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INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATION SUPPLEMENT

Accused Employee: Sasek [redacted]
Date: 10/06/2023

SOURCE:

On 09/28/2023 I was requested by Lt. Zarate to contact [redacted] guard and obtain his statement regarding his observations leading up to Officer Sasek and Sgt. Khan's arrival to the scene.

ALLEGATIONS:

[redacted] Guard was on duty as a security guard on the night when Officer Sasek transported [redacted] compl. It was believed that Mr. [redacted] guard may have information relevant to the investigation.

INVESTIGATION

After three phone calls, I was able to schedule a time to meet with Mr. [redacted] guard at his home. On 10/06/2023 at about 0940 hours, I sat down with [redacted] guard in his living room located at 1921 Feather Ave in Oroville, CA. I explained to him why I was there and with is permission, the interview was recorded.

The following is a summary of his statement to me. It is not verbatim. It is not necessarily in the order of which Mr. [redacted] guard relayed the information but for clarity, goes in chronological order:

[redacted] Guard *was on duty as a security guard the night in question at Oroville Hospital. He does not recall how many people were on duty then; it could have been one other person or up to 4 total. He was assigned to the emergency room area.*

[redacted] Guard *went outside to the ambulance bay to do a check. He saw Officer Sasek standing next to his patrol car with a female (later identified as* [redacted] complainant *. They were both outside of the patrol car. He doesn't recall whether or not she was in handcuffs but she might not have been. Sasek was writing her a ticket and told her that she needed to seek medical attention.* [redacted] Guard *does not recall* [redacted] complainant *attitude but recalls she was leaning on the vehicle.* [redacted] compl *signed the ticket and walked away. She tried opening the doors to the emergency room lobby but didn't go in. She closed the door and walked towards the lower lot and helicopter pad area.* [redacted] Guard *told Officer Sasek that she was going to be a problem and if she started any problems, he was going to call Sasek back.*

[redacted] Guard *was a police officer for 21 years. He worked in undercover narcotics and can testify as an expert in court as to drug production and trafficking. Based upon his training and experience, he believed* [redacted] compl *was under the influence of methamphetamine. She had a weird mannerism about her, was scanning the area and had no purpose to her walk.*

Officer Sasek and [redacted] guard *talked for a while. They used to work together so they were B.S.ing. They lost sight of* [redacted] compl. *Officer Sasek left and* [redacted] guard *went back into the emergency room for 20 to 30 minutes.*

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Guard came back out the bay doors and found compl standing next to the MRI trailers. He confronted her and told her she needed to either seek medical attention or leave the property. Compl indicated that she would seek help but instead, ran away and sprinted to the X-Ray doors. These doors are not for the public and is an employee-only entrance. Guard had a feeling that compl never had the intent to seek help, she was just looking to stay off the street. Compl opened the doors to the x-ray wing and went inside. Guard chased her down the hallways where compl was repeatedly trying to open locked doors. Guard caught compl by the collar of her shirt and tried to direct her away. She diverted her direction as though she was going to comply and he let go.

Compl opened an employee-only bathroom and locked herself inside. She was non-communicative and she seemed panicked.

Guard called Officer Sasek on his personal cell phone. He is friends with Officer Sasek. Sasek told him he was on the way. While waiting, guard used his keys to open the bathroom door where he found compl standing there. She wasn't combative. He took a clump of her clothing at the shoulders and she tried to pull away. He directed her out of the bathroom and out the same doors she came in. He believes compl was in the bathroom for no more than 10 minutes.

Once outside, guard released compl and she walked down the walkway towards the MRI trailers. She walked up the metal steps to one of the trailers and tried to enter. He stopped her and she walked to the other one and crawled underneath it.

Officer Sasek showed up followed by Sgt. Khan guard doesn't recall if compl came out willingly or if she was taken out from under the trailer. Once out, she was handcuffed. Guard wasn't going to press charges but he needed her off the property. Compl wasn't happy at this point but she wasn't screaming or belligerent. She was not communicating.

