Interview with [redacted]

1/8/2025

0:00
Ahead and get started.

0:02
OK, today is January 8th, 2025.

0:06
It's approximately 9:58 AM.

0:09
My name is Scott Baland.

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

0:16
The purpose of of our meeting today is to talk to you about the facts and circumstances involving an investigation into serious alleged serious misconduct in violation of Penal Code section 13510.8, subsection one, which is dishonesty and subsection 6 which is acts that violate the law.

0:37
You are not the subject of the allegations and this is against Oroville Police Department Officer Robert Sasek.

0:45
And regarding POST case number 231-8309, you were given notice and we set up this investigate investigatory interview on January 3rd.

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

1:03
And the recording helps us to ensure that all of your statements are completely and accurately transcribed as authorized by Commission Regulation Title 11, Section 12, O Six of the California Code of Regulations.

1:17
You will have access to a copy of the recording if future proceedings are contemplated or if further interview of you occurs.

5:13
I was a detective slash OIC, OK, officer in charge.

5:19
Yep.

5:20
OK.

5:22
In your, you were previously interviewed by Employer Investigative Services, EIS regarding this matter and I wanted to ask some questions after reading the summary of that.

5:35
I had some questions on it.

5:36
In your previous interview, it mentioned that you were a narcotics expert, Yes.

5:43
Were you or how were you certified as an expert?

5:46
Was that ever done by a court or were you, I know with CHP, I was certified as an expert in traffic collision investigation by the court.

5:54
So did you have something similar?

5:56
Yeah, I was, it was a a homicide case where I was deemed an expert and being under the influence and the production, manufacturing and sales of methamphetamine.

6:10
OK.

6:10
And were you a DRE, A drug recognition expert?

6:14
Never went to DRE school, just everything through narcotics investigations.

6:19
But and how long, how long would you say you worked under like the narcotics umbrella?

7:40
OK.

7:41
And yeah, I was going to mention Officer Herrera being there as well.

7:46
So on, on that date that I asked you about, on September 1st, 2022, Officer Sasek responded to Orville Medical Center with an in custody, a female in custody and then essentially proceeded to site and release her to the hospital.

8:07
Or do you recall that incident?

8:08
Yep.

8:09
OK.

8:10
Were you present at the time he cited and released her or did you have any discussion prior to?

8:16
Nope.

8:16
I was, I saw him pull up in the parking lot because I usually worked all the security for the emergency room.

8:25
OK, And he parked out, he parked up outside the ramp for the emergency room.

8:30
So I just walked out there to talk with him, see what was going on.

8:33
And he was like, I got an in custody and he was writing her out of citation.

8:40
Did he say why or why he was at the hospital?

8:43
Do you know why he was at the hospital instead of the jail?

8:46
If memory serves me correct, he took her to jail and she couldn't clear medical.

8:53
OK.

8:53
And so then he was sent to Oroville Medical Center to get a book clearance for books.

8:57
Did he ever make a statement as to why he wasn't why he was suddenly releasing her and not getting her cleared for booking to you?

9:07
He may have.

9:08
It's been so long.

9:09
I don't, I don't really remember if he directly addressed that issue or not.

9:15
OK, I, I know, I know we had as I know when he when when she signed the promise to appear, he released her and told her to go into the emergency room and seek help.

9:31
OK.

9:32
She walked over to the emergency room.

9:36
Then she didn't go inside the door and she started kind of wandering around the parking lot.

9:42
And I was like, listen, dude, you can't, you can't just drop you're in custody's off here.

9:47
She's she either needs to go inside and be seen or she needs to get out of here.

9:52
And he's like, well, I'll go talk to her.

9:54

So he got in his car and he drove down because she'd gone down to the lower parking lot and he basically, he basically told her to beat feet OK and then he then he left the scene.

10:05
Did he or did you have a conversation with him after he told her to leave?

10:09
No, he left scene.

10:10
OK, And then what happened?

10:15
I, I kind of got an idea what happened after he left and she was still there.

10:19
But in your words, kind of what did she do?

10:21
And and we're referring to compl which was his in custody, but I don't know if you knew her name or even had contact with her other than that, right.

10:30
Actually, that's the question I do have, is she was in the car the whole time or was she outside the car at that point signing the sudden release when he was filling out the site?

10:41
She was sitting in the back seat.

10:43
He had to pull her out, unhandcuffed her, had her son that promised to appear and then released her on to on her own.

10:54
And what was you said you did 20 years with in law enforcement for at Alturas, so 16 at Oroville Police Department?

