

**THURSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

- Suspect
 Victim
 Witness

Case #: 18-00762
Date: 02 March 2018
Time: 0819 hours

NAME: LINCOLN, ERNE G.
DATE OF BIRTH: 11-24-77
WORK ADDRESS: 100 Eastside Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: 360 259-6759
INTERVIEWING OFFICER: Det. George Oplinger, 1174, TCSO
INTERVIEW LOCATION: 100 Eastside Street SE, Olympia, WA (Olympia Fire Station)
ALSO PRESENT:

- 1 Q Erne, do you understand the tape recorder's on?
2 A Yes.
3 Q Is it okay that I'm recording your voice?
4 A Yes.
5 Q Okay. How are you currently employed?
6 A Um, I'm a Lt. with Olympia Fire Department.
7 Q Okay. And how long have you been employed by the Olympia Fire Department?
8 A For 13 years.
9 Q 13 years. And you have prior experience as a firefighter?
10 A Yes, I-
11 Q And what's that?
12 A Year and a half with the Ft. Lewis Fire, and then seven years as a firefighter in the Army.
13 Q Okay. And do you recall back on February 7th, early hour morning, um, being on duty
14 and being dispatched to 1209 Fern Street?
15 A Yes, I do.
16 Q And what, uh, can you tell me what you were dispatched to and, and what you responded
17 to and what you did when you got there?
18

1 A Okay, I was assigned to our ladder truck, and we were dispatched, it was due to CPR in
2 progress. We're, which is pretty typical for the ladder truck to be dispatched as a third
3 unit for manpower. Um, we responded up there and got on scene, and we were directed
4 to the back of the medic van. When I opened the doors to the medic van, they were wor-
5 doing CPR on a patient, and my general rule, my general job as an officer is to, uh, get in
6 the back to make sure we've got a good rotation of EMT's doing compressions on the
7 patient, uh, making sure that they're, uh, pace is correct, doing 100 compressions per
8 minute at least, and, uh, just keeping track of time so that we rotate workers every two
9 minutes.

10 Q Okay, so is that the purpose of manpower, 'cause it gets pretty exhausting doing CPR?

11 A Yes, the way our guidelines say is one person will do CPR for two minutes, basically the
12 studies have shown that after two minutes, your CPR effectiveness goes away, and so
13 they, they want you to rotate.

14 Q Okay. And were you o-, you were tracking but were you also in on CPR?

15 A I think I did one round of compressions, yes.

16 Q Okay. And then did you, did you remain in the medic van when it went to the hospital, or
17 did you do something else?

18 A I believe I was the driver of the medic van, I was not in the back with the patient.

19 Q Okay.

20 A Um, I think it was I drove the medic van to the hospital.

21 Q So is it, is it common to people, for, for, uh, firefighters and medics to be assigned to, uh,
22 certain vehicles at the start of a shift, and then in the middle of a call, you guys rotate
23 positions, you could end up on different vehicles?

24 A Yes, um...

25 Q Okay.

26 A ...it, it's based off the patient needs. If the, if the paramedics in the back of the medic
27 van feel like they need extra help back there, they'll take us, and then we'll just drive
28 both rigs to the hospital.

29 Q Okay. And when you got to the hospital, and, and I just want to, uh, verify the hospital
30 you went to is St. Peter's in Olympia?

31 A Yes.

32 Q Okay. And when you got there, and you guys go to the back to the emergency entrance,
33 and what happened when you got there, did you go inside or did you wait outside?

34 A Um, I got out from driving and parked, opened up the back doors, and they had, they
35 weren't doing CPR anymore because they were able to get a pulse back. Um, and so they
36 were just maintaining with, um, positive pressure ventilation, they're basically using the
37 bag-valve mask to ventilate her. Um, wheeled her into the room. Uh, the medics, I
38 believe they gave the short report, then they transferred the patient over to bed, and that's
39 pretty much it.

- 1 Q Did you go in the hospital?
2 A Think I went in, just wheeling the gurney in.
- 3 Q Okay. And then she was transferred over to hospital staff?
4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Okay, and then what, where did you go from there?
6 A Uh, I believe it was just, brought the gurney back out to the medic van and medics had
7 their rou-, routine cleaning everything so I got back in the truck and we went back to
8 quarters.
- 9 Q Okay. Do you recall if you came straight to quarters or you guys dis-, get dispatched to
10 anything else? I know there's been a lot of calls between now and then so-
11 A I, I, I can't tell you without...
- 12 Q Okay.
13 A ...a doubt of what, what happened after that.
- 14 Q Okay. But at that point, uh, when you got back into the truck, that pretty much concluded
15 your involvement in this incident from 1209 Fern Street?
16 A Yes, um hm.
- 17 Q Okay. Um, one other question I want to ask you if when you were on scene...
18 A Um hm.
- 19 Q ...was there anything, anything that stood out that wasn't normal to you at all?
20 A On the scene, no. On the way there, I was reading the short reports from the fire alarm
21 activation that was happening beforehand. And then it went into some other stuff, and,
22 and trying to read this as I'm responding code through the city so I don't catch all of it.
- 23 Q Um hm.
24 A Um, but that stood out to me, the initial dispatch information is what I was looking at.
25 Once we got on scene, it was straightforward what, CPR, that was the focus. It wasn't
26 time to look at anything else, and, uh, it was get in the back of the medic van and do our
27 job so-
- 28 Q Okay. Alright. Well, I appreciate your statement. There are questions we ask at the end
29 of statement. Did I turn the tape recorder off during the statement?
30 A No, you didn't.
- 31 Q Okay, did you ask me to stop the statement at any time?
32 A No.
- 33 Q Were there any threats or promises made to get you to give a taped statement?
34 A No.
- 35 Q Okay, is everything you told me the truth to the best your knowledge?
36 A Yes.

1 | Q Okay, thank you for your statement. Ending statement time is 8:26.

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4 | Ending Time: 0826 hours