Transcript - CBP Agent J. Grayson & Defendant

- 2 **Incident Date:** 29 March 13
- 3 Case #: TR-13-050961
- 4 Location: SR-86, Milepost 146.6, Southern, AZ (CBP Roadblock)
- 5 G = CBP Agent Grayson
- 6 **B** = CBP Supervisor Brandon
- $7 \mathbf{D} = Defendant$

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- 8 As Defendant enters the roadblock and comes to a stop in front of two stop signs, agents Grayson and
- 9 McKnight pull out personal recording devices, point them at Defendant and Grayson starts making
- 10 unprofessional harassing remarks. Total elapsed time from initial stop until the arrival of Deputy
- 11 Audetat is 2:46:
- 12 **G:** "Hey it's Mr. Bressi. It never gets old does it?"
- 13 **D:** (beeps horn to get attention of supervisor)
- 14 **G:** "It never gets old huh?"
- 15 **D:** (begins to move slowly)
- 16 **G:** "Hey, hey, hey, hey.... Get back here. Back up right now. Back up right now. We didn't authorize you
- 17 to leave. Back it up. All right pull it over. Pull it over. We can do this all day. Pull it over. Pull over the
- 18 truck right now" (agent McKnight standing right next to passenger door, agent Grayson sticking
- 19 camera back in shirt pocket as his supervisor approaches)
- 20 **B:** "What are you going to do?" (supervisor talking to agent Grayson)
- 21 **G:** (muffled) (talking on radio)
- 22 **B:** "Do we need to run his plate?"
- 23 **G:** (muffled) (talking on radio)
- 24 **G:** "You're impeding traffic"
- 25 **D:** "I'm ready to go whenever you wave me through."
- 26 **G:** "...we need a sheriff's deputy out here." (talking on radio)
- 27 **D:** "E11060. We have agents J. Grayson here. We have a field supervisor...ah Brandon. We have
- 28 another agent with a drug dog running a drug vehicle...err...drug dog around vehicles. These agents
- 29 know who I am. They know my immigration status yet they are illegally detaining me here"
- 30 **G:** "I think we've got him coming right now" (talking to Brandon regarding a sheriff's deputy)
- 31 **B:** "Could you put the window down"
- 32 **D:** "I can hear you just fine."
- 33 **B:** "OK, can you here me?"
- 34 **D:** "Yes I can"
- 35 **B:** "All right. We're going to have...ah...looks like county sheriff come and get you to escort your
- 36 vehicle off to the side right now. You're impeding our operations. Did you want to voluntarily move
- 37 *over? No?*"
- 38 Deputy Audetat arrives at the roadblock and both agents walk over to him

- 1 After Deputy Audetat writes Defendant a citation, Audetat has Grayson come over to talk with
- 2 Defendant. Agent Grayson walks over at about 16:16:
- **G:** "What can I do for you sir?"
- **D:** "I just need names. So you are Agent J...."
- **G:** "I can't hear you. Can you roll down the window?"
- **D:** "That's as...you can hear me just fine. J. Grayson, J. Grayson"
- **G:** "Yep"
- **D:** "That's your name. What's your first name?"
- **G:** "It's J. Grayson"
- **D:** "Well yeah, J isn't your full name unless it's Jay. What's your employee number?"
- **G:** "I don't even know my employee number"
- **D:** "You don't? Who's your supervisor then?"
- **G:** "My supervisor's right here, Mr. Brandon. Do you want to speak with him?"
- **D:** "Mr. Brandon. BRANDON?"
- **G:** "That's correct. Would you like to speak with him?"
- **D:** "Sure...what other...ID criteria is used to differentiate T. Grayson from J. Grayson for instance?"
- **G:** "Everybody knows me as J. Grayson"
- **D:** "*OK*"
- **G:** "Do you understand the situation here alright. Personally, don't have anything against you OK
- 20 You're probably a nice guy, alright. You obviously have an issue with us. You have an issue with our
- 21 checkpoint."
- **D:** "You obviously have an issue with me so..."
- **G:** "Not personally. I don't know you."
- **D:** "Of course you do because when I stopped at the checkpoint there, you didn't utter one word to me.
- 25 You didn't ask me any immigration related questions. You obviously know...I'm sorry?"
- **G:** "Because I knew you. You come through and I usually wave you through"
- **D:** "So you know me"
- **G:** "*Yep*"
- **D:** "So you know my immigration status"
- **G:** "I decided that because you like to videotape me, I decided to videotape you and you personally
- 31 don't seem to like that very much."
- **D:** "Oh, no. I don't have a problem with that at all but I find it very interesting that you have admitted
- 33 that you know who I am.."
- **G:** "Yes"
- **D:** "...and because the scope of your checkpoint is immigration. Once you know the immigration status
- 36 of the individuals going through you have an obligation to wave them through."
- **G:** "That had nothing to do with it. OK, I'll explain it to you"
- **D:** "Explain it for me please"
- **G:** "OK, I'll explain it to you. I've seen you many times. Normally we just wave you through despite the
- 40 fact you're rude to us. I would normally wave you through OK but it is up to me to say you are free to
- 41 go. I did not utter those words and you left."
- **D:** "OK, so why did you hold me there then?"
- **G:** "I wasn't holding you."
- **D:** "Oh so I was free to go?"
- **G:** "You're free to go when I tell you you're free to go."
- **D:** "But wait, wait, wait, just...just so we're clear here OK on exactly the sequence OK You just said

