Lefdal: And we are on the record. My name is Dusty Lefdal, and the spelling of that is D-u-s-t-y L-e-f-d-a-l. I'm an internal affairs investigator with employers investigative services. We are retained by the city of Oroville Police Department. And we are here to do an interview on Sergeant Khan.

[redacted] PC 832.7

The date is November 10th, 2022. The time is 14:51 hours. Present in the room located at Oroville PD is Mike Stover, Ali Khan, as well as myself, Dusty R Lefdal of employers investigative services. I'm just going to go around the room, take a quick break, and have you say and spell your name for the record please.

Stover: Michael Stover, S-t-o-v-e-r, Employers Investigative Services.

Khan: Ali Khan, K-h-a-n, Oroville PD Sergeant.

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

Khan: [redacted]

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

Khan: [redacted]

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

Khan: [redacted]

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

Khan: [redacted]

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

[redacted] PC 832.7

Khan: [redacted] PC 832.7

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

Khan: [redacted] PC 832.7

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

Khan: [redacted]

Lefdal: [redacted] PC 832.7

Khan:

Lefdal: This is your house, you know where all the bathrooms are. Break rooms. If you need a break, you feel like you just need a moment to kind of gather your chickens, tell us. You know, we can leave the room, you can leave the room, whatever it is.

I see you're recording, as well as we are.

I just want to make sure you're perfectly comfortable? You ready to move forward?

Khan: Yeah.

Lefdal: Okay. With that being said, I will turn it over to Mike. He's going to have some questions. I might have some follow up questions afterwards. I try and wait so that you're not getting bombarded with a bunch of questions.

Stover: Okay. So we're here to talk about the incident involving officer Sasek that did the courtesy transport from OMC. Apparently it went south between here and Chico. He dumped her off somewhere up by the worm farm on Neal Road. She's alleging that she got hit by a car after he dropped her out of the car.

So, the main reason you're here, because I want to confirm some things that officer Sasek told us our true.

Khan: Okay.

Stover: Are you familiar with that incident?

Khan: I am.

Stover: Okay. I mean, if you need to take time to refresh yourself or go read a report or anything

you're welcome to.

Khan: No.

Stover: Okay. So at the hospital he says that he cleared transporting her to Chico with you.

Khan: He did.

Stover: Okay. So what was your understanding of what he was going to do with her?

Khan: Take her to Chico, possibly to where she lives, or to Home Depot is where we normally take people in that area.

Stover: Okay. So we're going to jump right into that.

Khan: Okay.

Stover: So, Home Depot. Is that your understanding of the general destination when you provide a courtesy transport from Oroville to Chico? It's to the Home Depot parking lot?

Khan: If they want to just go to Chico in general? Yes.

Stover: [redacted] PC 832.7

So, how often are we having issues in Oroville that we can't solve by either taking them to the jail, taking him to the hospital. How often are we solving problems by taking people from Oroville and dropping them off in Chico?

Khan: Not very often.

Stover: Can you put a number on it?

Khan: Shoot. I haven't taken anybody there in like the last four years probably.

Stover: Okay. So this is not an every week occurrence.

Khan: No.

Stover: Because they're trying to determine, like, if they need to come up with some kind of policy matrix as far as how to start to deal with this. If it's an every day problem or an every week problem, like they feel like they probably need to figure out some kind of solution.

But you don't think it is that prevalent?

Khan: No, no.

Stover: Okay. Alright. So do you remember if you specifically told you he was going to take her to a house in Chico, or if he was taking her to Home Depot?

Khan: I don't remember exactly where he said he was going, or where she requested to be

taken.

Stover: Okay. Alright, so then he takes her. Whatever occurred... Are you aware of what occurred on his way to Chico? Did he... He says when he got back to town he went and briefed you on what occurred. So what is your understanding of what occurred? If anything.

Khan: I remember it was a busy night. We were on a call. And he might have told me that, hey, I dropped her off somewhere. And I didn't think anything of it at the time, until like a month later when they asked me about it, and I was like, oh, shit.

Stover: Okay. So... Were you aware of her condition at the hospital? As far as no shoes, hardly any clothing on, no cell phone, no wallet, no purse, no ID, no possessions?

