  
24 answers to. And I felt that you'd be a person to help me with that.

25 **JH:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

1 **YM:** Uhm, I called you this morning. You agreed to come down. So you know, just  
2 shortly after three we were, we just sat here and talked for a little bit before and I  
3 kind of gave you an idea of what we're going to ask you. And uhm, you're okay  
4 with that. Is that, is that, is that correct?

5 **JH:** Yes.

6 **YM:** Alright. First off, regarding your relationship, or how you know Casey, let me say  
7 it that way, where did you first meet Casey? How do you know Casey?

8 **JH:** Uhm, the first time I noticed Casey was probably in middle school. Uhm, I played  
9 volleyball with her brother, who uhm, was in middle school with me as well. I  
10 didn't, well he was in eighth grade, I was in sixth grade.

11 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

12 **JH:** And then she was a year younger than me so she was in fifth. I knew him. And  
13 then by the time I got to seventh she had entered middle school. And I think just,  
14 just crossing paths in school I think everyone just kind of knew who each other  
15 were. Uhm, but we were never really, you know, we never bonded in a, in a, that  
16 type of relationship or any....

17 **YM:** Okay.

18 **JH:** ...type.

19 **YM:** Uh, what about through high school? Did you guys ever become friends or....

20 **JH:** Uhm....

21 **YM:** ...just knew each other in passing?

22 **JH:** The same thing through high school. We, we both had our own circle of friends  
23 and just kind of knew who each other were. That's pretty much it.

24 **YM:** When the last time you actually remember seeing Casey, when would that be?  
25

1 **JH:** Uh, sometime in July at the uh, Waterford Ale House. It was a Tuesday night  
2 because it was ladies' night.

3 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

4 **JH:** Uhm, and that was the last time I had seen her.

5 **YM:** And tell me about that. Who were you there with?

6 **JH:** (Coughs.) Uhm, I was there with a few friends. Do you want his name?

7 **YM:** Yes please.

8 **JH:** Uhm, I was there with a Gabriel Flete. It's Flete, F-L-E-T-E.

9 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

10 **JH:** Uhm, he's a close friend of mine. And uhm, let's see. Uh, I think I was there with  
11 a Cory Arnold; C-O-R-Y, A-N-R...Arnold, uhm.

12 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

13 **JH:** Uhm, and then she was there at the other tab...a table actually next to ours uhm,  
14 with uh, Brandon Snow, uh, Sean Daly, and a girl named Layla.

15 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

16 **JH:** And uhm, you know, just had a brief hello, hey. It's good to see you out. How  
17 you doing? He said good.

18 **YM:** Did she come up to you or did you go over to her?

19 **JH:** Uhm, it was actually a while. I noticed her sitting there but it was, like I said we're  
20 not that, that close to where I went over to the table.

21 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

22 **JH:** I don't know her friends that well. I just know who they are from school as well.  
23 Uhm, I think even maybe Gabriel, the person I was with, might have even made  
24 eye contact with her first. She kind of came around the table. Uhm...

25 **YM:** Okay.

1 **JH:** ... she was actually leaving the restaurant with, they were still there. Some of her  
2 friends were still at the table. And she was going to leave the restaurant. And as  
3 she was leaving it was more like a goodbye, how you doing?  
4 **YM:** Okay. Uhm, what was she like that night? Was she, I guess how would you,  
5 how would you characterize her? Was she happy, sad, drunk, sober, uhm...  
6 **JH:** Looked, looked normal. Uhm, just having a beer.  
7 **YM:** Did you see Caylee at all? Her child there at all?  
8 **JH:** Uh, no.  
9 **YM:** Uhm, did you know she had a child?  
10 **JH:** Yes.  
11 **YM:** Have you ever seen the child?  
12 **JH:** I have never met or seen the child.  
13 **YM:** So the last time you saw her was at the Ale House uh, back in July of this year.  
14 It was a Tuesday.  
15 **JH:** Uh-hum (affirmative).  
16 **YM:** Do you recall uh, the time before this July that you saw her? Was it...  
17 **JH:** Uhm, about a year.  
18 **YM:** Okay. What was, what, well....  
19 **JA:** Do you recall who was with her at the Ale House?  
20 **JH:** The Sean Daly, the Brandon Snow, the Layla, and I don't know her last name,  
21 and uhm, I think there might have been, there were two more people there but  
22 I'm not sure.  
23 **JA:** Do you know Dante Salati?  
24 **JH:** And I do not know who that is?  
25 **JA:** No? Okay.

