Robert Sasek – Oroville Police Department Officer
William Baird – Mastagni Holsteadt
Michael Stover – EIS
Dusty Lefdal – EIS

Stover: Alright, we are starting the recording.

October 19th, 2022. Mike Stover with Employers Investigative Services. If we could just everybody go down the room and identify themselves? My last name spelling is Stover. S-t-o-v-e-r. If everybody could do likewise for transcription.

Lefdal: My name is Dusty Lefdal, L-e-f-d-a-l, with Employers Investigative Services.

Ofc Sasek: My name is Officer Robert Sasek. Last name is spelled S-a-s-e-k, with the Oroville Police Department.

Baird: William Baird with Mastagni Holstedt, B-a-i-r-d.

Stover: Basically, we're going to start off Lybarger and Miranda. Okay. I'm going to basically read through a script, for the lack of a better term, and make sure that you understand your rights.

So the purpose of this investigation is to conduct an interview of Officer Sasek who is an employee of the Oroville Police department in the capacity of a police officer. This is an administrative investigation on the charges that were in the notice. You got your copy of your notice?

Ofc Sasek: I did.

Stover: Okay. Alright. This is an administrative investigation only. Do you understand that?

Ofc Sasek: I do.

Stover: However, since the allegation indicated, may indicate that a crime has been committed, I am going to advise you of your rights, okay? You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law, you have the right to talk to an attorney and have him or her present before and during any questioning. If you can't afford to hire an attorney, one will be appointed free of charge to represent you before and during questioning if you wish. Do you understand these rights?

Ofc Sasek: I do understand.

Stover: Having these rights in mind, do you want to talk to me?

Ofc Sasek: No.

Stover: Okay. Alright. Although you have the right to remain silent and not incriminate yourself, your silence can be deemed insubordination and result in administrative discipline. Since any statement under compulsion of threat of discipline cannot be used against you in a later criminal proceeding, I am ordering you to answer all of my questions.

If you do not answer my questions truthfully and fully, a charge of insubordination may be

imposed which could result in discipline, including up to termination. Do you understand this is an administrative investigation?

Ofc Sasek: I do.

Stover: Do you understand the allegation against you?

Ofc Sasek: I do.

Stover: Do you understand that I am now ordering you to speak to us?

Ofc Sasek: I do.

Stover: So the reason we're here today comes from an incident that occurred with a subject by the name of [redacted] complainant. There was a couple of contacts that the Oroville Police Department had with her. She ended up being arrested at the Dollar Tree and then taken to the jail and then the jail refused to accept her.

She ended up being taken to the hospital and then from the hospital she was provided a courtesy ride. She's filed a complaint with the city basically regarding the courtesy ride. Are you familiar with the incident I'm speaking about?

Ofc Sasek: I am.

Stover: Give me one second, I just want to put the actual date of the... This occurred on September 1st. The initial call that Oroville Police Department was involved with was at 20:52, and that was at the Dollar Tree, excuse me, Dollar General, not Dollar Tree.

So basically I'm just... I don't plan on surprising you. I'm not really the, a-ha kind of guy here. So I've got a whole list of questions to ask you about it. Really, I'd like to start with if you just want to give me a summary of your recollection of the events from when, and it's my understanding and if I'm wrong, I'd like to be corrected, that you were called back to the hospital, Oroville Medical Center, and you were going to provide this person a courtesy transport to Chico.

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Baird: And this is William Baird, just for clarification and to put on the record, we did ask to be able to see the report to refresh Officer Sasek's memory. He hasn't been able to see it because he's been on administrative leave. We were denied that opportunity. And so obviously he's been ordered to answer questions and he's going to do so, but I just want to make sure that's on the record.

Stover: So going to when you went back to Oroville Medical Center to provide the ride to [redacted] comp

Ofc Sasek: So I cited [redacted] complainant out and cleared the call. I went to back my partner up on another call, upon completing that call, I think I was coming back to the police department. I got a call from a retired officer [redacted] guard and he informed me that the lady that I had dropped off was just acting a little weird, doing some stuff, and that he wanted me to come back and contact her and have her trespassed.

So I arrived back on scene, when I got there I was behind the ER entrance, there's two sets of trailers, I believe they're MRI trailers or whatnot. And he was walking up with her, she was calm and he was like, hey, you know. I think I heard him say, hey you can't be hanging around here, you're going to have to go.

