

HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATION

16-12-0001

TRANSCRIBED BY:

KIM PFEIFFER

DECEMBER 22, 2016

JS: DETECTIVE SERGEANT JOHN SHIVERS

KF: KEN FRITZ

JS: TODAY'S DATE'S DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, TIMES NOW ABOUT 10:30  
A.M. THIS INTERVIEW IS TAKING PLACE AT THE HARDEE  
COUNTY FIRE RESCUE AT, ON KD REVELL, IN WAUCHULA. UH,  
BEING CONDUCTED BY LIEUTENANT JOHN SHIVERS OF HARDEE  
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE PERSON TO BE  
INTERVIEWED IS, UH, KEN

KF: FRITZ

JS: (INAUDIBLE)

KF: F-R-I-T-Z

JS: F-R, AND YOU RESPONDED TO THE CRASH GARDEN DRIVE  
ABOUT 11:30 SATURDAY EVENING?

KF: YES SIR

JS: OK, IF YOU WOULD JUST KIND OF IN YOUR OWN WORDS TELL  
ME WHAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES WAS THERE, WHO YOU  
TALKED TO AND ANYTHING YOU MAY OF NOTICED, UH

KF: ALRIGHT, UM, I DROVE THE FIRE ENGINE TO THE SCENE, UM,  
SO I PARKED, AS WE ARRIVED ON SCENE, THERE WAS A  
SHERIFF'S OFFICER CAR IN THE CENTER OF THE ROAD, QUITE A  
DISTANCE PAST IT WAS THE CAR THAT WAS INTO THE  
TELEPHONE POLE, THE POLE WAS FALLING ON TOP OF THE CAR

JS: OK

KF: UH, AS WE EXITED THERE WAS A FEMALE INSIDE OF THE  
POLICE CAR

JS: OK

KF: UM, AS WELL AS, UM, I DON'T KNOW HER NAME, SKYLAR?

JS: OK

KF: THE DEPUTY WAS THERE, AND

JS: TO MY UNDERSTANDING THE TWO OF THEM WERE SITTING IN  
THE BACK SEAT OF A MARKED UNIT?

KF: CORRECT

JS: OK

KF: SO WE PARKED THE, I PARKED THE ENGINE BEHIND THAT  
UNIT, UM, IT WAS ODD, IT WAS WEIRD TO ME RIGHT OFF THE  
BAT, THAT THAT UNIT WAS SO CLOSE, NOW IF YOU LOOKED  
IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR RIGHT THE LINES WERE DOWN,  
NORMALLY QUITE A DISTANCE BACK

JS: OK

KF: OK, UM, WE GOT OUT, NOW THE ENGINE, OUR RESPONSE IS  
THE ENGINE IS USUALLY IN CHARGE OF THE SCENE AND THE  
RESCUE CREW IS IN CHARGE OF PATIENT CARE

JS: OK

KF: SO WE OBSERVED THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR, UH,  
HAZARDS, UM, WHILE BILL AND GIGI OR, UH, BILL AND GIGI,

BILL AND SHELBY DID PATIENT CARE ON THE FEMALE AND THE MALE, UM, AFTER I WAS DONE WITH THAT I WALKED OVER AND I ASKED THE MALE SUBJECT, I DIDN'T KNOW WHO IT WAS AT THE TIME, BACK WAS TO ME AND I ASKED HIM IF HE WAS ALRIGHT, HIS POSTURE, UM, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOUR BACK IS SORE, YOU, YOU HAVE A FUNNY POSTURE, HE HAD THAT POSTURE, HE TURNED AROUND LOOKED AT ME AND THAT'S WHO I RECOGNIZED, WHO IT WAS

JS: AND THAT WAS?

