

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 21ST, 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
DEFINITIVELY

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 VISIBLE 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