Interview with Isaac Herrera

1/8/2025

0:02
OK.

0:03
Today's date is January 8th, 2025.

0:06
It's approximately 11:28 AM.

0:09
My name is Scott Baland.

0:11
I'm a law enforcement consultant with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training POST.

0:15
And the purpose of our meeting today is to talk to you about the facts and circumstances involving an investigation into alleged serious misconduct in violation of Penal Code section 13510.8, Subsection 1, which is dishonesty, and subsection 6, which is acts that violate the law against Orrville.

0:38
Former Oroville Police Department officer Robert Sasek, POST case number 231-8309.

0:47
You are not the subject of the allegations.

0:52
You were given notice.

0:53
And we set up this interview at last week on January 3rd.

0:57
This interview is being recorded and statements you make here may be used by post in connection with its duties.

1:04
The recording helps us to ensure that all of your statements are completely and accurately transcribed and is authorized by Commission Regulation Title 11, Section 12, O six of the California Code of Regulation.

1:18

4:35
So if you want to start off with the Dollar General, then go ahead and do that.

4:38
Yeah.

4:39
So what led up to the Oroville medical call was initial call that Robert Sasek Oroville 33 was dispatched to AI think trespassing at Dollar General in Oroville and we had went because we it's a small town and we usually ride all ride together.

5:01
It's only a Sergeant and two officers on.

5:05
So we all go together at Dollar General.

5:07
We're all in our separate vehicles and I guess some lady, Dana **** had buried herself underneath these silver roll out carts that has merchandise that I think they roll out to the aisles to stock the shelves.

5:23
But she was like super deep in there.

5:26
And so we're in there and we're, like, carting out all these carts into the store, like flooding the store with the carts.

5:35
And she was really deep in there.

5:36
And we don't know how she, like, got underneath this silver carts, like almost get in underneath the sedan, how short the height clearance is.

5:47
And Roberts Sasek, how do you know even how to take off his vest and, like, get underneath and tell her finally to get out?

5:54
So it was a little bit humorous.

5:56
Some of the workers were making, you know, jokes.

5:59
Oroville's pretty known for, you know, meth users and tweakers.

6:04
So it was Robert's call.

6:06
So he was the point on it.

6:08
And so he was spearheading everything.

6:10
He, you know, put the cuffs on her.

6:12
He he did the 10, you know, took the 10:15 to the jail.

6:16
And then from my understanding, he had taken her to the jail and then she required a medical clearance.

6:22
So from there, Robert Sasek took her to the Oroville ER and I believe [redacted], who used to be employed with Oroville Police Department, was now since retired from law enforcement, is now working security at the hospital.

6:38
So Robert took at that time, me and me and Sergeant Khan are, you know, we're 10-8 and we're handling calls why Officer Sasek is dealing with his arrestee.

6:51
So from my understanding, medical clearance was required at the jail.

6:56
He took her to the Oroville hospital, I believe, checked in with [redacted] at the hospital, like, hey, we need medical clearance.

7:04
And I believe he cited her out at that time.

7:08
OK, so so then he knew what was, was the initial Dollar General, I'm assuming it was a trespassing 1015 arrest.

12:35
And I believe since Sec. Guard was prior OPD contacted Sasek either on his personal line or I'm, I thought I can, I think I can recall he called contacted Sasek on his personal line or he used dispatch.

12:54
So I hear it on the radio that 33 is back at the hospital.

13:01
And at this time I believe I was getting Arby's for my household.

13:05
You know, I would have had some time to get some food for the for the fam.

13:08
And then I had pulled up at the back of the hospital since Con ended up, you know, dispatching that he was over there.

13:17
And so I had pulled up at the hospital after that, after Sec. Guard had called, requested SAS to come back to address his arrestee or the female that he left there.

13:28
OK, So when you got there, and I I've read your your previous statement that you gave to the other investigators, the employee investigative services.

13:36
So correct me if I'm wrong, but you get there.

13:40
She's already, Khan's already there.

13:42
Sasek's already there.

13:44
She's already in the back of Sasek's car at that point that by the time you arrive.