I asked her, hey what's going on? How do we solve this problem, you can't be messing around at the hospital if you're not here to get treatment or be seen like I advise you to, you're going to be trespassed. And I was like, do we solve this?

And she said -- I want to go home.

I said, you know can I help you get someplace safe? She said, yeah, I want to go to Chico, Chico's safe, Chico's home. And I said okay. My supervisor cleared it and I began to transport her.

As I was leaving I was having issues with my work phone, because I understand that that's been brought up. I reset my phone because we have issues with mobile RIMS, and I didn't want to drive around and try to mess with it when I was turning it back on, or while I was driving around.

So as I passed the Durham exit, the Durham View College exit on 99, I came up the hill. As I came up the hill you could see the green stoplight, and [redacted] complainant said that she wanted out of the car. She said stop, let me out, I went out. And I said I'm not going to let out on Highway 99. I took the first right that was available which was Neil Road. I drove approximately a mile up the road to where I knew there was a large parking area, it's kind of like a dirt parking area where you might park a tractor trailer or whatnot.

I asked if this was okay, she didn't say anything. I opened up the door, she hopped out of her own free accord, walked about 15 to 20 feet, and looked around and then started "motherfucking" me and kicking rocks. And I was like, I'm not going to have any issues with this lady out in the middle of nowhere, I got in my patrol car and I left. And then I took the same route that I had left back into town.

Stover: Okay. Can you try and give me any better description on the spot you dropped her off? Like any landmarks, any driveways, any businesses?

Ofc Sasek: There's, I don't know how to describe it other than the worm food place. There's a big old, long building out there and some dirt piles, kind of to the south west of where I dropped her off. I drove up, there's a gate with a big old open parking lot, it's like a gravel parking lot. I think there's a little building right there and like a light pole. And that's where I dropped her off, it's probably a mile or so up the road.

Stover: Okay. So, you are correct, I'm curious as to how you're aware that there's allegations regarding the phone. So you say you reset your phone? Did you restart the whole phone? Did you restart the app?

Ofc Sasek: Yes, I restarted the whole phone. In my experience, restarting the app hasn't given us a lot of success, because sometimes the app will just freeze up and I'll go ahead and I'll wipe it and you know, kick it over the side, and I'll go to log back in and it'll take me like 15, 20 minutes to log back in, if it does. The most success I've had with immediate log out and re-log in is if I reset my phone, start it back up, open up the application and go through my log in process again.

Stover: Okay, so just so I understand the word you're using, "reset". Are we talking completely powering the phone phone off, sliding to off, turning it to back on?

Ofc Sasek: Completely powering the phone off and then hitting the button to turn it back on again and then having to go back into RIMS and log in again.

Stover: Okay. So did you do all of that in the parking lot at the hospital?

Ofc Sasek: No. So as I was leaving the hospital I clicked on my RIMS and I went to refresh it, because you drag it down like a Facebook page and it'll refresh the app. It was giving me issues, it had been giving me issues throughout the night, and I was like you know if I'm going to be away from town, where we have radio issues all the time so I can't hear what my team is doing. I would like to be able to know what my team is doing on a current refresh.

So I reset it and then I started driving and then I didn't end up resetting it. I think I may have turned it on, I can't remember if I hit the button to let it go through it's turn on process, but then I was driving, there was a bit of traffic and I wasn't going to try to poke through my phone and then drive through town.

Stover: Do you have any recollection of when you did turn that back on?

Ofc Sasek: So when I got RIMS and everything completely logged back on, I want to say I was near the 149 Highway 70 exit, coming back into town, because I'd heard some chatter over the radio, guys were busy and I was like, well I forgot to reset my app all the way through, so let me get it up and going and monitor radio traffic where I can try to figure out where they're at.

Stover: Okay. Can you describe to me the route you took leaving the hospital on your way northbound towards Chico?

Ofc Sasek: So I believe I came out onto Oro Dam Boulevard. I came all the way down the highway 70. So I'd been traveling west Oro Dam Boulevard, up to highway 70. Got on highway 70 traveling north on highway 70, west onto 149, north on to 99. And then I turned right off onto Neal Road, when she stated that she wanted out.