11:04
Yeah.

11:05
Would it be safe to say you're fairly familiar with their policies and procedures up to the point that you retired, at least assuming that nothing changed after that?

11:14
Yep.

13:49
Right.

13:49
But he didn't.

13:51
I don't remember if he did or not.

13:53
OK, I, I know, I, I know that I so she arrived back at the hospital later and I kind of had a physical altercation with her.

14:06
And I called him on the phone and I said, hey, you need to come get her and take her to jail now.

14:14
And they showed back up.

14:17
He took her in custody, put her in the back of the car.

14:20
And when they left, I thought she was going to jail.

14:24
And that's these are actually a lot of my follow up questions.

14:28
So when when you called him back on the phone and when he re arrived to to address compl because and reading the summary before and correct me if I'm wrong, but she became a disturbance at the hospital.

14:43
She was trying to access some employee only areas.

14:47
Is that correct?

14:53
And except for the emergency room is open and there's a section of the hospital where you go and get X-rays and ultrasounds and stuff, and then the area of the hospital where the lab is at where they test and process all the blood samples, urine.

15:33
Through a double door employee entrance that goes right into that section.

15:39
So she was wandering and I, I, I saw her wandering back there and she was trying to open office doors that were locked because the, you know, everybody was at home for the day except for like the X-ray.

15:53
And then she I told her she had to leave.

15:59
She started taking off.

16:00
I followed her and she went into an employee bathroom and locked the door.

16:05
And is that the point that you called Officer Sasek back?

16:08
Yep.

16:09
OK.

16:10
When, when he arrived back on scene, was it, I know at some point Sergeant Khan arrived with him, but did they arrive together or was Officer Sasek there before Sergeant Khan?

16:21
If you're right, Well, it it would, it took a little bit.

16:27
I had threatened to, I had a key for that rest.

16:30
I had a keys for like most of the doors to the hospital.

16:33
And I told her she didn't come out.

16:35
I was coming in and grabbing and she opened the door and I, I physically grabbed her and had to pull her out of the hospital.

16:44
And when I got her out of the hospital, she was just making all kinds of crazy statements and she ran and got underneath, right outside that door where there's a couple of MRI like fifth wheel trailers that they do MRIs in.

17:00
OK.

17:02
She crawled underneath one of those and I'm like, well, I'm not going under there after her.

17:07
The cops are on the way.

17:09
I'll let, I'll let them do what they're paid to do.

17:12
I sat there, I think Sasek showed up and we got her out from underneath the trailer.

17:18
And then Khan and Isaac showed up shortly after, and I don't remember at which order they showed up.

When you guys got her out from underneath the trailer, you mentioned that she was handcuffed.

17:34
Can you...do you remember what was?

17:36
Did Sasek seem frustrated with her at all during this?

17:44
I mean, yeah, he was irritated because, yeah, he was dealing with her again.

17:49
I, I don't know if, I don't know if frustrated would really been the word that I, that I used, that I know that they were just doing whatever, not to take her to jail.

18:03
They were, yeah.

18:03
They were asking, hey, do you want to go to Chico?

18:06
You want, you know, and I'm like, what?

18:10
I was like, dude, you like whatever you guys do what you're going to do.

18:13
And yeah.

18:15
And then so she's handcuffed, walked back to his patrol car.

18:20
Is she put it in the back seat, I'm assuming?

Yep

Do you remember in the back seat?

18:25
Our, our I know CHP has some non-caged cars, but are Oroville cars all caged cars?

Yes

18:32
And so she was put in the back seat?

Yep

18:35
And to your knowledge, she was still handcuffed, I believe.

18:38
Yeah, I believe once you got out of the trailer, she was put in handcuffs.

18:44
But I couldn't be 100% on that anymore.

18:48
But I do believe she was.

18:50
OK.

18:52
But in your opinion, as a former police officer, would you say she was in custody at this point?

18:59
Oh, yeah.

19:00
OK.

19:01
I mean, she was not.

19:03
She wasn't free to leave.

19:05
Yeah.

19:05
By any stretch of the imagination.

19:09
And so she's in the back of the car now.

19:13
Sergeant Khan's on scene, Officer Herrera's on scene.

19:16
Do you remember if Officer Herrera was out of his car physically or was he in his patrol car because I there's my next question.

19:26
There's a meeting that occurs.

19:29
And my understanding is that Officer Herrera never got out of his patrol car.