KF: UM, MICHAEL LAKE

JS: OK

KF: UH, SO AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WAS INVOLVED, I JUST THOUGHT HE WAS THERE AS, UH, ON, ON DUTY

JS: OK

KF: OK, CAUSE HE'S COME TO OUR CALLS IN PLAIN CLOTHES BEFORE

JS: YES

KF: UM, AND HE SAID YEAH, I'M ALRIGHT, I'M FINE, OK, THIS WAS FROM A DISTANCE AWAY, UH, HE WOULD'VE BEEN ON THE DRIVERS SIDE OF THE CAR AND I WOULD'VE BEEN BEHIND

THE, UH, PASSENGER REAR OF THE CAR, SO IT WAS A GOOD  
DISTANCE AWAY

JS: AND YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MARKED UNIT?

KF: YES SIR

JS: OK

KF: YES SIR

JS: SKYLAR (INAUDIBLE) SKYLAR AND VICTORIA

KF: YES SIR

JS: WAS IN?

KF: YES SIR

JS: OK

KF: OK

JS: WHEN YOU, WHEN YOU HAD CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL,  
UH, YOU'RE HALF A CAR LENGTH SO APART?

KF: PROBABLY A GOOD, GOOD DISTANCE MORE THAN THAT, AGAIN  
IF THIS IS THE CAR, HE'S HERE AND I'M BACK HERE

JS: ON THE OPPOSITE OF THE CAR?

KF: THE OPPOSITE SORRY, HE IS AT THE DRIVERS

JS: DID YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CLOSER CONTACT WITH HIM?

KF: I DID, I DID NOT

JS: OK

KF: UM, HE STAYED, AFTER THIS HE WALKED AROUND THE FRONT OF THE CAR AND HIM AND SERGEANT WHITE, UM, THEY STAYED OVER HERE, THERE WAS, THERE'S A DRIVEWAY INTO THIS HOME, AND HIM AND SERGEANT WHITE STAYED OVER THERE FOR ABOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE CALL, UM, HIM AND OFFICER CRUZ, TALKED FOR A LITTLE WHILE AS WELL, UM, BUT THAT WAS, THAT WAS THE EXTENT OF MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM

JS: OK, DURING, DURING THIS, UH, ENCOUNTER, WITH LAKE DID YOU SMELL ANYTHING THAT APPEARED TO BE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE ABOUT HIS PERSON?

KF: I DIDN'T BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN, I WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO

JS: OK

KF: HAVE DONE THAT

JS: OK

KF: LIKE I SAID WE WERE A GOOD DISTANCE

JS: DID, WAS, WAS THERE ANYTHING, AND, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT, THAT AT SOME POINT YOU WERE AND LIEUTENANT DEVEREAUX MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT ODORS IN THE AIR AT THE TIME OR?



KF: WELL THERE WAS A LOT OF WEIRD THINGS ABOUT THE CALL,  
NOW AS FAR AS SMELLING ANY ALCOHOL I DID NOT, UM, HIM  
AND I STAND, STOOD AT THE FRONT OF THE ENGINE, AND  
DISCUSSED THE WAY THAT THINGS WERE, WERE GOING AND  
THAT THEY, IT WAS NOT SAFE, UM, IT WAS WEIRD, WE  
COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON, UM, AT ONE  
POINT, UH, CRUZ WALKED AROUND DOWN BY THE CAR AND  
ALL THE WAY AROUND TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE, THAT WAS  
WEIRD, WHY WOULD YOU PUT YOURSELF IN THAT DANGER?

JS: YEAH

KF: AND THEN HE CAME BACK AND WALKED ALL THE WAY BACK  
AROUND

JS: UH, DID YOU EVER GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE, UH, VICTORIA,  
UM, THE OTHER CRASH VICTIM THAT, TO TELL IF SHE HAD  
ANYTHING ABOUT HER, HER EYES OR?

KF: SHE STAYED INSIDE SKYLAR'S VEHICLE THE ENTIRE TIME

JS: OK

KF: NEVER DID, DID SHE EVER EXIT THE VEHICLE

JS: HOW CLOSE DID YOU EVER GET TO THE OPEN DOOR OF THAT  
VEHICLE?

KF: THE REAR OF THE CAR

JS: OK

KF: THE REAR OF THE CAR

JS: SO IT WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFICULT TO SMELL IF SHE HAD  
ANYTHING ON HER?

