

**THURSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

- Suspect
 Victim
 Witness

Case #: 18-00762
Date: 12 February 2018
Time: 1437 hours

NAME: HERMANN, RUSSELL A.
DATE OF BIRTH: 12-28-69
WORK ADDRESS: 100 Eastside Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: 360 753-8350; Cell: 360 789-1229
INTERVIEWING OFFICER: Det. George Oplinger, 1174, TCSO
INTERVIEW LOCATION: Hermann's work at the fire station
ALSO PRESENT: Det. Alan Clark, 1193, TCSO

- 1 Q Okay, Russell, do you understand I have a tape recorder on and that I'm recording your
2 voice?
3 A Yes, I do.
4 Q Is that okay with you?
5 A It is.
6 Q Okay. So the reason we're sitting here talking to you is an incident that occurred last
7 week at 1209 Fern Street SW in Olympia where a lady, um, ended up, uh, passing away.
8 And do you know the incident I'm referring to?
9 A Yes, I do.
10 Q Okay, and can you just tell us how, um, if you were involved in that, what your
11 involvement was, like how, how you ended up out there to begin with and then what you
12 did and what you saw when you arrived?
13 A Okay, as, I'm a officer on trucker 1, and downtown. I was dispatched, um, due to CPR in
14 progress, which is a standard response from us, when there's CPR anywhere in the city
15 the, the truck is requested. Um, we requested just normal route up across the bridges, up
16 Harrison to, uh, Black Lake Blvd and then to 9th, all the way into Fern Street. Um, upon
17 reaching Fern, we turned to 1209. We were, uh, blocked about 100 yards out by police
18 vehicles, patrol car. Um, went ahead and parked the truck. From there, uh, I hopped out,
19 my crew finished parking the truck, uh, and we proceeded forward to the scene. As I was
20 walking forward, I met up with a police officer, Olympia police officer and I didn't, um,
21 get a name. Kinda made contact with him, asked him where the patient was, and he
22 informed me that she was in the back of a medic van. Um, and just a quick conversation
23 with him, he said something to the effect of, she went down right after they sedated her.

1 And he said, I've never seen it like that before. I said, well, that's interesting. And
2 proceeded forward. I got up there, opened up the van to the, opened up the door to the
3 van, and, uh, Lt. Stewart was, uh, running the call obviously, and I asked him, hey, Mark,
4 what do you need. Uh, we got three guys. Uh, whatever you need. And he says, I need
5 to get her to the hospital, we need to go. And, uh, rapid transport, and they were, CPR
6 was in progress, like I said, Mark was managing, uh, the scene in the back. They had
7 Engine 2 crew in there, so I believe they had a total of five people in there. Uh, both
8 medics, three firefighters. Um, it was, I actually had four people in my rig, I had one
9 extra. We usually have three but I had four that night. And, uh, we kind of, Ernie
10 Lincoln was on, so we determined, uh, I'll put Ernie in the back, my two other
11 driver/operators, we're going to take the (indistinguishable) truck to St. Peters, and I
12 drove the medic van. So I hopped in the front seat right away, went around, I never put
13 my hand on the patient, I never got in the back to kind of see her condition. And, uh, I
14 drove Medic 10, so by the time I got in the front seat, it was probably two or three
15 minutes, I was telling, Mark, hey, we're ready to go, soon as you clear the extra people
16 out or we get-, we're ready to roll and we'll roll out. And, uh, I sat a couple minutes
17 there of them continuing, I could hear 'em working her back in the back of the rig. And
18 then, uh, within a couple minutes, we were on our way. And then I, I drove Medic 10 to
19 the hospital. And, uh, I drove, you want the route to St. Pete's?

20 Q Sure, if you remember it.

21 A Yeah. So, uh, we went north on, uh, Fern there, turned onto, a left onto 9th, and then
22 down Black Lake Blvd to, uh, 101, 101 to I-5 north, then got off on Pacific, and then
23 Pacific to Lilly Road to St. Pete's. So it was pretty quick, uh, no traffic, no delay
24 whatsoever in the transport. And, uh, I could hear 'em working her in the back the whole
25 time and talking and just going through their stuff, and, much as I could. Um, once we
26 got to the ER, parked the rig, came around, and I, that's when I first realized that they
27 hadn't got her back, and that she, that she was, she had, uh, they were still breathing for
28 her but they had a, pulse was back (indistinguishable) at that time.