Officer Herrera showed up but guard doesn't believe he ever got out of his patrol car. Compl was already in the back seat of Officer Sasek's patrol car. Officer Sasek and Sgt. Khan discussed what to do with compl and Sasek asked if he could take her to Chico. At one point, Officer Sasek opened the door to his patrol car and asked compl if she wanted to go to Chico. compl said yes and he shut the door. Sasek got the okay from Sgt. Khan to proceed with the plan and. Although he doesn't recall specifics, he remembers feeling that Sgt. Khan told Officer Sasek to hurry up and come back.

Guard has supervised all three of these OPD employees at one point and wondered why they wouldn't just clear her at the jail and book her. Guard made a comment to the officers that once she is in Chico, she's just going to get arrested again. He does not recall anyone taking the handcuffs off of compl.

Guard never heard anything mentioned between Sasek, Khan or Herrera about Neal Road or the landfill or anything like that. He learned later on that compl was found by the landfill. He remembers feeling that night that it was not safe for compl to wonder around because she was obviously under the influence. She should have been cleared and booked. He remembers feeling that it was apparent that these three guys didn't want to take her to the jail and that when she was dropped off at the hospital, it was a 'dump and go' situation. This pissed off guard

Sometime later, Officer Sasek was at the hospital on a different call and spoke with guard Sasek tol guard his side of the story. He doesn't remember 100% of the conversation. guard told Officer Sasek that if he was the

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supervisor on duty, he wouldn't have allowed that because she was so inebriated and didn't have all of her faculties. – END.

I thanked Mr. [redacted] guard for his time and he gave me permission to contact him if I had any further questions. I ended the recording.

Dusty R. Lefdal
Investigator
Employer's Investigative Services
capi #24506

[redacted] Guard

Lefdal: So, like I told you before the recorder went on, as far as the reason that I'm here, if you could just kind of... And I think the date is September 30th, I don't have it in front of me. But if you can tell me, what you remember from that night with [redacted] complainant and Officer Sasek, all of that, and then I might ask some clarifying questions later on.

[redacted] Guard

Alright. Sasek arrived at the hospital... Well, I walked out of the hospital, the back door of the ER and saw Sasek out there and he was basically, scratching her a ticket for, I believe for a warrant. And he said that the jail did not clear her, and so he was basically telling me about the events that led to her arrest. And he released her to go seek medical care.

And she walked over to the ER, and I don't think she ever went inside and then started walking around the parking lot. And I told Sasek I said, hey, man, this girl is going to be a problem. So, you know, if she is, I'll be calling you back, you know, just can't drop off like that. He's like, alright, I think she'll be fine. I'm like, okay.

So he leaves. I went and did some checks, I don't remember exactly what I did, but I know I came back out to the back of the ER to see if she was still milling around, because based on what she did that brought her there, I didn't want her getting in somebody's vehicle and trying to go to sleep or do whatever.

So I see her out back by, we have these MRI trailers for people, and I said, hey, I said, what are you doing? I said you need to be seen or you need to leave. And, she said, well, I'm going to go be seen and she started walking over to these rear doors that go back into our X-Ray department. And I said, hey, you can't go in that way, you have to use the Emergency Room entrance.

She was probably 10 or 15 yards away from me. She had a good head start. She ran and went through the doors. So I ran, and went through the doors and I started following her around the hospital telling her, hey, you have to, you can't.... Because it was after nine o'clock and the hospital shut down except for the emergency room.

So there she starts trying to open doors and she finally goes into a bathroom. I went to grab her, she slams the door shut and she locks it. And it's kind of like an employee's, it's in the back of the hospital where, you know. So I told her to come out and she's not really communicating with me. So I called Sasek, and I said, hey, dude, you need to come get this gal. I said you shouldn't have left her here anyway and she's high as hell. He's like, alright, I'm coming back.

So I hung up the phone. I took my keys, I unlocked the door, I snatched her up and I pulled her out of the hospital. And then she started trying to get into the MRI trailers and then she got underneath one of the MRI trailers and wouldn't come out. So Sasek and Sarge show up and we pull her out from underneath the trailer and handcuff her and they set her in the back of his patrol car. We have a conversation and then they leave.

Lefdal: Okay. So the night this happened, had it turned dark yet?

[redacted] Guard

Oh yeah, it was pitch black.

Lefdal: You said it was after nine?

[redacted]

Mhm. I don't remember... I don't remember the exact time, but I know it was dark when I first saw Sasek writing her the citation. So it was definitely dark when I got her out of the hospital. And since the rest of the hospital was kind of shut down, it had to be.... That

happens at eight o'clock, so I definitely know it was after eight.