Stover: And then how about your return route?

Ofc Sasek: I came reverse route, I came south on 99 off Neal Road, east onto 149, south onto 70. And then I think I took the Oro Dam Boulevard exit, because I think that's where the guys were, was in that vicinity, or it was the closest to get me to them. I can't remember where I was once I got into town.

Stover: You had made a statement that you cleared it with either your sergeant or your supervisor?

Ofc Sasek: Yes and that would be Sergeant Khan.

Stover: Okay, can you take me through how that occurred, was it phone, in person, over the radio?

Ofc Sasek: We cleared the call that we were on previously. We went back to the hospital. They

followed me to the hospital, and I want to say he was talking to Officer Herrera while I was over with the security guard officer, retired officer [guard]. And when she said she wanted a ride home, I said am I good to give them a ride home, I believe. And she said, yeah, go ahead and get her home. So my transport to Chico was approved verbally in person.

Stover: Did you have a body worn camera on?

Ofc Sasek: I had it on, it was not activated.

Stover: So going back to when you're parked at the gate there of the worm food place. How did she exit the vehicle?

Ofc Sasek: When I asked her. is this good, she didn't say anything. I opened my vehicle, turned around to make sure the back door was unlocked, opened the door, stepped back and she turned and walked right out.

Stover: Okay. So she got out of the vehicle on her own power?

Ofc Sasek: Of her own power.

Stover: Do you recall seeing either at the Dollar Tree, the hospital, at the jail, visible injury on [comp]

Ofc Sasek: No, not that I recall.

Stover: In your presence at any of those locations did you see her fall?

Ofc Sasek: No, I did not.

Stover: Or any mechanism in which she would have received injury?

Ofc Sasek: I did not see her fall or receive any injuries in my presence.

Stover: Okay. Are you aware of what she's alleging occurred after you dropped her off up there?

Ofc Sasek: No.

Stover: So nobody... Go ahead.

Ofc Sasek: I understand that she was potentially struck by a vehicle. That's all I know. I don't know any other...

Stover: Okay, and how did you come by that information?

Ofc Sasek: When I was notified of being put on administrative leave, I was told that there was an incident that occurred with this woman and then she was struck by a vehicle.

Stover: So it was about a month from this incident until when a complaint came in, okay. A complaint's been filed by an attorney out of Chico on behalf of [complainant]

From the night where you dropped her off at the worm food farm until you were put on admin leave, were you aware of anything else occurring with [compl] Were you aware that

she had potentially been struck by a vehicle, was in the hospital, reported as a missing person? Any of that stuff?

Ofc Sasek: No, I was not aware of any of that.

Stover: Okay. Did anybody from the Butte County Sheriff's Department attempt to contact you from the first of September until the day you were put on admin, leave that you recall?

Ofc Sasek: No.

Stover: Okay. She alleges that you used inappropriate and unprofessional language when you dropped her off at the gate to the worm farm. Do you have any recollection of that?

Ofc Sasek: I do not. I believe what I said to her is, when she started motherfucking me is, I'm not doing this, because I'm not going to get an altercation with anybody in the middle of nowhere by myself.

Stover: Can you elaborate on what you consider to be "motherfucking"? Like was she literally yelling -- you're a motherfucker?

Ofc Sasek: She said -- motherfucker, fuck you, fuck this -- as she was then turning and kicking rocks at me.

Stover: Okay. So can you explain to me your rationale for why you dropped her off and got her out of your car?

Ofc Sasek: Because she asked out, she asked to be let out. As far as I'm concerned this was a consensual encounter afterwards. I had already cited and released her on 602. So this was a courtesy ride and if she asked to be let out and I don't let her out then I have her for false imprisonment, potentially kidnapping under the color of authority. So when somebody who's in my car for the reasons that they want to be in my car and they're not detained, if they ask to be out, I have to let them out.

Stover: So to be clear, you did not intentionally turn off the GPS tracking on your phone?

Ofc Sasek: No I did not.

Stover: No one told you, your supervisor, another officer told you to turn off the GPS on that device?

Ofc Sasek: No.

Stover: Okay. Do you normally not run body worn camera even on courtesy transports?