1 **YM:** Uhm....

2 **JH:** Maybe if a face, I don't know if he went to school with us. If that's, if, I don't know  
3 who that is really, but if he went to school with us maybe I might recognize his  
4 face, but I don't know him.

5 **JA:** Okay.

6 **YM:** The, go back to the year before. You last saw her the year before, what were the  
7 circumstances around that.

8 **JH:** Uhm, (sighs), I think just you know, with the My Space being popular and  
9 everything, uhm, probably just you know, saying hello and things like that. Uhm,  
10 you know, hung out one time. Uhm, and that was, that was the end of that.

11 **YM:** Okay. How uh, did you guys just hook up on My Space, decide to go out? Did  
12 you go out to dinner or a movie or...

13 **JH:** No, nothing like that. Not on, not on a date or anything. Just uhm, probably just  
14 you know uh, saw her out like at a party or something like that and said hello.  
15 Uhm, I mean I can't think, this is over a year ago, about what the circumstances  
16 were. Just....

17 **YM:** It was at a party though?

18 **JH:** Uhm, yes. Uhm, that's what I'm assuming. I don't know if it was at another Ale  
19 House meeting. You know I'm just saying, thinking of the, the last time I saw her.

20 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

21 **JH:** And over a year ago I, I know I was with my roommates out. I'm not sure exactly  
22 if it was a club, bar, you know, something more....

23 **YM:** It was a social setting though?

24 **JH:** Yeah (affirmative), a social setting.

25 **YM:** It wasn't, it was...

1 **JH:** It wasn't just her and I.  
2 **YM:** Okay. So was there any privacy between you guys the last time you saw her a  
3 year ago?  
4 **JH:** No.  
5 **YM:** Like just you and her?  
6 **JH:** No privacy.  
7 **YM:** Oh, okay. So you guys didn't like go off or...  
8 **JH:** No.  
9 **YM:** ...go, go do whatever?  
10 **JH:** No.  
11 **YM:** Alright. Uh, a couple things I want to back up on. Do you have any children?  
12 **JH:** No sir. No sir.  
13 **YM:** And you don't have, obviously then if you don't have children you don't have a  
14 child named Zachary, or a boy named Zachary?  
15 **JH:** No sir.  
16 **YM:** Do you have any cousins, nephews, or anyone in your family that lives in your  
17 household or, or, or pe... kids that you're seen with by the name of Zachary?  
18 **JH:** No sir.  
19 **YM:** What about any other, you know, nephews, uh, other kids, some....  
20 **JH:** Uhm...  
21 **YM:** ...someone that you....  
22 **JH:** I have one....  
23 **YM:** ...might be with that they might assume is your son?  
24 **JH:** No sir. I have one sister and she has no children herself.  
25 **YM:** Okay.