29 Q So they stopped CPR 'cause they got a pulse back?

30 A Yeah, that's-

31 Q Okay.

32 A In route. Um, that's my understanding. And, uh, when we delivered her, she, she had
33 pulses, dropped her off, met the emergency room doc, and I think I took her out of the
34 back on the gurney, and then we just brought her out and took her in and put her in the
35 exam room that they told us. That's pretty much it for my part.

36 Q Should have asked this in the beginning. Um, you're employed as a firefighter with
37 Olympia Fire Department?

38 A Right.

39 Q And what's cur-, your current, your rank?

40 A Lt.

41

- 1 Q And how long have you been employed with the Olympia Fire Department?
2 A Sin-, since 2001 so 17 years.
- 3 Q Okay. And, um, any, anywhere prior to that?
4 A No.
- 5 Q Okay. Okay, yeah, I think, do you have anything else?
6 Q CLARK: No, she was, she was already in the back of the, of Medic 1 when you arrived
7 on scene, right?
8 A That's correct.
- 9 Q CLARK: Yeah. Okay. Um, you had only one conversation with one of th-, one police
10 officer?
11 A Oh, yeah, one police officers wa-, and that, that was his impression, and I, I remember
12 thinking, well, that's, that's strange because I mean (indistinguishable) only sedation, you
13 know...
- 14 Q CLARK: Um hm.
15 A ...that, that's not necessarily the case, and so I will say that after the call, we dropped the
16 patient off, which is normal. The, we give the words, the pass-down to all the, the
17 doctors and everything that's going on, and I, I, you know, I wasn't involved
18 (indistinguishable) so I took the gurney out and, you know, started working on cleaning it
19 up and getting it put back in service and getting back in, and I'm expecting my rig to
20 show back up who was following us to the, to the ER. And, uh, and we just kind of
21 talked and, and I j-, and I, the whole time, you know, you're kind of curious what's going
22 on. I read the MCT to the crew on the way up there, and it read like a no-, I mean,
23 obviously, you know, started at the fire alarm act-, it started as a do-, you know, it
24 sounded like, you know, someone crazed pulled the fire alarm. For us, it was a fire alarm
25 activation, turned into PD requesting medics, you know, delirious, and then you can just,
26 you guys probably read the dispatch paperwork. I mean, I was just reading it as I was
27 going out there so we kinda knew what we were get-, getting into but, uh, we were, and
28 the whole thing is like, why is this a cardiac ar-, arrest, you know. So-. But then when
29 we got there, I, I kinda informed, uh, Jason Loffler and those guys, saying, man, I showed
30 up, and PD is, you know, the guy I talked to make it sound like it was something to do
31 with sedation. And we're like, no, 'cause we just g-, you know, we'd just given it to her
32 and realized she wasn't breathing, and I said, yeah, it sure sounds like, you know, it'll be
33 interesting to see how this all falls out, and we knew it was a serious call because this was
34 someone that was alive when we got there.
- 35 Q Um hm.
36 A (Indistinguishable) so-
- 37 Q So in your 17 years, you said you, you've been on scene many times during sedations?
38 A Yeah.
- 39 Q Do you know typically how long it takes for it to take effect?
40 A I wouldn't, no, I'm not the guy to ask for that.

1 Q Is it-
2 A It's better to ask the medics, that's their...

3 Q Okay.
4 A ...that's their protocol.

5 Q Okay.
6 A Um-

7 Q 'Cause my understanding...
8 A And, and-

9 Q ...if I understood right it was like almost immediate in this case.
10 A That-

11 Q Or do you know?
12 A I don't know.

13 Q Oh, she was already in the van when you got there so you weren't there-
14 A She was in the va-, I didn't see it happen but...

15 Q Okay.
16 A ...from the story that the guy (indistinguishable), and plus when that officer, that was the
17 officer's feeling. And I don't know, us-, us-, I mean, I think Joe and, who you just spoke
18 to, and, uh, the people on scene would be much better...

19 Q Okay.
20 A ...to answer that. 'Cause I didn't see that. Mine was hearsa-, I mean, this is, this is
21 people going, oh, my gosh, you know, this is surprising.

22 Q Um hm. Okay.
23 A And, and then, and I just remember, uh, Michael and those guys, it was not their
24 impression that it had anything to do with the Versed, you know, that as he'd given that.

25 Q Okay.
26 A I mean, and that was just from the beginning, he's like, uh-, this is before any stress
27 things, like, no, that's, I'm not sure...

28 Q Um hm.
29 A ...but he said, no, I'd just given her the Versed. It was IM, which that's all medical
30 terms, honestly I'm an EMT, you know, I'm being called to put my hands in
31 compressions and start pumping the chest and, and I'm really following their lead on, on
32 that stuff so, we're manpower (indistinguishable), they're running the call, and they get
33 the meds, and they treat 'em, (indistinguishable) interventions...