Ofc Sasek: We don't normally run them on courtesy transports. That's something that will change for me from now on. But you know this seemed like I was helping somebody. So there's no... I wasn't expecting this to become something horrible, essentially. I was just going to provide this lady a ride to where she wanted to be and hopefully help her have a better night, and now we're here.

Stover: So your radio traffic, you put that you were en route from the hospital to an unknown location in Chico. Did you not know where you were going?

Ofc Sasek: No I did not. It's not uncommon for somebody to say, can I get a ride to Chico and then they'll either provide us with a more detailed area where we're dropping them off when we get there because they don't know the exact address. We do transport a lot of transients and sometimes they're staying with friends so they don't know the address and whatnot. So that's what I was expecting was to get into town and be like, hey okay turn right here, turn left here, and this is where I'm staying.

Stover: So when you normally transport somebody and you have completed that courtesy transport to wherever, whether it be Chico or Neal Road at the worm farm, how come you didn't put out your ending mileage at that location and the person had been removed from the vehicle.

Ofc Sasek: Because I didn't think my radio was working at that point in time. So I got to where I knew that my radio would work and then I believe that I gave an ending mileage.

Stover: You did, you did. You gave the ending mileage when you got back to the city. So, I mean I'll just be frank with you. Here's the way that we look at this, right. We didn't have GPS tracking. Not sure if you turned it off. If it's a computer glitch what the deal is, because that's one layer of protection for you. We don't have a body worn camera, which would have been another layer of protection for you. And then the radio traffic, the mileage that you gave, you gave when you got back to the city, and you could have potentially put over the radio where you dropped her off, which would be normal protocol right, is to to say where you dropped the person off on the radio?

Ofc Sasek: Not necessarily on the radio, but I did advise my sergeant.

Stover: You advised your sergeant where you dropped her off?

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Stover: That night?

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Stover: Okay. I mean I just want you to understand this, you're sitting there in the chair, like the reason you're on admin leave is, it would appear at first glance that all the layers of protection have been disabled and so people are concerned that you did something nefarious. Is that reasonable?

Ofc Sasek: That makes sense.

Stover: Does it appear that reasonable to you?

Ofc Sasek: That makes sense, yes.

Stover: Okay. So I'm going to ask you a question. I've been told I'm going to ask you this question. This is not coming from me, okay. Was there any kind of sexual contact that occurred between you and [complainant redacted]

Baird: I'm going to object to this questioning? Nothing about this was noticed at all. I would ask you if we're going to talk about any potential sexual contact that we get a new notice and

a new opportunity to discuss this. And I'm partly making this notice, and I guess I'll say that I think that if my request is you know, denied and Mr Sasek or Officer Sasek's forced to answer, I'd like to point out the remedy for violating POBR, which POBR is the one that requires the notice would be suppression of statements that he makes.

So I think that you're on notice, the department's on notice that that would be the remedy we would seek for continued violation of POBR, because we didn't receive any notice about this line of questioning at all.

Stover: So how much time would you feel is reasonable? I mean, do you want us to step out of the room and you can talk about it for a minute. I believe that the allegation that he's being asked about is covered by the notice. I mean, any anything that discredits the department or puts the department in poor light. So I realize it's kind of a catch all section. But the issue is I have three layers of safety that's been avoided that would help answer these questions. I have a strong suspicion that's the reason he's on admin leave right now. And if I can get an answer to that question, that issue will probably resolve itself.

Baird: I mean I would want to know what's the basis for the question? What specifically has been alleged?

Stover: The issue is that it appears that all of the devices that would attract his location and his opportunity to help clarify, by either putting it on the radio or using body worn camera, and I'm going to give you the benefit of the doubt and assume he's not lying to me about the phone not working. I mean, I don't have any evidence to believe that he is lying to me about that. But the issue is that the appearance is something nefarious could have happened or did happen is there.

Baird: And I guess my concern is that is there any good faith basis for asking a question about this? Has there been any allegation made? And if so, what's the nature of the allegation that's been made? Is it touching, penetration, kissing? I don't know any of these things and I think that he's entitled to get notice to those under under POBR.

Stover: Okay, we're going to go off the record here for a second and we're going to take a break.

Sasek2

Stover: Okay, we're back on the record. It is, 1:27. Okay. So taking your objection, if I rephrase the question, did anything illegal happen there, does that change your objection?

Baird: I would still have the same objection.