Lefdal: Were you just happened to been standing behind the ER when Sasek showed up with her, or did you have a heads up that he was in route with her? I guess how did you first interact and why, what led up to that?

Guard So, I am assigned to the ER.

Lefdal: As security?

Guard Yes.

Lefdal: Okay.

Guard So we have anywhere, fully staffed, we have four security guards at the hospital. I don't remember if we were fully staffed that night, but anyway, if we're fully staffed we have two guards that are assigned to the ER, and then we have a guard that roams the inside main interior of the hospital, and then we have a guard that's usually in a golf cart or a patrol car that goes through the hospital and some off-site clinics and stuff that we have, checking the perimeter there.

Lefdal: And you were assigned that night to the ER?

Guard Yeah. When I first started working there I pretty much worked in the ER for a totally year solid. So basically what I would do kind of my gig was, I'd sit in the triage area for about 15, 20 minutes and then I get up and I'd walk through the ER and I'd go out the back door by the ambulance bay. And it's there on my check when I went out to the ambulance bay that I saw..... Sasek was already parked, He already had her out of the car and he was writing the citation.

Lefdal: At the ambulance bay?

Guard Yeah, just right by the ambulance bay and where those MRI... I guess it's hard to explain if you've never been there.

Lefdal: I know what you're talking about.

Guard Yeah, right there. He was parked right near those MRI trailers.

Lefdal: And she was out of the car, out of the patrol car?

Guard Yeah.

Lefdal: Was she still in cuffs?

Guard I want to say she was, but I couldn't... I don't remember 100%, but I'm thinking she wasn't.

Lefdal: And what were they doing? I think you said he was scratching her.

Guard Yeah, Sasek had his chit book on the hood of his car, scratching in it, and I think she was leaned up on the patrol car near the back of the door. He was just getting ready to have her sign her promise to appear.

Lefdal: Do you remember her attitude if any, if she was calm, if she was compliant, if she was

angry, your words, or if you don't know, you don't know?

Guard — All I remember is she was standing outside against the patrol car, I don't remember. It wasn't until I heard her talking to him when she was signing the ticket and the way she was walking away that I was kind of like, dude, she's going to be a problem.

Lefdal: — So she signed the ticket and walked away?

Guard — Yeah.

Lefdal: — What about her walking away, like what about that kind of clicked in your head that dude, this chick's going to be a problem child for me? Like, articulate that for somebody who wasn't there.

Guard — Well...

Lefdal: — I think I know what you're talking about but to somebody who isn't....

Guard — Yeah, it's just, you know, I've been a police officer for 21 years and I immediately recognized the signs of somebody that's deeply under the influence of a controlled substance. And so her mannerism and the way that she was kind of scanning her immediate surroundings and the way that she didn't walk with any type of purpose, it was just like she was completely formulating what the heck she was going to do the entire time. And then based on that when she went over to the entrance of the ER and didn't go in, I was like, she's high as a kite, she's going to be a problem.

So, yeah, I just had that feeling that this gal is not going to comply with going into the hospital and I'm probably going to end up babysitting her at one point. That was just kind of what my overall feeling was.

Lefdal: — So, you were on a job for 21 years? Any part of that have you gone to 11-5 school, DRE, anything like that?

Guard — Yeah. I was an undercover narcotics officer for almost three years, oh, no three and half years.

Lefdal: — So, needless to say you've got quite a bit of experience with people that are under the influence of controlled substances?

Guard — Yes. I mean I'm a court expert on the production and distribution of methamphetamine and all that kind of stuff.

Lefdal: — Based on your training experience, did you feel that she was under the influence that night?

Guard — Oh, yeah. I knew right from the minute that we contacted her.

Lefdal: — In your opinion, based upon what you saw in your training experience, did you ever formulate whether it was like, seemed as depressant, seeing as stimulant, an opiate?

Guard — Oh, I knew she was on methamphetamine.

Lefdal: — So she signs a ticket, she walks away, she's clearly 11-5\. She does not go into the ER, she walks where?

Guard She walks.... So you're familiar with it right?

Lefdal: A little bit, yeah. The part that we're talking about yeah, I went up there....