KF: RIGHT

JS: WAS THERE ANYTHING

KF: LIKE I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY, BILL AND SHELBY WOULD'VE  
BEEN THE ONES

JS: I KNOW Y'ALL, I KNOW Y'ALL GO TO, UH, CRASH SCENES ALL  
THE TIME

KF: UH HUH

JS: THERE'S ALCOHOL INVOLVED

KF: OH YEAH

JS: WAS THERE ANYTHING AT THIS SCENE THAT WOULD INDICATE  
TO YOU THAT ALCOHOL WAS INVOLVED, I MEAN PHYSICALLY, I  
MEAN, THERE, I KNOW THERE'S SOME SPECULATION ABOUT,  
YOU KNOW, WHERE IT'S HAPPENING, AND TIME IT'S  
HAPPENING

KF: RIGHT

JS: YOU KNOW, A LOT OF TIMES

KF: OTHER THAN THAT SPECULATION THERE IS NOTHING  
FACTUALLY OR EVIDENCE BASED THAT I COULD TELL YOU



JS: DID YOU AND BOB EVER, YOU KNOW SAY I THINK I SMELL  
BEER OR SOMETHING WAS THAT?

KF: NEVER, NEVER DID I SAY THOSE WORDS, HIM AND I  
DISCUSSED TRYING TO FIGURE WHAT WAS GOING ON, OK,  
THIS WAS A WEIRD SITUATION, THIS WAS A WEIRD CALL, UM,  
IF, IF, I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME, LIKE YOU  
DOING YOUR BODY OF WORK FOR A LONG TIME, YOU CAN  
READ A CALL, YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON,  
WHETHER YOU CAN PUT FACTS BEHIND IT IS DIFFERENT

JS: YES SIR

KF: OK, YOU GIVEN THE TIME OF NIGHT, YOU'RE GIVEN THE  
MANNERISMS OF, OF THE PEOPLE THAT ARE GOING ON, YOU  
CAN TELL THAT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT THIS IS NOT AN  
ORDINARY, ORDINARY CALL, BUT NOW TO PUT EVIDENCE TO  
BACK THAT UP

JS: WAS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT MICHAELS DEMEANOR, OR, YOU  
KNOW THE WAY HE WAS ACTING THE WAY HE SPOKE TO YOU  
THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT HE WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE  
OF ALCOHOL OR

KF: NO

JS: OK

KF: NO, HE, HIS, WHEN HE SPOKE, HE SPOKE CLEAR AND  
DEFINITELY

JS: OK, WAS, I KNOW Y'ALL DIDN'T GO UP TO THE CAR BECAUSE  
OF THE POWER LINES DOWN

KF: RIGHT

JS: BUT IN LOOKING IN THAT DIRECTION OR SHINING YOUR  
FLASHLIGHT OVER TOWARDS THE CAR LOOKING FOR  
HAZARDS, RIGHT, DID YOU SEE ANYTHING TO INDICATE THAT

KF: I DIDN'T

JS: THERE WAS ALCOHOL INVOLVED?

KF: I DID NOT

JS: BEER CANS OR?

KF: BUT I COULDN'T SEE IN THE CAR, YOU KNOW I'M JUST FROM A  
DISTANCE AND THERE WAS, THE DOORS WERE CLOSED

JS: OK

KF: BUT I COULDN'T VISIBLY SEE ANYTHING

JS: ALRIGHT, SEE ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THE SCENE OR PEOPLE  
YOU TALKED TO OR THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT THERE WAS  
ALCOHOL INVOLVED IN THIS CRASH?

KF: NO

JS: THAT WE HADN'T TALKED ABOUT?

KF: NO

JS: STATEMENT TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE?

KF: YES SIR

JS: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE, ADD, OR DELETE  
TO IT?

KF: NO SIR

JS: OK, I'M GOING TO END THE INTERVIEW AT THIS TIME, THE  
TIME'S NOW APPROXIMATELY 12 OR, EXCUSE ME, 10:39.

KF: ALRIGHT