

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

United States of America,)	File No. 19-CR-13
)	(WMW/DTS)
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	St. Paul, Minnesota
)	November 12, 2019
Brett Palkowitsch,)	9:30 a.m.
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

BEFORE THE HONORABLE WILHELMINA M. WRIGHT and a Jury
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

(TRIAL - JURY SELECTION)

Proceedings reported by court reporter; transcript
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APPEARANCES

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1 the United States.

2 MR. PERRAS: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: You're welcome.

4 MR. PERRAS: Good afternoon, everyone.

5 JURORS: (Good afternoon.)

6 MR. PERRAS: My name is Christopher Perras, and I
7 am one of the prosecutors in this case. What I am going to
8 do now is I am going to ask you follow-up questions based on
9 the answers you gave in your jury questionnaires. But
10 before I do that, I did want to address a common
11 misconception about jury selection or voir dire.

12 A lot of people think voir dire, the point of it
13 is to select the best or the most educated or the fairest
14 person in the room to be on this jury. That's not the case.
15 I'm sure all of you are fair-minded people who would do
16 their best to be fair and impartial.

17 The purpose of voir dire is to identify people who
18 might have a hard time being fair and impartial not because
19 they're not good people, not because they're not trying to
20 be fair, but because of the nature of this particular case.

21 I'll give you an example. If I were asked to
22 referee a college football game, I would do my best to be
23 fair to both sides, but I went to the University of Michigan
24 and I'm a pretty big fan and so while I might be a great
25 referee for 99 percent of college football games, if I were

1 asked to referee the Michigan/Ohio State game, I would not
2 be the best pick.

3 And so that's what we are doing here in jury
4 selection. Our purpose here is to identify people who might
5 be wonderful jurors in 99 percent of cases, but who because
6 of the nature of the issues in this case, an accusation that
7 a police officer used excessive force, might have a
8 difficult time being fair and impartial here.

9 So if you're thinking that that might be you or
10 you're not sure, I want you to know that's okay. If you're
11 thinking that you think it would just be too difficult for
12 you to sit in judgment of a police officer or, on the other
13 side, if you think you just couldn't be fair to a police
14 officer, that's okay. We're not here to judge you for those
15 beliefs. I'm certainly not here to change your mind. I
16 just need to know about them so that we can select a fair
17 jury in this case.

18 So that said, let's get started. I don't have a
19 lot of time here, so I am not going to go in order. I am
20 going to skip around.

21 I am going to start with Ms. Nolan right over
22 there, Juror Number 2. I'll wait until you get a
23 microphone.

24 (Pause)

25 MR. PERRAS: Ms. Nolan, one of the answers you put