Guard So you have your ambulance bay where we were kind of at and then she walked down and there's an ambulance bay entrance and then there's a regular person entrance. If my memory serves me right, the most that she did is she opened, I think she opened the door and looked inside the lobby waiting room of the ER. I don't think her body ever broke the threshold of the doorway, but then she shut the door and started walking off.

So the ER kind of has an upper parking lot, where it's just a bunch of handicap parking.

Lefdal: And this is kind of on the east side?

Guard Yeah. So she had to walk. So she started walking towards, we have these stairs that kind of go down into the lower parking lot. She started walking towards that area....

Lefdal: Which my understanding would be more on the north side by the helicopter pad?

Guard Yes, If you walk down those stairs and kept going straight, you'd walk right onto the helicopter pad. So my initial concern with that is, if you're not from this area, you're not going to know where you're going to go. The one exit there kind of dumps you into a quasi residential apartment area.

Lefdal: Yeah, kind of a weird little exit there.

Guard Yeah. And if she went...

Lefdal: To zigzag to go the other way and then you end up on the back side of, what is that?

Guard Well, yeah, that was the other thing that concerned me. So if she went down the stairs and then kind of went northbound and then around, we have a brand new hospital that's being constructed, that's all open. And they had made a kind of a makeshift entry and exit to one of the rear parking lots where the new construction was going on, that also dumps into a residential neighborhood. If you go over there now it's all been gated off. That's not an exit anymore, but at the time this happened it was.

So she was going in the absolute complete opposite direction of what would dump you out on to Olive Highway where there was any kind of eating establishments or any place to go. And so it just it was all bad, I mean, there was just too much opportunity for checking car door handles and going into a residential neighborhood.

Lefdal: Totally get it. So she walks off in that direction and then what did you do?

Guard We sat there and I kept my eye, we were just BS-ing, and I can't tell you for how long, but we out there long enough where at one point in time I lost sight of her. So I thought, well, maybe she....

Lefdal: Were you BS-ing with....

Guard Sasek, yeah.

Lefdal: Was anybody else there?

Guard Mhm.

Lefdal: Okay.

Guard: No.

Lefdal: You lose sight of her.

Guard: We lose sight of her. And Sasek was getting ready to leave and I remember telling him it was like, dude, if she's a problem calling you back. And he's like, no, I think you're good. I'm like, okay. So he left.

And I don't remember how much time went by between me going back in the hospital and me coming back out the ambulance bay and she was out there.

Lefdal: So you went inside and you came back out?

Guard: Yeah, probably about.... It's hard to say, but I probably was inside for at least 20 minutes, probably no longer than half an hour. So anywhere between 20 to 30 minutes,

Lefdal: You come back out then what?

Guard: I came back out and I came back out the, I believe I came back out the hospital bay doors like I originally did and she was walking around the parking lot, so near the MRI trailers.

So I made contact with her and that's when she took off and ran into what we call the X-Ray door entrance to the hospital.

Lefdal: And when you made contact with her, you told her basically go seek help like you're here or leave the property?

Guard: I was like, yeah, I told her basically, hey, you either need to go to the emergency room and to be seen or you need to leave property.

Lefdal: Okay. And did she say anything to you at that point?

Guard: She said she was going to go seek help. And then when I tried to tell her, hey, you have to come over here to go in, she sprinted for the X-Ray doors. Now, if you were back there and I don't know if you noticed or not, but there's the two MRI trailers and then there's a walkway that kind of goes down around and it goes into these double doors. Now those get locked at eight o'clock every night, but during COVID, we were under different rules and that was one of the only doors that employees used to come in.

Lefdal: So they didn't have to go through a sea of COVID in the ER?

Guard: Right. What used to be the old employee doors, we use that, we called it the COVID hall, that's where they used to isolate COVID patients. Well, now we're back to how it was, you know, for 50 some odd years of the hospital, the employees go in through that door again. But at the time.....

Lefdal: And that's an employee entrance, that's not a public entrance, she had no business going through there?

Guard: Right. That is never.... Even in the middle of the day, that's not a door that the general public goes through.

Lefdal: So she goes through those doors. Does she open the doors?

Guard: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

Lefdal: And then what happened?

Guard: I chased her down and I followed her and we walked some of the hallways a little bit and she was trying doors, and most of all the....