Khan: So the last time I remember what her condition was was when we got her from a Dollar General.

Stover: Okay.

Khan: And she was wearing a shirt and pants is from what I can remember. I'm not sure about the shoes. I didn't pay that close of attention.

Stover: Okay. So when officer Sasek gets back, he meets up with you on a call and says, hey, I dropped her off. But you don't actually recall where he said he dropped her off at?

Khan: I don't.

Stover: Okay. If he had told you -- I dropped her off up by the worm farm -- do you think you would've been, like, okay... Or would you have had more questions? Or...

Khan: I would have had more questions. I mean, Neal Rode, I thought that was closer to like the transient camps that... Now that I've looked into it by, like, States, that whole area there. That's where I was thinking it was at. That's only after they asked me about it.

But from the time that occurred to the time they asked me about it, I didn't think anything of it at all.

Stover: Were you aware of any other information? Were you aware that Butte County went out there the next morning because she allegedly was hit by a car, or that she was in the hospital? Any of that?

Khan: I wasn't aware of anything at all.

Stover: Okay. Alright. So... When he... There's some oddities in the way he behaved, in my opinion, okay, in what operationally seems normal to me. He provided some information that maybe it's not.

But when somebody transports a courtesy transport from here to Chico, and let's say they're going to go to the Home Depot parking lot...

Khan: Okay.

Stover: And they pull in the Home Depot parking lot, do they not get on the radio and say -- I

dropped the subject at Home Depot, this is my ending mileage. I'm backing out to the city.

Khan: So standard policy, yeah, you're supposed to say, hey, 1087, and NE mileage, whatever your NE mileage will be. And then, yeah, you're back around to the city.

But we've been having a lot of radio issues. Like, our radios are, are screwed. Sometimes got in and out, and you can't hear anything, you can't transmit from there. So unless you call, there's no radio in Chico.

Stover: Okay. And that's a known thing?

Khan: Oh yeah. Like, they're, everyone's aware of it.

Stover: Okay.

Khan: Yeah.

Stover: Alright. So to be fair, you said you don't really recall -- you remember him saying Neil Road, I guess, or that's where you believed he told you. Did he say anything about the fact that, dropped her off, she didn't have any shoes, didn't have a cell phone, had no way to take care of herself, as far as...

Khan: No.

Stover: Okay. Alright. Did he tell you anything about having issues with his phone? Having issues with RIMS?

Khan: No.

Stover: On a typical shift, how many times do you think you have to reboot your phone to get RIMS to work?

Khan: Oh, sometimes once or twice. I'm not sure if you guys are familiar with by RIMS. But like there's a thing called RICO. I don't even know what it stands for, but sometimes it loses the RICO server and you have to restart it. And then you can't log back in for... Sometimes it takes an hour to log back in, for some odd reason.

Stover: Okay.

Khan: But we have those issues with our mobile RIMS.

Stover: So the night of the incident when he comes back and tells you, when you stated it's busy, you're just... You're under the impression that he dropped her off somewhere near the homeless encampments there by Estates.

Khan: Yeah. I mean, I trust my guys, and I didn't really have any questions for him at the time, and we were busy. And that's exactly what I thought he was. He had dropped her off where she wanted to go, which was Neal Road I guess.

Lefdal: Okay. Alright. I'm going to ask you to kind of go back into memory banks here a little bit to that night.

Khan: Say that again?

Lefdal: I'm going to ask you to go back to the memory banks a little bit of that night, okay?

Khan: Okay.

Lefdal: So, just so that we can get the timeline figured out, and I'm going to help kind of try and jog your memory.

When was the first time that you became aware that she needed a ride from the hospital to get transported as a courtesy transport? Like, what happened there?

Khan: So, we got a call back to the... So we dropped her off at OMC I believe, if I remember properly. And then we got a call back over there that she was causing an issue from one of the security guards. And myself, Sasek, and... I think it was just us two, maybe. Went back over there. And I'm not sure how she ended up back by the cars, but it was... One of our old officers, Officer guard was there, and he said, hey, like, she's causing an issue here, you guys need to get her out of here.