34 Q Okay.
35 A ...(indistinguishable) so-

1 Q CLARK: You said it, you called it Versetten, is that the name of the (indistinguishable)
2 A Ver-, Versed is (indistinguishable)

3 Q CLARK: Versed.
4 A I m-, I mean, check with them...

5 Q CLARK: Sure.
6 A ...but that's standard what the medics-

7 Q V-e-r-s-e-d, does that sound right?
8 A Yeah.

9 Q Yeah.
10 A Th-, like the med. Is that what Mark said?

11 Q Yeah.
12 A I think that's what they gave her.

13 Q CLARK: That's a, with a, a chemical restraint, is that...
14 A Yeah, that's a chemical...

15 Q CLARK: ...essentially what that is?
16 A ...yeah, that's just a sed-, sedative, yeah.

17 Q CLARK: Okay.
18 A And I don't know the dosing or anything, that's a....

19 Q CLARK: Sure. Sure.
20 A ...paramedic, uh...

21 Q CLARK: Sure. Sure.
22 A ...uh, procedure that-, honestly.

23 Q CLARK: Okay.
24 A But I've been on the calls where they've given the Versed, IM, before, and...

25 Q CLARK: Um hm.
26 A ...I've seen 'em give it, you know, uh, IV as well so-

27 Q CLARK: Um hm, okay.
28 A But it's just depending-, but, you know, I've just, I, we've talked it through afterwards,
29 and, uh, from what the police officer said-

30 Q CLARK: Have you seen it then giv-, is it typically given to people through their, I mean,
31 does it have any different effect on anyone that would have, um, illegal controlled
32 substances onboard as well, would it have any effect, you, in your professional opinion or
33 your experience, do you know?
34 A I've seen it given to people that r-, are delirious.

1 Q CLARK: Um hm.
2 A You know. And assumed to be on-

3 Q CLARK: Under the influence....
4 A Under the influence.

5 Q CLARK: ...of drugs, okay.
6 A And so that, that, now I can't give you a time and date or anything...

7 Q CLARK: Sure.
8 A ...of this but it seems like that, that has happened to me. And, or it's unknown...

9 Q CLARK: Um hm.
10 A ...what is causing it but our assumption in downtown Olympia if someone is wiggling
11 out...

12 Q CLARK: Sure.
13 A ...and, and, and, uh, unable to cooperate, and that's really it w-, on using, I mean...

14 Q CLARK: Sure, sure.
15 A ...just unable to cooperate with...

16 Q CLARK: Sure.
17 A ...any commands and they...

18 Q CLARK: Sure.
19 A ...and, uh, really a danger, you know.

20 Q CLARK: Sure.
21 A And, you know, you don't know how they got there but there is a handful of reasons, you
22 know, a lot of 'em, a lot of the ones we see are, you assume are drug, drug use.

23 Q CLARK: Okay. Have you seen anyone pass away after receiving, um, a chemical
24 restraint like th-, like this?
25 A No.

26 Q CLARK: This, this type of incid-, never have?
27 A Never have.

28 Q CLARK: In your experience.
29 A No, no.

30 Q CLARK: Okay. Alright.
31 A Like I said, I, I mean I have experiences but I...

32 Q CLARK: Sure.
33 A ...d-, I've never seen it but it's not as much as I mean Mark Stewart who's, who travels
34 the county giving these...

1 Q CLARK: Sure.
2 A ...medications.

3 Q CLARK: Sure.
4 A Where I'm inside the city and, and-

5 Q CLARK: Right.
6 A Um, but it's more than maybe a lot of, you know, I think usually...

7 Q CLARK: Right.
8 A ...the officers are involved in this too so-

9 Q CLARK: Alright.
10 Q That it for your questions? Okay.

11 Q CLARK: Yeah.
12 Q So at, at, there's some questions we ask at the end of all statements. At any time did I
13 turn the tape recorder off?
14 A What's that?

15 Q That-
16 A No, you did not.

17 Q Okay. Did you, at any time did you ask me to stop the tape recorder?
18 A No.

19 Q Okay, were there any threats or promises made to get you to give a taped statement?
20 A No.

21 Q Was everything you told us the truth to the best your knowledge?
22 A Yes, it is.

23 Q Okay, thank you for your statement. Ending statement time is 2:49 PM.
24
25

26 Ending Time: 1449 hours