13:48
Do you remember?

13:49
I didn't.

13:50
Yeah.

13:50
So Sasek and Khan, Sergeant Khan were outside of their vehicles and they're out.

13:55
And I had pulled up in my patrol vehicle and I didn't get out.

13:58
I had, they both came up to my window and I believe she was already in the back of Sasek's car because Sasek was at my window, my car window.

14:08
OK, so and then so you don't know if she was handcuffed at this point or not?

14:15
No, like I said, I had pulled up.

14:17
They were already out and they had, you know, gravitated towards my window because I had just, you know, pulled up and rolled down my window.

14:24
And I don't know if 

was outside standing with the the female or for my understanding, since Sasek was at my window, she was already secured in the back of his car.

14:36
And just, I guess generally speaking, in a in a call like this, because obviously you didn't see it, but would your assumption have been that she was handcuffed if she if she was in the back of his car?

14:48
And based on the call and the previous call saves assumption to say if she was in the back of the car, she might have been in handcuffs or she at least should have been in handcuffs.

14:59
Yeah.

14:59
OK.

15:00
And then.

15:01
So then at this point, Khan and Sasek are at your window?

15:07
Yes.

15:08
Is this where there was a conversation about what to do with her?

15:12
Yeah.

15:12
So take her to Chico or whatever.

15:14
Go ahead and explain that.

15:16
So, I mean, it's September 1st.

15:18
I believe it's a Thursday.

15:20
Either we're at the end of our work week or we have to work the next night.

15:24
At this point.

15:25
Sasek, you know, I, I, I think in my interview with investigators, I, it, it was a safe, you know, to assume, like maybe Sasek was, you know, frustrated over this whole call.

15:35
You know, he, he's dealing with her.

15:37
He had to take his vest off and get her out from under all those carts, go to the jail, get denied, go to the hospital, side her out, get back to the hospital.

15:47
And now he, you know, I think he was kind of frustrated over the whole situation.

15:53
And he's like, well, I'm going to take her home to Chico 'cause I guess she had a Chico address.

15:57
But he was like, I don't want to go all the way to Chico.

16:00

And you know, I made a, a crude joke in poor taste at the time, which I didn't think anything was going to happen to that extent.

16:10
But since he had said, you know, we're at my window and you know, we're, you know, even though we're not a necessary like at a call, call for service, you know, we're all at my window.

16:21
No, no body cams are rolling.

16:22
And then he made that comment.

16:25
And I'd say, you know, why don't you drop her off at Neal Rd.?

16:28
Because Neal Rd.

16:29
is a light and then like a mile and 1/2 or two miles is the Welcome to Chico sign.

16:35
So I had made that joke saying, yeah, well, that's you don't want to go all the way to Chico, drop her off on Neal Road.

16:39
That's Chico.

16:40
And at the time, you know, we're a pretty nice little close knit group.

16:46
And you know, you work with the the public, the the worst of the public and you know, there's jokes that are made and kind of conversations had that isn't probably not acceptable in the public side.

17:01
But when you work with the the worst of the worst, you know, you kind of make light of situations and stuff like that.

17:08
And you know, like I said, I made a crude joke in poor taste.

17:11
And yeah, so I did say that.

17:15
And, you know, it's caused a whirlwind of trouble for a lot of people.

17:19
And so when you make this comment or joke and they're at your window, what kind of reaction did you get from Khan and Sasek?

17:31
You know, verbal and or non verbal?

17:34
You know what?

17:35
Khan's a Sergeant at the time.

17:37
Sasek, you know, was just kind of just, you know, kind of, you know, just showing frustration over the situation.

17:46
And, you know, Khan just shrugged his shoulders, like, hey, just get her to Chico.

17:49
You know, like, I don't give a shit.

17:51
Get her to Chico.

17:52
Like I this is what I Khan did, You know, he said, yeah, you know, he was supposed to take you Chico because she had a Chico address.

17:59
At least to my understanding, he was taking her to Chico because she had a Chico address either on file or her 27.

18:07
So but given their close proximity, there's is there any chance that they didn't hear you make that statement?