And so when we asked her if she wanted to go to Chico, and then she said, yeah. So that's the time that I remember she wanted to go to Chico, and I gave Robert permission to take her to Chico.

Lefdal: And so you were there when she got in the patrol car?

Khan: Yeah.

Lefdal: Okay. Was she handcuffed?

Khan: I don't think so.

Lefdal: But you... Do you have [indistinct] and I realize we already asked this question. Do you have any recollection of what she was wearing when she got in that car?

Khan: Not from the hospital. I just remember her at Dollar General.

Lefdal: Okay. When she was taken into custody.

Khan: Right.

Lefdal: Okay. What was her demeanor when she got into the patrol car at the hospital? Do you remember?

Khan: I don't remember.

Lefdal: Okay. So, he loads her up. He takes her, you give him permission to do that, that's fine.

Some time goes by and he comes back into the city?

Khan: Yes he does.

Lefdal: Okay. And did he... How did you become aware that he came back into the city, back into

his beat?

Khan: So, he was coming back, and we had a fire at Highway 70, in Ordem. And I believe I gave him permission to go code 3 to the fire from wherever he said it was back in the city limits. I'm not sure where he was at at that time. But he had radio communication at that time. And I think he gave his like total mileage or something at that time. And then yeah, I sent him to the fire.

Lefdal: Okay. So he goes [indistinct] back in the city. There's a fire on Highway 70 at Ordem. You give him permission to roll code to that fire.

Khan: I think that's what happened. Yeah.

Lefdal: Okay. And then at that time he acknowledges that you give him permission, and then he gives his mileage?

Khan: Ah, I think the mileage stuff happened before.

Lefdal: But in the same transmission? Or not?

Khan: I couldn't 100% say.

Lefdal: Fair enough.

Khan: And it's all recorded. I think we can listen to it if you need to.

Lefdal: Were you at that fire?

Khan: I wasn't.

Lefdal: Okay. Do you remember what call you were on?

Khan: Yeah, I was right here behind the PD. Someone... We saw the brake lights flashing out one of the vehicles back here. Like, Mount Enterprises, and we thought someone was breaking in there, so we had to clear the whole yard, and it was just me. I think I waited for officer Herrera to show up, and we did that. We were dealing with that while he was over there at the fire.

Lefdal: Okay. At what point did he meet, Sasek meet up with you? And...

Khan: So that's what I don't remember. I don't exactly remember when he told me that... If he says he did, he did. I believe him 100%, he's an honest dude. I just don't remember when he told me that he dropped her off at Neal Road.

Lefdal: So you don't have independent recollection of you guys doing a face to face, and him telling you what happened?

Khan: I don't.

Lefdal: But at some point you come to the knowledge, you come in possession of the knowledge that he dropped her off at Neal Road?

Khan: Yeah.

Lefdal: But you don't know whether it would be a radio, cell phone, in person?

Khan: No.

Lefdal: Okay. Do you recall ever having a time on that patrol on that shift where you're going, gee, Robert has been gone for a while, or, where's my officer? Or thinking anything along those lines? Like... I haven't heard from him.

Khan: Are you referring to when you went to drop her off?

Lefdal: Yes. Sure.

Khan: It didn't take that long.

Lefdal: Okay. Did anything click with you when he gave his total mileage over the radio when he got back to town? Did anyone... Did anything click in your, in your mind going -- that doesn't make much sense, because I didn't hear him say anything before.

Khan: I did not. No.

Lefdal: Okay. Looking back, would it have?

Khan: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, it definitely would have.

Lefdal: Okay. In what way?

Khan: I think in my part I should have been paying more attention, not did a... I should have paid more attention to what he said on the radio, and why he didn't go 97 where he went, to where he dropped her off at. But like I said, it was busy, so I don't... I mean, I blame myself a lot too.

Lefdal: When you say it was busy, give me a brief description. Like, were you called a call that night?

Khan: We had quite a few calls. Yeah.

Lefdal: Okay. And do you remember how many officers were on shift that you were supervising? Including MLE's.

Khan: Just officer Herrera and officer Sasek, that's all.

Lefdal: Okay. So no MLE's or anything like that?

