

West Valley City Police Witness Statement

Name: [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] Date: 17Mar10 Case# 09i054602
Address: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Contact Numbers: [REDACTED]

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I have known Josh and Susan Powell [REDACTED]. I met them [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who became good friends with the Powells when they moved into their same West Valley City neighborhood and ward. I don't remember the exact time or place I first met the Powells, but it was probably at the [REDACTED] for a get together, which we would have often. Usually the Powells were invited to a lot of our family get togethers when they were held at the [REDACTED] (we took turns hosting). I remember one Thanksgiving they were even there. Sometimes Susan would come to [REDACTED], where we'd go to the movie theatre or do other things like that.

In the last couple of years, however, those family get togethers have lessened, and I haven't seen the Powells very often. Maybe only a handful of times. I've gotten busier with my own family, and it seemed like [REDACTED] I didn't get together with the Powells as often as they used to. Whenever I did see them, in previous years or in more recent times, they seemed the same as they always had... Josh was always pretty outspoken, but Susan would usually speak her mind too... they didn't seem to mind disagreeing on things in front of us -- just little things, but they both seemed genuinely attentive to their children and took good care of them. I did hear Susan complain sometimes about having to work as hard and as many hours as she did because Josh didn't have a job or wasn't making income at times -- back when he was trying to be a realtor -- where she would rather be able to stay at home with her kids instead of putting them in daycare. I heard more from [REDACTED] than I did directly from Susan, as far as Susan's complaints about having a dissatisfying marriage and wanting to end it sometimes. That was mostly a couple of years ago, though -- like I said, the last year or two I haven't seen the Powells much, and haven't heard much about them.

The last time I saw Josh in person was the Thursday after Susan went missing, after the first candlelight vigil was held in West Valley City near their home. I was at the vigil, and Josh showed up at the end with his two boys, and afterward, I was over [REDACTED], and Josh came over there too. I gave him a hug and told him I was sorry about everything going on, and he didn't really respond... he didn't look me in the eyes, and for the next two or so hours that I was there [REDACTED],

████████████████████, he didn't really say anything about Susan, even when we asked him a couple of questions, like how he was dealing with her being missing, and how the boys were dealing with it, etc. When we asked what he did all day, he told us that he just drove around... he said he hadn't been going to work, and it was really cool that they were still going to pay him his paycheck. He said he didn't want to be at the house because everyone was bugging him there (reporters and such, I assume), so he'd just drive around all day in the car, and then go home at night. He told us that his van had been taken by the police and searched. He said taking care of the boys was kind of hard but they were doing ok. We asked if they had enough food, or if they needed anything, and he said they were fine. ██████████████████████ seemed fine and happy and I played with him on the floor with toys for a while; ██████ had given them some snacks, since it was late and they were kind of hungry. But ██████████████████████ got upset when she made his toast, because he said, "that's not the way my mom makes it. You need to make it the way my mom makes it." So she asked how his mom made it, and then fixed it for him. He got down after eating and was playing with some toys on the floor too, and at one point he said, apparently to no one in particular, "I hate my dad." We all heard him, and there was a second of awkward silence, and then Josh said something like "kids say the weirdest things," or something like that.

The only thing I heard him say about Susan was that he thought he could sometimes see her out on the street, waiting at a bus stop, or something, but then he'd look again and it wasn't her. He said he kept thinking he'd seen her, but then it wasn't her. He seemed very, very different from the Josh I had known... the Josh I had known was, like I said, almost always very outspoken -- to the point of being annoying often -- always talking, always helping himself to food... it seemed like he expected Susan to do a lot and he could just kind of do whatever he wanted... he seemed lazy to me. Those kinds of things about him annoyed me, so I never really wanted to get close to either of them, since with one, you got the other, and he was usually very self-absorbed... things were pretty much always about him, and he was negative a lot of the time. Susan, on the other hand, seemed to usually be trying to make the best of things, stay positive, be cheerful and friendly, etc. I could see why she would maybe be frustrated with someone like him, but to me, on the outside, they seemed like they were sort of working things out. But that night that I saw Josh, after the vigil, he barely talked, and his eyes looked almost glazed over, like he couldn't see what was in front of him. He looked exhausted, he looked like he had lost weight, his skin was kind of pale, he looked horrible. He didn't seem like the same person, he didn't act like the same person, and he didn't look like the same person.

I'm sorry I can't be more helpful than that, but please do contact me if there is anything else you feel I can help with. I would help in any way that I can. Good luck.

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