18:15
Because I find it, I find it kind of hard that they wouldn't have heard it.

18:19
No, they definitely heard it.

20:37
So like within a foot of you, right or so less than less than a foot.

20:42
Yeah, OK.

20:43
And and you're speaking normal conversation volume, tone.

20:47
Yeah, absolutely.

20:49
And no, he knew I said that.

20:52
And the reason why I heard he said he allegedly dropped her off at Neal Rd.

20:59
is because she's Complainant

21:03
When his his 1014 at this time, his transport was started to either wig out or request to get off at Neal Rd.

21:16
She started like either like wigging out or requesting heavily to get dropped off right there.

21:23
So he said he had dropped her off up the street from 99 and Neal Rd.

21:29
I believe.

21:30
OK.

21:31
And then and obviously I know you've probably heard because of just everything that's going on, whatever in the papers or just sword of mouth talking to them, that Officer Sasek had turned off his RIMS or try to reset his RIMS right at the point didn't have obviously, as you mentioned, no body cams on.

21:53
So as you can, as you can imagine, 'cause I know you're not, you're a smart guy, did on the, on its face, it looks really bad.

22:02
It looks like it looks like he purposely turned off his RIMS.

22:07
He purposely did not activate his body Cam, you know, that sort of thing.

22:12
So I wanted to get into the RIMS because I don't have that system, but I'm assuming or I didn't work with that system.

22:18
It's a cell phone based system.

22:20
Is that correct?

22:21
And it's your radio and GPS, right?

22:24
I believe the RIMS is a, it's an application or computer program where we do, you know, reports and everything.

22:32
And we had department issued iPhones that also has, you know, I believe RIMS and Active 911 on it.

22:40
So that is what you're referencing to.

22:46
But each officer had their own personal department issued cell phone.

22:51
And then is there also a actual radio in the car, handheld mic and all that, that you use?

22:56
Well, you have your handheld on your vest and then you have your car radio.

23:01
They are.

23:01
So those are independent of RIMS.

23:02
They're not linked with it.

23:04
OK.

23:06
And I know if you cue your mic on dispatch, it shows whose radio it is.

23:11
OK, At least my understanding.

23:13
So on this date, I mean, I'm I'm asking you to remember back, but do you recall you or him having any issues with RIMS or radio communications at all?

23:25
No

OK.

23:26
So, and if if you were like say you were having problems or, or maybe just generally as OPD, if you're having problems with your radio or RIMS, what's, what's the protocol?

23:38
Do you, do you notify a Sergeant?

23:40
Do you go back to the office and switch, you know, phones, cars, whatever, what's the process?

23:47
So RIMS, you know, I don't think there's never really no issues with RIMS.

23:52
The only issues with radios I ever had is your battery.

23:57
But if you're having issues either with your, you know, your, you know, your little extension.

24:03
Yeah, either switch it out, but if you're having issues, check in with your Sergeant and get it switched immediately because you don't know what the next call is going to be.

So in, in his interview, Officer Sase says that he was having problems with RIMS, but he put out his starting mileage and en route to an unknown address to Chico.

27:05
But then that's when everything gets shut off.

27:07
He, he says he restarts RIMS, but everything's shut off.

27:11
You know, whatever happens, happens.

27:12
He goes out to Neal Road, drops her, but he doesn't provide an ending mileage on the radio, doesn't utilize a cell phone to call dispatch, which I would assume could be a backup.

27:25
He doesn't.

27:25
He waits until he gets back into the city limits of Oroville, turns everything back on and then provides what his mileage is at that time, not what the ending mileage was and just says any mileage, you know.

27:36
And I think he might have said dropped off at Neal Road or something, but I don't know.

27:40
I'd have to go back and look.

27:41
But so based on what you mentioned, first of all, there shouldn't have really been an issue with RIMS.

27:48
There's other radio, you know, you can he could have switched to a different the gold or whatever you mentioned and or utilized his cell phone, right to provide the the required information to to protect himself personal or work work phone.

28:05
Yeah.