Stover: Okay. From Dollar General where she got arrested to the jail, jail to the hospital, hospital to the courtesy transport -- do you have any recollection of her clothing changing?

Baird: And I'd like a minute to be able to talk with him about this.

Stover: Okay.

Baird: -- line of questioning, if that's alright, can we take a break?

Stover: Sure, of course.

Sasek3

Stover: Back on at 1:52. Okay, took a little break there, you guys talked. Ready to move forward?

Baird: We did talk. I will continue to object to this line of questioning, which I think is related to possible sexual misconduct allegations which weren't noticed. Again, I don't think it's sufficient to sort of notice somebody for conduct unbecoming, and then intend for that to encapsulate every possible other potential violation. And the whole point of the notice requirement is to allow opportunity to prepare. And so with a general allegation of conduct unbecoming it's impossible to address and talk every specific possible area of misconduct in addition to the other points I made in my previous objection. But that said we're fine to answer questions now having talked.

Stover: Okay. Do you need me to repeat the question?

Ofc Sasek: Will you please?

Stover: So I note your objection, but I am going to tell you to answer this one, just so that you are aware. From when you dealt with [complainant] at the initial call, trespassing call, to the jail, picked her up from the jail, took her to hospital, ended up going back to the hospital and giving her the courtesy ride, do you have any recollection if her clothing changed at any point?

Ofc Sasek: How do you mean change?

Stover: What she was wearing.

Ofc Sasek: Like was she wearing something else?

Stover: Yes.

Ofc Sasek: I do not... I don't know for certain if she changed her clothes or not.

Stover: Okay. So just so I understand, the answer the question is you don't know, right?

Ofc Sasek: I don't know.

Stover: Okay, alright. At any point, did you discuss this incident with Officer Olive prior to being noticed that you were on Admin Leave?

Ofc Sasek: No, I did not.

Stover: Okay. I think Mr Lefdal has some follow up questions.

Lefdal: Alright. Going back to, you going back to the hospital after former Officer [guard] called you. How did you receive that notification?

Ofc Sasek: He called me on my phone.

Lefdal: Okay. Work phone, personal phone?

Ofc Sasek: Personal phone.

Lefdal: Okay. And what did he tell you?

Ofc Sasek: He said that lady that you dropped off has been acting weird and she can't stay here, you need to come back and talk to her.

Lefdal: Okay, Is your understanding he was doing that as an employee of the hospital?

Ofc Sasek: Of the hospital. Yeah he works security there now since he's retired. So he just gave me a call. He's like hey, you know, that lady you dropped off, she's doing weird stuff so you got to come. I want her gone.

Lefdal: Okay.

Ofc Sasek: So I came back and I informed her that she was going to have to leave her or she was going to be trespassed. He already told me he would be willing to trespass her so that she could not be there causing an issue if she was not there to receive medical treatment.

Lefdal: Okay. Did you notice or notify anybody that you were going back to the hospital to deal with that issue?

Ofc Sasek: I advised dispatch.

Lefdal: Okay. Via the radio?

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Lefdal: And everything in that transmission went fine?

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Lefdal: Okay. When you went back to the hospital to deal that after that phone call from guard, was your body cam on?

Ofc Sasek: No, it was not.

Lefdal: And why is that?

Ofc Sasek: Because everything was really... It was a nice encounter. I don't know how to describe. Like if I'm expecting something that's potentially going to go wrong, you know, I'll activate my body camera. But, you know, I've already talked to this lady, I built a decent rapport, she was being kind, there was no need, it was like, you know, I'm just going to go talk to her and figure out what the issue was.

Lefdal: So you guys were completely Code 4, you and her, through and your previous contacts?

Ofc Sasek: Yes. We made the contact at Dollar General, at the jail she was completely calm, compliant. There was no need to worry that I was expecting.

Lefdal: So that leads me to my next follow up question. So what happened with her being

completely compliant Code 4, good rapport, to hitting, what, about Neal Road where she started saying, let me out and things became hostile?

Ofc Sasek: I have no clue. As far as I knew she was completely okay with getting a ride. She willingly got into the back of the car. We were going good. I had some music playing in the vehicle. And then we passed the Butte College Durham exit and the next thing I know is she said, hey I want out, let me out.