19:32
But I'm just wondering if you ever had any independent knowledge of him being out of his patrol car?

19:43
I want to say he did get out of this patrol car, but I can't be 100%.

19:51
I know he was there and I know he was and I know he was.

19:58
Part of the conversation is what we were going to do with it, but I don't, or what they were going to do, but I don't remember.

20:05

If we were just like around the door of his patrol car or if he, I, I just, I'm sorry, but I just don't remember.

20:12
Would it, would it be, or maybe you can explain whether or not he, if he's in his patrol car or not.

20:18
How closely were you guys together like you, Officer Sasek, Khan and Herrera?

20:24
Like what would be the distance between the four of you?

20:28
I don't know, maybe maybe 20 feet.

20:30
I mean, if he stayed in his car, I could have spoke at a normal volume and you would have heard me.

20:36
You know, it wasn't that far at all.

20:38
And the area where they were parked, it's the area where like the ambulances pull in and stuff.

20:47
So it's not like it's a it's not a parking lot, but it's not a real cramped, cramped space either.

20:53
OK.

20:54
And you were present and you remembered hearing the conversation about what they're going to do with their take her to Chico, That that kind of thing.

21:03
Yeah, at some point in Officer Herrera's interview and his testimony, he states that he made a comment that Officer Sasek should just drop compl off on at Neal Rd.

21:17
at the dump.

21:18
And I know in your previous interview you weren't 100% that you heard that.

21:23

And I'm just going to confirm whether or not you remember anything being said about Officer Sasek dropping her off somewhere other than Chico potentially.

21:33
To my recollection, all I remember is that they were, they, they were talking about take her to taking her to Chico.

21:42
They asked her if she wanted to go to Chico because that apparently is where her residency is at.

21:51
And when they left, my assumption was that she's going to jail or she's going to Chico and I, and if that comment was made out of my earshot or right when I wasn't standing there, I don't know.

22:10
But if that comment was made, I couldn't, I couldn't imagine it being a, a serious comment, if you get what I'm saying.

22:25
But I don't, I don't ever remember that comment being made.

22:28
OK.

22:29
And then let's see, trying to do you think it's you said it was a joke and obviously Officer Herrera said he said it.

22:46
Do you think because of the way the conversation was occurring, do you think it's there's some probability that Officer Sasek and or Sergeant Khan could have heard that comment about Neal Road or just based on their proximity to where the conversation was happening, if the statement was made, do you think they heard it?

23:09
I mean, yeah, I guess.

23:11
I mean, I didn't hear it, you know, or if, or if I heard it, it, this isn't an excuse, but you know what our sense of humor is like, you know, And so it, I think if I did hear it, it didn't really get ingrained in my mind because I probably wouldn't have thought that that was a serious comment.

23:40
I've, I've supervised and worked with Isaac where I I would never imagine that Isaac would just drop somebody off on a deserted, completely dark.

hearing it, he, he thought Neal Rd. was around that area, which I'm interviewing him later and I'll, I'll bring that up and kind of tie him down to his knowledge of the area for sure.

40:21
Yeah.

40:21
It, the Estates is still in the city limits of Chico.

40:25
And normally when we would take anybody to Chico that was homeless or, you know, we would take him to a place called the Jesus Center, OK.

40:36
And that is a bonafide homeless shelter where you know, you can, if you're homeless, you can stay there something, if they have enough room available, you can get clothing, food, you know, they help, they help point you in the direction for different type of services to help you kind of get back on your, your feet, if that's kind of what, what you're wanting to do.

41:04
And and so I, I just in in all my time being that the PD I, I've never I've never taken somebody in any situation to the estates.

41:18
It's just, it's, it's to me, it's just not that wouldn't be appropriate.

41:23
I, I don't, I'm having a hard I that that conversation was not, there was no, there was no in my recollection, there was no conversation as to exactly where Officer Sasek was going to take her into Chico other than he was simply transporting her to Chico.

41:46
And and I think you said earlier you didn't even feel like that was inappropriate, taking her to anywhere other than she needed to be, she needed to be in jail.

41:57
But I mean, I was, I was kind of in a weird, I was in a weird situation, you know, I just did not, I did not want to be that that old cop that retired and, and I'm going to sit there and tell these guys how to do their job.

42:14
You know, you know, I, I might throw a flag, a penalty flag down and say, Hey, that's probably not a good idea, But I'm not, I'm not going to, you know, try to run their shift being a retired cop.

42:28
And you know, and I, and I don't know if I asked it.