28:06
And then somebody else had mentioned, Mr.

28:10
[redacted] had mentioned that there was also the, the ability to contact Chico PD and provide info.

28:17
So he's like, even if my radio wasn't working very well for Oroville, I could switch, call Chico PD and just say, hey, I'm having radio issues.

28:24
This is Oroville 32.

28:26
I have I'm dropping off a transport and this is my, that way it's documented somewhere.

28:32
Is that that that sounds familiar to you?

28:35
Yeah.

28:35
He's a 20 year vet Army guy.

28:38
So yeah, he's yeah, that was definitely an option.

28:40
I wouldn't think of that, but that's definitely an option.

28:43
OK, so let me see.

28:46
So I, I went back because I know Sasek said he had been having RIMS problems and mentioned like spotty or radio coverage.

28:55
So I went back just to look like, because I think he mentioned like, well, it depends on the weather, wind, you know, some of that stuff can affect radio.

29:02
And I know with CHP that happens.

29:04
Yeah, that's true.

29:05
Yeah.

29:05
On on that date, I just went back and searched on Google.

29:08
But on that date there was really nothing that showed inclement weather.

29:13
It was a hot day.

29:14
It was like over 100°.

29:16
So.

29:16
And it was, you know, early September, so summer day, I'm assuming.

29:19
Yeah, August is still a planet factor.

29:22
So I didn't, I didn't see anywhere where I could have seen like rain or wind as being a factor.

29:28
But you don't recall having any issues that day?

29:30
You said no.

29:32
And even, you know, if I drive a female or even like a juvenile, I have my body Cam up front because.

29:38
Yeah, no, well, that was, that's another question I have is and CHP, it's kind of a little bit behind the times on body cams, but I understand the purpose of it is, you know, like basically any contact with a citizen, I would turn it on because it's going to protect me more often than not, you know, because it's going to record what this individual's doing that, you know, in the prior to that it was just my word versus theirs.

30:06
Now I have it documented so is because I know Officer Sasesk said he did not activate it basically on he might have had it on the Dollar General call, I can't remember.

30:16
But when he had to respond back to the hospital, he did not.

30:20
And to me that should have been a call that I would have activated on.

30:23
You're, you're going in, you're physically putting hands on somebody, you're taking, putting them in handcuffs, put them in your car.

30:29
To me that equals body Cam on.

30:31
Does that sound about right?

30:32
Like, would you have had your body Cam on?

30:35
Yeah.

30:35
Especially after already allegedly citing her out and then now transferring her to Chico.

30:42
Yeah.

30:43
And then cuz at any point during that transport, even if he didn't have it on when she started, you know, like changing her demeanor, he could have hit the button and turned it on.

30:52
Correct.

30:53
Right.

30:54
Especially if you're out of town.

30:56
Radio's failing body cams operatable.

31:00
Yeah, and I'm, I'm just reading over some of my questions because I, I know you've answered some of them, so I don't want to go back over them.

31:12
If you were having issues with any of your systems, what what was your secondary method to communicate with Co workers in dispatch?

31:18
Was it cell phone or like changing radio frequencies?

31:24
You can, yeah.

31:25
Changing.

31:26
You know, you have your handheld and then you have your car radio.

31:29
And both of them are the same system.

31:31
And you can either switch to gold or silver.

31:34
And, you know, you have your personal cell phone.

31:38
You have your work cell phone and two radios.

31:42
So that's four different methods of communications.

31:46
Yeah.

31:48
OK.

31:49
And then at what point did you learn that Officer Sasek had, in fact, dropped her off on Neal Road?

31:58
It might have been.

31:59
It might have been when he came back or at the end of the shift.

32:04
And yeah, it was definitely either when he got back or at the end of the shift.

32:10
And then what did what was that conversation like?

32:15
It was either like brief, like he just, you know, said, yeah, he dropped her off over there and she started, you know, wigging out and he dropped her off.

32:24
And that was that.

32:27
What was your reaction to him dropping her off on Neal Road?

32:32
I knew it wasn't good.

32:34
I knew.

32:34
I think I either told at that time I, you know, I think I told my mom about it.