And I was like, okay, I'm not going to let you out on highway 99. I didn't feel like that was a smart thing to do. So I took that first right that I could, I drove up to Neal Road and then when I let her out at that little opening, everything was completely, it was calm. It was nice. She stepped out of her own accord. She popped out and she started to walk away, and I was like, okay, this is, okay, what's going on? You know, it's a little... But, okay.

Lefdal: A little what? Just finish your thought.

Ofc Sasek: Just a little off, you know, like...

Lefdal: Why?

Ofc Sasek: Because I expected to give this lady a ride to Chico and then all of a sudden she wanted out. And then the next thing I know is she was upset, and then she like...

Lefdal: Why was she upset?

Ofc Sasek: I don't know. Like I said, she got about 15 to 20 feet away from the vehicle and then she turned around and as she turned around, she started "motherfucking" me and then she started kicking rocks, and I decided that I wasn't going to be a part of that situation because I'm out here all alone. It's just myself, I'm not trying to keep myself in any bad situations, I'm not going to try to fight a lady in the middle of nowhere, you know, I'm not going to sit there in a situation if I don't have to.

Lefdal: Did you have a thought about turning on your body cam at that point?

Ofc Sasek: At that point in time, I had already started to take a seat in my vehicle, so I figured it would just be smarter to leave.

Lefdal: So is it your statement that she just kind of did a 180, completely 180, bam, went from Code 4 to MFing you...

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Lefdal: -- for no real reason whatsoever, based upon nothing what you've done?

Ofc Sasek: Exactly.

Lefdal: She had a complete turnabout?

Ofc Sasek: Yeah, she just kind of turned around and changed.

Lefdal: Okay. Is it common practice or is it your knowledge that it's common practice to provide

courtesy rides to Home Depot in Chico?

Ofc Sasek: I wouldn't say specifically Home Depot, but to Chico, yes, and in other areas. I know we as the department, people have transported people to Sacramento, Yuba City, Marysville, Chico, Gridley. It's a common thing to transport people on a courtesy ride.

Lefdal: Sure when it's Chico specific, is it your understanding you're supposed to give them a ride to Home Depot?

Ofc Sasek: I've never been advised or told to take anybody to Home Depot.

Lefdal: Okay. So that's never been addressed with you, in any way shape or form?

Ofc Sasek: No.

Lefdal: If I were to tell you that's the known practice, this would be the first time you heard about it?

Ofc Sasek: That's the first time that I've heard about it, yes.

Lefdal: Understood. Getting into your training a little bit. Have you ever been to an 11550 course or a DRE Certified?

Ofc Sasek: No I have not.

Lefdal: Have you made any 11550 arrests?

Ofc Sasek: 11550 no.

Lefdal: Okay. Based on what training and experience you have, did you believe [redacted] (complainant) to be under the influence of a controlled substance at the time that you were dealing with her?

Ofc Sasek: At the time that I contacted her at Dollar General, I believe that she may have been under the influence of something. But then as I spent more time with her going to the jail and whatnot, I believe that she might have some slight mental health issues instead. Based on my experience, people that are are high don't have the ability to calm down all the way, and by calm down I mean they can slow down their speech and stuff like that but their body will still be fidgeting and whatnot. She was able to calm down, like she would get worked up a little bit, and then she would calm down as if she was just worked up. She wouldn't calm down in her voice and her tone and how she talked to me and then keep twitching. She would completely calm down.

Lefdal: So she'd go to complete extremes, high and low?

Ofc Sasek: Not complete extremes, but like when when I was arresting her she was worked up, she was upset about being arrested so she was you know be-bopping and twitching a little bit. But then after that I would say adrenaline spike kicked up she started to come down off the adrenaline spike and then calm down, and she wasn't twitching and you know, uncontrolled body movements were not there, she was able to actually maintain a steady body position and have a conversation.

Lefdal: I think that's it for me.

Stover: I'm going to pull Google Earth up here and hopefully you can kind of try and point out...

Ofc Sasek: I can point out exactly where it was.

Stover: Where it was. Okay cool, will save us all a drive.

So when you took her to the hospital and you cited her out, where was she at when you left? Was she in the hospital?

Ofc Sasek: No. So, do you know the area a little bit?

Stover: No.