1 JH: So then that (inaudible).  
2 YM: Uhm, did you used to work at Universal Studios?  
3 JH: I did used to work at Universal Studios.  
4 YM: Uhm...  
5 JH: 2....  
6 YM: ...about when?  
7 JH: 2002.  
8 YM: Uh-hum (affirmative). And uh, real briefly, your job description there was what?  
9 JH: Uhm, I did, I stocked food carts around the theme park, and also uhm, bussed  
10 some tables in a certain restaurant there.  
11 YM: Do you recall ever working with Casey at Universal Studios?  
12 JH: Uhm, I never did work with Casey at Universal Studios.  
13 YM: Okay. Uhm, we, we, we, we talked about this just briefly before the tape went on  
14 and uh, again I'll, I'll stress it for the tape. Since July, or since you, say since  
15 May, aside from the Ale House, and aside from I guess uh, I guess you guys had  
16 text message communication after the Ale House. Is that correct?  
17 JH: Uh-hum (affirmative).  
18 YM: And text message communication had to do with what?  
19 JH: Uh, text messaging about uh, Club Fusion. To come out.  
20 YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).  
21 JH: It's a, not a personal text message. It's called a mass text message.  
22 YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).  
23 JH: So uh, several, like including uh, my friend Gabriel, uhm, got that text message  
24 as well.

25

1 **YM:** Did you ever get private text messages from her after meeting her at the Ale  
2 House? Like a private conversation or anything like that?  
3 **JH:** Uhm, maybe uh, that same night at the Ale House. Perhaps a text message of  
4 uhm, hey, I got your number now. You know, I'll talk to you soon.  
5 **YM:** Did she...  
6 **JH:** (Inaudible)...  
7 **YM:** ...ever call you?  
8 **JH:** Uhm, didn't call me, no.  
9 **YM:** Did you ever call her after that?  
10 **JH:** I did not call her, no.  
11 **YM:** At any time since uh, May of this year up until uh, July 15<sup>th</sup>, did she ever reach  
12 out to you either by text, or having someone else call you, or call you at home, or  
13 call you from her house phone? Did she ever reach out to you in any other way,  
14 shape, or form, through e-mail or text messages, and ask you to help her with  
15 anything?  
16 **JH:** Uh, no sir.  
17 **YM:** Did she ever reach out and, and want to confide something in you? Tell you  
18 about something bad that may have happened?  
19 **JH:** Uhm, no sir.  
20 **YM:** Alright. Did (sighs), did you ever know of her to use any type of illicit drugs, uhm,  
21 marijuana, Ecstasy, Zanax, anything like that?  
22 **JH:** No sir.  
23 **YM:** Were you ever present while she used any of that, or were you ever present, or  
24 was she ever present while you did?  
25 **JH:** Never.

1 **YM:** Okay. (Sighs.)  
2 **JA:** Describe how she was in high school. How, well how would you characterize  
3 how she was in high school.  
4 **JH:** Uh, I mean always with a big smile. And uh, she's always had a big smile. Uhm,  
5 you know, just passing through the hallways would really be the only time that I  
6 seen her. Uh, we never, you know, interacted during lunch or anything like that.  
7 **JA:** Was she popular?  
8 **JH:** Uhm, I would assume so. I, you know as far as ever since this case has come  
9 out I think not just popular to people not knowing her, but I think I've realized  
10 how...  
11 **JA:** We're talking about in high school was she popular?  
12 **JH:** Uhm, our high school had almost four thousand kids in it. So y...I would say  
13 yeah (affirmative), she was popular for her, for her class grade.  
14 **JA:** Okay. Uhm, did you ever hear anything about her in any iss...any problems with  
15 her and her mother and father uh, at that time?  
16 **JH:** Uh, never.  
17 **JA:** How about...  
18 **JH:** I never was that close to...  
19 **JA:** ...her and her brother?  
20 **JH:** I never was that close to her...  
21 **JA:** Okay.  
22 **JH:** ...to find anything about that.  
23 **JA:** Okay. Thank you.

