

NAME REMOVED

Professor Dibello

Critical Reasoning

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I have chosen Grand Jury Volume 06, witness number ten. The identity of the witness remains anonymous, however, through the context of his testimony I am assuming he was a contractor of some sort. He stated that he was doing a side job on that Saturday, August 9th, 2014 when the incident between Michael Brown and Officer Wilson occurred. This witness had stepped out of his designated work place to obtain a tool he forgot in his car. At this time he saw Michael Brown and his friend Mr. Johnson casually walking in the street, closer to the curb. His initial reaction was to become aware of his surroundings. Although he did not directly feel threatened by Michael, he was intimidated by his size.

According to his testimony, he witnesses Brown and Wilson's first interaction when he returns outside to retrieve yet another tool necessary for him to complete his task. This time around, he sees a police car slanted in the street and Brown leaning his whole upper body inside the police car window. The witness states, "It appeared as some sort of confrontation was taking place (page 165 line 24-25)." It is unclear to this witness what exactly was being said and what exactly was taking place in the car window as he was watching from a distance. At this time Mr. Johnson is not sight he claims. It was while this commotion was taking place that the first shot was let off. After that first shot the witness states that Brown came out of the window and begins to run. Initially, the

witness thought he had just witnessed Brown murder Wilson, however that is not the case.

As Brown is running away from the car of Wilson, Wilson then exits the vehicle to pursue Brown, however not immediately. At this time Brown then stops running and a body gesture is given. The witness makes himself very clear and is confident when he states, "I could say for sure he never put his hands up after he did his body gesture, he ran towards the officer full charge (page 166 line 24-25)." The gesture was unclear however he was certain that it was not a surrendering gesture. Brown then proceeds to charge at Wilson after the first shot that was left off during the confrontation in the car. Wilson then lets off another five or six shots.

Wilson only ceased fire when Brown was charging at him, not while trying to pursue him. According to the witness, Brown begins to come to a stop and at that moment Wilson ceased fire again. At the start of the next three or four shots Michael Brown begins to charge at him again until finally he collapses to the ground. The witness does not state whether or not Wilson continues to fire at Brown after he hits the pavement. Mr. Johnson then reappears, exiting a blue Monte Carlo yelling, "He just killed him, he just killed him! (page 168 line 4)"

After reading the testimony of Wilson, Johnson, and this witness, Wilson and the witness testimonies collaborate more. Both Wilson and the witness testimonies agree that Brown was indeed halfway in the car when the altercation begins. What cannot be justified is what exact words were exchanged because the witness was not close enough to hear. What struck me the most however was that both Wilson and the witness were

initially intimidated solely at the sight of Michael Brown. Also, Michael Brown was wearing flip flops and socks during this incident and even so both of them still felt intimidated.

In Wilson's testimony, he tells us that after the first 2 shots he let off, he saw blood. He claimed that Brown had a very aggressive look on his face. He would describe this look by stating, "It looked like a demon (page 225 line 2-3)." At this moment in the testimony I felt Wilson's intimidation. He was intimidated to the extent where he dehumanized Brown by referring to him as an "It." It is at this point in the testimony where I begin to question if Wilson was right or wrong morally in continuing to pursue Michael Brown.