- 1 that you weren't holding me at the checkpoint."
- 2 **G:** "You were detained."
- 3 **D:** "OK, so you were detaining me. On what, on what basis were you detaining me?"
- 4 **G:** "I wanted to get a better look at you."
- 5 **D:** "But you already knew who I was"
- 6 **G:** "OK, regardless of that, you still took off without my authorization and then, and then, I'm almost
- 7 done. I instructed you to go to secondary so I could explain to you the safety issue, you refused to do
- 8 so. This checkpoint is my jurisdiction whether you like it or not. If you don't like it, I can't do anything
- 9 about it, OK You can contact Napolitano. You can contact any senator you want OK but taking your
- anger out on me and my fellow officers, that's just being a bully OK"
- 11 **D:** "Actually, that's what you were doing when you detained me because you wanted to get a better
- 12 look at me even though you knew who I was. Your obligation as a federal law enforcement officer
- operating a suspicionless federal immigration checkpoint was to wave me through once you knew what
- my immigration status was. You just admitted you didn't do that. You wanted to hold me there just
- 15 because."
- 16 **G:** "I know your truck but I don't know your face. I don't know who's driving this truck. I see some guy
- 17 with a video camera, I videotape him back OK And normally I do as a courtesy wave the vehicle
- 18 through OK Again, I don't know you. You're probably a very nice guy who has an issue with us,
- 19 misguided or not, I don't know. That's none of my business alright."
- 20 **D:** "You're the one who stopped and seized me. I didn't stop and seize you."
- 21 **G:** "I detained you because of the situation alright but I'm not going to go around in circles with you.
- 22 Again, I don't know or understand your issues with the Border Patrol OK Misguided or not, I don't
- 23 know. Again, you're probably a nice guy OK I don't hold anything against you. You're probably a really
- 24 nice person who just has anger issues with us for whatever reason OK"
- 25 **D:** "I don't have any anger issues with you. You're the one who seizes me while I'm trying to get back
- 26 and forth to work."
- 27 **G:** "It would be so much better if we could just get along. Most people who come through I just say,
- 28 'How you doing sir. Have a nice day' OK But when people act in such a negative manner towards me, I
- 29 get suspicious OK, so for now on, let's have a better repour. I'll just give you a wave alright. You don't
- 30 have to sit there and videotape us. We're not trying to do anything illegal OK"
- 31 **D:** "It sound like you're the one who has an issue with being videotaped. Do you not like
- 32 transparency?"
- 33 **G:** "No, I don't care."
- 34 **D:** "If you don't care then why didn't you just wave me through?"
- 35 **G:** "You obviously care because you hit the horn as soon...and you took off as soon as we started
- 36 *videotaping you.*"
- 37 **D:** "Oh, not as soon as"
- 38 **G:** "yes"
- 39 **D:** "I waited there for you to give me some instruction. You stopped me. I stopped at the checkpoint.
- 40 Most officers who are standing at the primary stop location, they ask a few questions and then they
- 41 wave through. You didn't say a word to me so I did exactly what the stop sign instructed me to do. I
- 42 stopped, I waited, I filmed and then you guys were just standing there looking at me, making jokes and
- 43 taking video so I figured you were done with me."
- 44 **G:** "First of all your window was closed. We weren't making jokes. I can't talk to you if your window is
- 45 closed. I have before in the past asked you to open your window. All you do is pickup the camera and
- 46 *videotape.*"
- 47 **D:** "My windows are always cracked. I can always hear what you guys are saying and given the fact

- 1 I've interacted with quite a few of you guys over the years with my window cracked as much as I had it
- 2 cracked today, I know that you can hear me too when we want to communicate with one another."
- **G:** "This is the very first time I've heard your voice"
- **D:** "Well, that's because most...every other time you've waved me through instead of holding me there
- 5 so that you could harass me for some..."
- **G:** "How about we...let's bury the hatchet OK"
- **D:** "Bury the hatchet? Why don't you take care of this then (holding up citation). Because first of all
- 8 I'm going to fight this and I'm going to win because I've done so before"
- **G:** "Go right ahead"
- **D:** "So now you have...you are really wasting my time with this and..."
- **G:** "You wanted to come talk to me and you violated the law according to the sheriff's department
- 12 alright. You wanted to talk to me. I'm talking to you. I explained to you what's going on OK I'm
- 13 just...I'll be more cordial to you if you're more cordial to me OK We have to be here. I don't have a
- 14 choice OK"
- **D:** "You do have a choice with regards to how you conduct yourself at the checkpoint."
- **G:** "And so do you. And so do you OK"
- **D:** "And the way I'm conducting myself is perfectly legal. The way you're conducting yourself
- 18 is...marginally...'
- **G:** "So it's OK for you to videotape me but not for me to videotape you."
- **D:** "You're the one who stopped and seized me. Not the other way around. I'm not seeking you guys
- *out*"
- **G:** "I'm not going around in circles with you. Again, I don't know you. You're probably a nice guy and
- 23 let's be done with it alright."
- **D:** "Could you tell me the name of the other officer who was with you at the primary stop location?"
- **G:** "Probably Mr. McKnight. The black guy?"
- **D:** "McKnight was his name? He had just walked across the street from the other side so I assume he
- 27 had just got on-scene"
- **G:** "Do you want to speak to him as well?"
- **D:** "I'd like to speak to your supervisor next."
- **G:** "OK Mr Brandon..."
- 31 Agent Grayson yells to his supervisor and walks towards him. This sequence ended at approximately
- 32 16:23