32:39
And because she says, yeah, I remember you like told me and you were shaking your head like, I don't know, like I wasn't smart.

32:45
You know, I knew it wasn't good.

32:48
And I thought, you know, somewhere in the back of my mind I was like, this is going to come back and bite everybody or something.

32:55
And did you did you have a conversation with him about that?

32:58
No, to say like to voice your concerns or no?

33:03
Well, no, I didn't have the conversation. We actually really started talking about it is when everything hit the newspapers back in March of 23.

33:09
And he knew what I said cuz I was like, dude, you know, I was like, I said what I said I didn't know you're he's like, no, I know.

33:16
But she started, you know, wigging out and requesting that I get her out of the car right now.

33:21
I don't know if she heard Neal Road and you know, focusing on that cuz she was 11550, you know, under the influence still.

33:28
Or maybe you know, peek in and going up and down, you know.

33:34
But we talked about it definitely all three of us when the lawsuit came out in the newspaper and they named Khan, they named Sasek.

33:41
And initially then my name was not involved, but I knew quickly people can easily get that information sure enough.

33:48
And then my name got, you know, attached to it and the news.

33:52
And then, you know, I don't know, my, my name got painted pretty heavily in bold letters all over that.

34:00
Yeah.

34:00
And yeah.

34:01
So.

34:02
So do you think, I mean, I, I think I know the answer, but do you think it was appropriate to drop him off, drop her off on Neal Road?

34:14
Not at all.

34:15
Because.

34:17
And obviously you, you saw her at the Dollar General.

34:19
But the assumption or what I've heard is that she's either under the influence of methamphetamine or something similar, or some CNS stimulant or, and/or having mental health issues.

34:35
She wasn't wearing shoes, she didn't have a cell phone.

34:38
And now she's dropped.

34:41
And I'm, I'm not familiar with Neal Rd.

34:42
I've only looked at it, but it looks relatively desolate.

34:45
And yeah, there's just that.

34:48
And where she was, he said he dropped her off near the warm farm.

34:52
She put it more near the dump and the construction site.

34:55
Regardless, it it was about 1/2 mile to a mile down Neal Rd.

35:00
In the evening with those other factors in like the shoes, the no cell phone, no, no means of communicating.

35:06
And then you know he goes, you know, he leaves the scene.

35:09
So in your experience was that was that appropriate for him to do that?

35:15
No, not at all.

50:35
OK.

50:36
Which, Yeah, OK.

50:38
All right.

50:39
Trying to think.

50:41
I don't think I have any other questions.

50:51
Just looking back over my questions here to make sure I didn't miss any.

50:53
But I guess I'll, I'll just close it out with do you think there was any maliciousness, I guess on Officer Sasek's part, knowing what you know, now I to drop her out there.

51:13
I know Sasek, you know, I don't think there was no malicious intent at all.

51:19
You know, I know he's a he's a wrestler, he's an army dude.

51:23
He's a father of four boys.

51:26
I don't think he had any ill will or malicious intent at all.

51:31
I I, I can say that truthfully.

51:34
Did he did he make the brightest decision?

51:37
Is he the smartest, you know, rock in the field?

51:40
I don't.

51:40
Maybe not, but you know, it's just a bad situation for everybody And but I can definitely say there is no ill will or malicious intent.

51:53
I could definitely say that.

51:56
But in your opinion, it could have been handled a much better way.

52:01
Absolutely, absolutely, absolutely.

52:03
He could either because the jail, I think, I guess to kind of touch on one of your questions, the jail gives you a piece of paper of what they want done for the medical clearance.

52:13
And all you have to do is go to the ER, get it done, get them sign off and take them back.

52:18
And the jail has no other issue besides.

52:20
OK, I took what you wanted me to take care of.

52:24
Here you go.

52:26
So, yeah.

52:28
And besides this, besides this date, September 1st, is is complainant like somebody that's known to you guys?

52:37
Is she a problem person?

52:38
Do you guys OK?

52:39
I just wanted to make sure she's not somebody you guys routinely deal with.