

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 05/03/2012

FRANCIS TAAFFE, date of birth [REDACTED], social security account number [REDACTED], cellular number [REDACTED], was interviewed at the Orlando FBI Office. Also present during the interview was Department of Justice Attorney Christopher Lomax. After being advised of the identity of the agent and the nature of the interview, Taafe provided the following information:

Taafe moved to the Retreat at Twin Lakes in July of 2006. Over the years the area has changed. Taafe moved to the location because he felt the time and price was right. When he purchased the home the builder offered incentives which made the location more desirable.

Taafe has lived in the central Florida area for 42 years. Prior to living at the Retreat at Twin Lakes he lived in Casselberry, Florida for two years.

Taafe has lived at the location by himself but his daughter who is in the Marine Corps has stayed with him for short periods of time.

Taafe spoke of an incident in which he notified law enforcement of narcotic sales coming from [REDACTED]. The location was occupied by an African American family; a single mom and her three children. He said he would observe the sale of narcotics, more specifically marijuana. The reason he knew the kids were selling marijuana is because he would find "baggies" that were used to package the substance. The Sanford Police Department would send a patrol unit to investigate Taafe's complaint but the technique used was not discreet enough to catch the individuals. The family that lived at the location was eventually foreclosed on and relocated. Taafe recalls that one of the children who lived at the location was arrested in February for the sale of cocaine. Taafe provided the name of [REDACTED] of the man who was arrested.

In 2007 Taafe recalls a search warrant being served at [REDACTED] for a Hispanic family who were involved in drug activity. Taafe referred to the law enforcement officers as "Duke Boys".

Investigation on 05/02/2012 at Orlando, Florida

File # [REDACTED] Date dictated _____

by SA Matthew R Oliver

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Taaffe feels that not as much focus was placed on the community since it is on the outer area of the City of Sanford.

When Taaffe purchased the home he spoke with the builder who was supposed to build a fence behind his location to prevent the foot traffic behind the community. The builder filed for bankruptcy and the fence was never added. Taaffe brought this to the attention of the Home Owners Association (HOA) and he did not receive any support. Now after the ZIMMERMAN-Martin incident the HOA is currently planning to add the fence that Taaffe was concerned about.

When Taaffe would see individuals he did not know use the path behind his house to enter the community he would approach and speak with them. He added that most of the time people were cordial. He would ask the subjects why they were on his property Taaffe called the path way the "corridor of crime".

As a result of several HOA meetings the Sanford Police (SPD) Department was brought to speak with the residents. This is when the neighborhood watch program began to form with the guidance of the SPD.

Taaffe stated the community began to see an influx of "irregular activity" but not all was criminal.

The downfall of the community began when the Seminole County economic environment decreased. Many homeowners made attempts to purchase town homes in the community and "flip" them. When the homes could not sell they would rent them to individuals without conducting the proper background and credit checks.

Taaffe stated the community "got bad". He added he began to see more trash, speeders and children playing outside. The renters were not abiding by the rules set forth by the HOA. He considered the community to be a "transient" community and it was not as stable as it used to be.

Prior to the economic down fall Taaffe considered the racial makeup of the community to be 80% Caucasian, 10% African American and 10% Hispanic. Now he considers the racial makeup to be 50% Caucasian, 30% African American and 20% Hispanic.

The majority of the home owners in the community are white families and the majority of the renters are minorities. As

the prices of the homes began to decrease the community began to see more minority owners.

On February 2, 2012, Taaffe recalls GEORGE ZIMMERMAN calling him to tell him about a suspicious person who was looking into Taaffe's windows. The subject was identified as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was the suspect in other burglaries in the community. [REDACTED] lived at numeric [REDACTED] in the community and Treyvon Martin lived at [REDACTED]

The shooting that took place could have been any one of the teens in the area. There is a diverse group of teens in the area and it was too dark to determine race and skin color. It was not uncommon for a young African American male to walk through the community.

Taaffe only knew GEORGE ZIMMERMAN as an acquaintance. They never spoke about the complexion or racial makeup of the community. The discussions they did have were about the burglaries in the area and it was not geared towards anyone specific.

Taaffe knew the suspects in the burglaries were African American males. He did not know of any white males involved in the burglaries. He said the demographic in the area is disproportionate to the crime in the neighborhood.

On the night of the shooting if Taaffe would have seen Treyvan Martin he would have kept a visual on him.

Taaffe only saw GEORGE ZIMMERMAN patrol the community on foot.

The quote by Taaffe, "If you plant corn you will get corn", was meant as a metaphor for the crime in the area. As the population grows, so will the crime in the area.

GEORGE ZIMMERMAN told Taaffe he was armed when he saw [REDACTED] looking into the window that day.

During HOA meetings issues were brought up regarding the street lighting in the community. The HOA never gave any formal training to the Neighborhood Watch volunteers. The volunteers were never told to follow people. They were told to maintain visual on suspicious persons. There was no specific protocol regarding the neighborhood watch program.