24  
25

1 **YM:** Did uh, what was her reputation in high school? You know uh, obviously kids  
2 have, or people have reputations when they go to high school as uh, being a  
3 certain....  
4 **JH:** Uh-hum (affirmative).  
5 **YM:** ...type of person. What was her reputation?  
6 **JH:** Uhm, I, I really don't have uhm, a reputation description on her besides you  
7 know, uhm, I think she was well liked by her friends.  
8 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).  
9 **JH:** Uhm, you know, like I said, she always seemed happy. But I just never was  
10 close enough to, to get a perspective on that.  
11 **YM:** So she was never known to be easy, or she was never known to be a....  
12 **JH:** I don't...  
13 **YM:** ...an alcoholic, or never known....  
14 **JH:** Uh...  
15 **YM:** ...to be a bookworm or...  
16 **JH:** I don't have any personal friends who have...  
17 **YM:** What did you hear?  
18 **JH:** ...slept with her or anything like that.  
19 **YM:** But what did you hear about her in high school? Did you hear about any of that/  
20 **JH:** Uhm, no, I didn't.  
21 **YM:** Okay. What about uhm, we talked a little bit about the conversation that you may  
22 have had uhm, while Texas Equisearch was in town uh, that you disagreed with I  
23 guess with the fact that they were researching or what certain people were doing.  
24 Tell me a little bit about that.

25

1 **JH:** Uhm, I didn't just disagree with the search. Uh, the search was going to go on.  
2 Uhm, I understand that's the way things work. Uhm, but you know, my little sister  
3 uh, she had went out on a day to go search as well, and so did my ex-girlfriend.  
4 Uhm, they...

5 **YM:** What's your little sister's name?  
6 **JH:** Uh, Rebecca Hopkins.  
7 **YM:** And the name of your ex-girlfriend?  
8 **JH:** Uh, Cara uh, Luri.  
9 **YM:** Cara what?  
10 **JH:** Luri.  
11 **YM:** Luri? L-U-R-Y?  
12 **JH:** R-I.  
13 **YM:** R-I. Okay. And they went out on a search and?  
14 **JH:** Uhm, yes. They didn't go out together. I just had spoken to both of them. They  
15 both said they were going to go on a certain day. That they were going go out on  
16 the search. And you know I may have mentioned that you know, during the time  
17 no one knows what, what has happened. And the people are going to go on a  
18 search anyway. I just feel like that you're giving up hope by going out in a  
19 search. I just can't see myself going out there and doing something that, or  
20 possibly discovering something. You know, I just....

21 **YM:** When, well, well what, I'm not your statements are right or wrong, what prompted  
22 you to, to, to say what you said as far as oh, instead of just saying, oh, okay, be  
23 careful, to kind of say I don't know why you're doing this. I don't know what  
24 you're (inaudible). Well what prompted that?  
25

1 **JH:** I didn't understand if they were doing it because they really wanted to know, or if  
2 they were doing it because of the fact that you know, I was in the news and I  
3 don't, I just have no idea. I just, and it really....

4 **YM:** I want an opin... uhm, I'm going to ask your opinion. What is your personal  
5 opinion on uhm, what do you think is, is Caylee alive or is Caylee not alive? Your  
6 personal opinion.

7 **JH:** I don't know.

8 **YM:** Well I asked you the same question...

9 **JH:** Uh....

10 **YM:** ...just a little while ago and then you gave me another answer.

11 **JH:** Uhm, I mean with everything that's come out I think there's a possibility that she's  
12 no longer living.

13 **YM:** Uhm, do you know Casey well enough either way to, to, to, to give an opinion on  
14 what you think might have happened?

15 **JH:** Uhm, I don't know her well enough to know what might have happened. I only  
16 hope for the best.

17 **YM:** Okay. John, anything?

18 **JA:** No, that's it.

19 **YM:** Is there anything I, I failed to bring up, uh, or didn't ask you about that you feel is  
20 important to this case that uh, you want to share with me?

21 **JH:** Uhm, not that I can think of.

22 **YM:** Okay. Uh...

23 **JH:** And if there is I'd definitely come and I'll give you a call.

24 **YM:** Okay. Raise your right hand for me. Do you swear and affirm everything you  
25 just told me is the truth?

1 JH: It is.

2 YM: Okay, thank you.

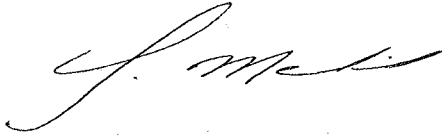
3 End of recorded statement.

4 This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.

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CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

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