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#### IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

#### 2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

4 **v.** 

3

No. 33,684

#### 5 JULIAN JACQUEZ,

6 Defendant-Appellant.

# 7 APPEAL FROM THE DISTRICT COURT OF SAN JUAN COUNTY 8 William C. Birdsall, District Judge

9 Gary K. King, Attorney General

10 Santa Fe, NM

### 11 for Appellee

12 Jorge A. Alvarado, Chief Public Defender

13 Allison H. Jaramillo, Assistant Appellate Defender

14 Santa Fe, NM

### 15 for Appellant

## 16

### MEMORANDUM OPINION

### 17 **FRY, Judge.**

18 [1] Defendant pled no contest to auto burglary, reserving the right to appeal the

19 denial of his motion to suppress. We previously issued a notice of proposed summary

disposition in which we proposed to affirm. Defendant has filed a memorandum in
opposition. After due consideration, we remain unpersuaded. We therefore affirm.
Because the pertinent background information and applicable principles were
previously set out in the notice of proposed summary disposition, we will avoid
unnecessary repetition here, and instead focus on the content of the memorandum in
opposition.

7 **{3**} Defendant has raised a single issue, contending that a statement he made to 8 police should have been suppressed on grounds that he did not knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waive his constitutional rights under *Miranda*. [MIO 6] 9 10 Specifically, Defendant continues to assert that his waiver was not voluntary because 11 he was coerced with promises of leniency. [MIO 7-8] However, as we previously observed in the notice of proposed summary disposition, Detective Whitaker 12 13 specifically testified that he did not promise Defendant anything. [MIO 7-8; RP 46, 14 48] Although Defendant testified otherwise, [MIO 4, 7] the district court, as finder of fact, was at liberty to reject Defendant's assertion and to resolve the evidentiary 15 16 conflict in the State's favor. See generally State v. Fierro, 2014-NMCA-004, ¶40, 315 17 P.3d 319 ("We emphasize that the finder of fact, not an appellate court, must reconcile 18 any conflicts in the evidence and determine where truth and credibility lies. The fact 19 finder can choose to believe the [s]tate's testimony and disbelieve [the d]efendant's

version of events."). Defendant also renews his assertion that his waiver was not 1 knowing and intelligent, insofar as he was under the influence of methamphetamines. 2 [MIO 8-10] As we previously observed, the district court heard the testimony of 3 Detective Whitaker, who indicated that Defendant seemed okay cognitively, was 4 5 responding properly to questions, he appeared to understand the form and seemed familiar with the process. [MIO 2] Detective Whitaker further testified that although 6 Defendant might have been experiencing withdrawal, he observed no indication that 7 8 Defendant was under the influence of drugs at the time of the interview. [MIO 3] This evidence supplies adequate support for the district court's determination that the 9 statement was knowingly and intelligently made. 10 See, e.g., State v. Evans, 11 2009-NMSC-027, ¶¶ 35-39, 146 N.M. 319, 210 P.3d 216 (rejecting a claim that a confession should have been suppressed in light of the defendant's alleged 12 methamphetamine use, despite the "disjointed and rambling quality" to some of the 13 14 defendant's "long and, at times, nonsensical responses," where the district court "viewed with skepticism [the d]efendant's claims" and after a full hearing, where 15 16 there was "no indication in the record that the law enforcement officers who interrogated [the d]efendant were aware of his purportedly vulnerable mental state," 17 18 and where the district court ultimately determined after a full evidentiary hearing that 19 the defendant "was in full control of his faculties" when the interviews took place

(internal quotation marks omitted)). Although Defendant continues to assert that the
conflicting evidence and inferences would support a different result, [MIO 3-4, 9] on
appeal we are not at liberty to re-weigh the evidence. *See generally State v. Neal*,
2007-NMSC-043, ¶ 15, 142 N.M. 176, 164 P.3d 57 (observing, with respect to
suppression orders, that on appeal "we do not sit as trier of fact, recognizing that the
district court has the best vantage from which to resolve questions of fact and to
evaluate witness credibility . . . [t]herefore, we review the facts in the light most
favorable to the prevailing party, deferring to the district court's factual findings so
long as substantial evidence exists to support those findings"). We therefore reject
Defendant's argument.

11 {4} Accordingly, for the reasons stated in our notice of proposed summary12 disposition and above, we affirm.

13 {5} IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 15

#### CYNTHIA A. FRY, Judge

16 WE CONCUR:

17 18 JAMES J. WECHSLER, Judge 2 LINDA M. VANZI, Judge