Khan: No.

Lefdal: Okay. So when you were on shift, were you the highest ranking officer that night?

Khan: I was.

Lefdal: Are you also in charge of dispatch?

Khan: Yes.

Lefdal: Okay. How many people were in dispatch?

Khan: One to two.

Lefdal: Okay. And you recall it just being busy?

Khan: Yes.

Lefdal: That's all I've got, Mike. I'll give it back to you if you've got anything.

Stover: So you say that he's an honest guy and that if he says he said that that you believe him?

Khan: Mhm.

Stover: But you told me you kind of had the feeling like he dropped her off closer to Estates drive by the homeless encampments.

That thought process, was that based on what he told you that night, when he said Neal Road? And like how did you come to the conclusion there?

Khan: So I thought Neil Road was a lot closer to Estates Drive. That's just me thinking. I'm not... I mean, if he said Neil road, I didn't think Neil road was that far away from Estates. But that's just my... That's just how I thought of it at the time.

Stover: I realize nobody wants to get anybody else in trouble. Right? But like, as his supervisor, do you feel like perhaps maybe he minimized some of the circumstances of this when telling you what happened? Or... Are you the kind of supervisor that when somebody comes to and says, hey, I did this, you ask them follow up questions. Like...

I feel like he... I feel like if he had come to you and told you the entire circumstances of surrounding why she was there, and where he actually dropped her off, that you may have taken some action.

Khan: So, yeah. Ready for my answer?

Stover: Yes, please.

Khan: Okay. So, yeah, if I'd have known that he dropped off over there, I'd have told to go, go look for her, pick her back up.

But... Can you repeat your question again? Sorry.

Stover: So, my thing is, is do you think he gave you... Do you think he was truthful with you? But gave you one tenth of the circumstances? Or do you feel like maybe you didn't interpret what he was trying to tell you?

Khan: I just don't remember exactly when he told me what he told me that day. I just remember Neil road and I didn't think anything of it at the time.

Stover: Okay. But if he had told you -- I dumped her off in the dark by the worm farm, with no shoes, no cell phone, up by the dump, and then I left her on the side of the road -- would that have changed you think the way you dealt with it that night?

Khan: Oh, yeah. I'd of told him to go pick her up.

Stover: Sure.

Lefdal: Have you been out there, Ali?

Khan: To?

Lefdal: By the worm farm?

Khan: I've been to the dump. I'm... I don't know about no worm farm.

Lefdal: How about at night? Have you ever been up Neal Road towards the, from highway 99 to the landfill at night?

Khan: No. Just like 99, I drove down 99 [indistinct]

Lefdal: Okay.

Stover: And he didn't tell you like, she started screaming at me -- I want out of the car, drop me off -- and he felt like he was going to be in violation of law for kidnapping, for keeping her in the car...

Khan: No.

Stover: So none of that strikes a...

Khan: No.

Stover: Like, oh yeah, I remember that now. No?

Khan: No.

Stover: Yeah. Okay.

Lefdal: Is it your, for lack of a better term, testimony that he didn't tell you that? Or that you don't recall him telling you that?

Khan: I just don't recall.

Lefdal: Do you feel that you would recall something like that had he said it?

Khan: Depending on what we're doing, probably.

Stover: Because... Some of the compounding factors are here. We turned our phone off. By "we" I mean Officer Sasek. He rebooted RIMS in the parking lot of the hospital. Starts to drive away. It's rebooting up. He doesn't log back in. So I have no GPS tags. He doesn't run his body worn camera. He doesn't give any of his info over the radio. Like, it just seems like

there were a lot of things going on that he should have told you. Right?

Khan: Right.

Stover: Like, you know... And I don't know if maybe that's not the culture here? That, don't bother the Sergeant with that stuff.

But I feel like if he had given you a few more slivers of information, you could have made a command and control decision that may have resulted in this entire circumstance not have happened.

Khan: Right.

Stover: Okay. But he's also a brand new cop that probably doesn't get it.

Khan: Inexperience.

Stover: He might now. But... Okay, I don't really have any other questions for you.

Lefdal: Neither do I.

Stover: Going to go off the record now.