Ofc Sasek: Okay, so if you go to the hospital there's like a helipad, we use this, there's a helipad and there's a driveway and then there's a little driveway that goes up and then this is the emergency room bay doors. And we park right here normally when we go to the hospital. And then if you walk alongside the building there's the entrance to the ER for the regular people.

So I cited her out right there. I pointed to the doors and I said I advise you to go seek medical treatment because you have high blood pressure and that's why the jail's not taking you. And she said okay. And then from what I understand she did go into the hospital and didn't do much from there.

Stover: Do you recall if you had any conversation? Did she say whether or not she checked in, they triaged her, they took her in?

Ofc Sasek: I do not recall. From what I've heard is she did not get triaged or anything like that. But she did go into the hospital, but I don't know what happened after that.

Stover: And so that I make sure for absolute clarity. The reason you took her to the hospital was because the jail said she had high blood pressure and they wouldn't take her.

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Stover: And had a medical problem and need to go to hospital.

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Stover: Okay.

Ofc Sasek: They did offer me a medical clearance. But I told them I didn't think she was...

Normally in a case like that if she were to be... What, we do a 647F, I would do a medical clearance and hold her. But I didn't determine she to be a 647F at that time, so I was just going to release her to the hospital and advise her to seek medical.

Stover: And she was in custody for a misdemeanor, correct?

Ofc Sasek: She was.

Stover: And the furtherance of that crime had been resolved by you leaving Dollar General, right?

Ofc Sasek: Yes.

Lefdal: Okay. I do have one follow up. And I'm sorry I'm not a big fan of going back and forth. But...

You had made a comment earlier that you didn't believe your radio was going to work while you were out on Neil Road when you dropped her off?

Ofc Sasek: Not necessarily Near Road. Our radios are super spotty. It could be a bad windy day and we don't hear much on our radios. Normally when I go to Chico, my radio does not work very well. On a clear day it could work fine. On a windy day it could not work fine. So whenever I leave the immediate area I expect my radio not to work, just as a backup I like to have the other tools available to me.

Lefdal: Like what?

Ofc Sasek: Like my phone.

Lefdal: Did you use your phone as a backup tool when you didn't use your radio to give the ending mileage when she actually ended out of the car, did you call dispatch and let them know?

Ofc Sasek: No, I did not.

Lefdal: Okay. Can I ask why?

Ofc Sasek: I just didn't think of it. I was just trying to get back at that point in time. I was like, this is odd, this is not how my regular transport, you know, taking somebody to Chico would be. What to get back. It was an extremely busy night so I was just trying to get back to the guys so I could help.

Lefdal: Has your radio ever worked as it's supposed to just outside of the city limits?

Ofc Sasek: I would say not that far, no, it's not really clear. It doesn't normally work very clear. I would have to switch over to Gould and then dispatch has to do some weird thing. I don't know if they have to switch to Gould to hear me or what not. But when we work farther out of our area, we normally switch over to a radio, the Good Gould Channel and Gould Channel doesn't work very well.

Lefdal: Okay, so if you're transporting someone to Chico have you... Well, let me back this up a little bit more of a basis here. Have you transported someone as a courtesy ride to Chico before?

Ofc Sasek: I have.

Lefdal: Okay. And when that person gets out of the car, how will you notified dispatch that it was done?

Ofc Sasek: Normally what I do -- and I know this is kind of just a shitty situation, I apologize for my language -- I would write it down. And then I would give them the mileage from where where I dropped him off at, the location that I dropped him off at. At this point in time, or

at that point in time I didn't look down at my radio because -- or not my radio, my mileage, because this was just, it was odd. You know, like the whole situation was odd and I didn't think to look down and you know, check my mileage.

So when I got back into town and I knew my radio was working completely and I started asking where the other units were is when I gave my mileage.

Lefdal: Okay.

Stover: Okay this is Google Earth. Take a look at that and see if that looks like, and you can manipulate it, zoom in, zoom out.

Ofc Sasek: So I would say I parked right about here, and I'll leave it, right there where I dropped a pin is where I stopped and let her out. And then she started walking towards this little white gate whatnot thing that appears, and she got 15 to 20 feet away. And that's when she turned.

Stover: Hang on I want to screenshot that. You're welcome to take a picture of that if you want.

So this is this is Franklin Construction and then the load dump above it, 99 is going to be, yep, that way.

Lefdal: So is it fair to say she was in control of her faculties when you left her?

Ofc Sasek: Yes. Yes. At that point in time she knew that she was in Oroville, she knew that going home to Chico was safe. So I didn't deem her to be... I didn't deem her to be 5150 at that time. I thought she was of sound mind.

Stover: Did she have any property with her?

Ofc Sasek: No. When I searched her she didn't have anything on her.

Stover: When she told you to stop, did she say anything about can I use your phone to call somebody?

Ofc Sasek: No, she did not.

Stover: Do you remember if you offered?

Ofc Sasek: I don't believe I offered. Like I said I stopped and let her out. She wasn't really talking much and then she started walking away and I was like this is just a little not regular. And then she turned and started, you know, MFing me, and I was just not going to keep myself in that situation.

Lefdal: Do you remember if she had shoes?

Ofc Sasek: I don't. I don't believe she had shoes. I don't believe she had shoes when I contacted her at Dollar General.

Lefdal: Okay. Do you remember the traffic conditions about that time at night on Neal Road?

Ofc Sasek: I think I saw one vehicle while I was on Neal Road.

Lefdal: You wouldn't happen to remember what vehicle that was?

Ofc Sasek: No I saw headlights.

Lefdal: That's all I've got for right now.

Stover: So we're pretty much done here. I just like to, at the end of interviews, make sure that you're not holding anything that's exculpatory. Like you don't know of video evidence that would show you driving away. You don't have any other evidence that would help me prove that's exactly where you dropped her off?

Ofc Sasek: I don't. I have driven the road to see if there was surveillance cameras to help me out. I didn't see any cameras.

Stover: Was was there a light on there? On a pole?

Ofc Sasek: I think there was a light on the far building that goes down the dirt road a little bit, and then I think there was a light at the construction place. So it wasn't very well lit, but you weren't sitting in pitch darkness.

Stover: Anything you want to add before we turn the recorder's off.

Lefdal: Admonishment as far as...

Stover: Yeah, as far as, don't speak to anybody about this investigation. We're not the ones in charge of your admin leave, that may change, may not change, but we don't have any bearing on that. Your admin will address that with you. If later you feel like, oh, I completely told you the wrong thing, or oh, I did remember I have this that I should have given them, get ahold of us, email, telephone number. You're welcome to do it through your representative. He knows how to get ahold of me, he has my phone number.

But don't wait if something in your mind says, oh... Even if you're freaking out and you say oh, it's going to make me look like a liar. We want to address it immediately upon the refreshed recollection, rather than if we discover that something doesn't match, and then you try and tell me, oh, I told my representative, but, you know, I don't want there to be any mis-communique or anything. Okay?

Ofc Sasek: Understood.

Baird: And do you mind if before we finish finish, him and I are able to talk for a moment?

Stover: Sure, you want to put something on the record.

Baird: Yeah, I think there may be something we want to bring up.

Stover: Yeah, absolutely.

Sasek4

Stover: 2:24 back on the record. Anything you want to add in closing?

Ofc Sasek: So, we wanted to go over the clothing again, you'd asked if it had changed.

So when I initially contacted her, she was underneath some items in Dollar General, and I believe she was in some sort of like a sweat pants or capris or whatnot, and a tank top style shirt. When I detained her in handcuffs, her hands were behind her back, and when she came up off the floor, her shirt was shifted and her breast was showing. I tactfully pulled her shirt to where she was no longer exposed, that would have been in front of two other officers and the employee that was back, I think she was still back there.

And then when she was moved to my patrol vehicle in front of Dollar General, I searched her how I was trained to conduct a search of a female with the back of the hand, whatnot. Searching through so it was all done correctly.

And then as far as if her clothes had changed after she was released to the hospital, I'm unsure if her shirt was changed or if her pants had changed. I was told that she was trying to get into vehicles, the MRI machine or whatnot, so I wasn't really focusing on her clothes. So I couldn't tell you if they actually did change or not.

Stover: Okay fair enough.

Baird: I don't have anything else.

Lefdal: Alright. And you remember the admonishment not to talk to anyone except for your attorney about this, or us?

Ofc Sasek: Yep.

Lefdal: Okay. And that we will turn this off.

12/6/2022 RECEIPT ONLY