Lefdal: Did she go in those doors?

Guard: No. A lot of them are locked. I did have to....

Lefdal: I'm sorry, the original doors, those X-Ray doors, she actually went inside?

Guard: Yes.

Lefdal: Okay, now, back up just a minute. You said she actually ran?

Guard: Yeah.

Lefdal: Like she was running away from something?

Guard: She was running away from me. I tried to get her to redirect her over towards the Emergency Room entrance.

Lefdal: So she ran away from you into those doors?

Guard: Yes.

Lefdal: Did she think that she was in trouble for something or what was your thought process about, dude, why is this chick running from here?

Guard: Well, just from just for mannerism and what was going on, I knew that she had no intention of going through the ER. I just felt like she was just trying to get out of the elements.

Lefdal: Gotcha. I see what you're saying. So she opens the doors, goes in, starts trying other doors down the hallway.

Guard: Starts trying other doors. I had to grab her by the scruff of the collar of her jacket or shirt to keep her, she tried to go into one of the actual X-Ray rooms. And so she turned around, we walked out, she walked down the hall further and she went into a bathroom and...

Lefdal: Did she break away from you when you grabbed the collar?

Guard: No. So I hadn't been working security there very long and I didn't have a great grasp of what.... I knew I wasn't a cop anymore and I couldn't do cop shit. So I grabbed her, I kept her from going into X-Ray and once she diverted and wasn't going to go in there, I let her go. And then she went down the hall a little farther and she opened a door that's kind of like an employee.... It's kind of like a bathroom that X-Ray staff uses. They kind of get changed and do the bathroom in there. It's not really a bathroom that the general public would use.

So we're pushed into a part of the hospital that is where like all the X-Ray rooms are at, all

of the rooms where they do ultrasound.

Lefdal: Would you consider it a controlled part?

Guard: What's that?

Lefdal: Would you consider it a controlled portion of the hospital?

Guard: Yes. Our pharmacy is back there, the main lab where staff test blood and runs tests on blood, all that.

Lefdal: In other words, the average person is not just walking down this these hallways and going into these buildings unescorted?

Guard: Right. This is a part of the building like you would be if you were getting an X ray or a procedure done and some staff members. This isn't a part of the hospital where somebody just kind of mills around and is going to an appointment.

Lefdal: So this bathroom that she went into is it staff only? Is it escorted? Like can public use it if they're back there being like being tested for something?

Guard: They may allow them to, that I don't know.

Lefdal: But is it mostly staff that's supposed to use this restroom?

Guard: Yes, that's pretty much all I've ever seen use it.

Lefdal: Okay. So she goes into the staff bathroom and she locks the door?

Guard: Yes.

Lefdal: Then what?

Guard: I backed up. I grabbed my phone and I called Sasek and I said hey, dude, you need to come get this chick. She's walking around the hospital, we're closed, she's not supposed to be back here, I told her to leave. She's not complying and now she's locked herself in the bathroom.

Lefdal: So did you call dispatch? Did you call his cell?

Guard: Sasek's one of my friends, I called his personal cell phone. I don't even think I called his.... I don't even think I called his work cell phone. I called his personal cellphone.

Lefdal: Okay. As this is going on, did you even know who this chick was? Have you ever dealt with her?

Guard: Never laid eyes on her before.

Lefdal: So, she's like been identified as compl, so I'll refer to her as compl. is she yelling at you? Is she exclaiming anything while she's locked in this bathroom, was she telling you to....?

Guard: No, she's not really communicating with me at all. She's in that.... She has an expression on her face that she's kind of panicked, but at the same time she wasn't, she had this odd behavior, you know.

Lefdal: Would you call it typical of someone that's under the influence of a controlled substance like a stimulant?

Guard: Oh, most definitely. She had all the movements. And part of the problem too is I have the background of what led to her arrest anyway, which was they caught her in like the storage area of Dollar General, I think it was. Anyway, some store and she was hiding and they had to pull her out from some area where there was a bunch of merchandise, like she was hidden back in there.

So I kind of had that in my brain too -- is this gal's just trying to look for some hole to crawl into for the night and you know, that type of thing.

Lefdal: And how did you come to know that information?

Guard: When I saw Sasek out there, when he wrote her a ticket, we were bullshitting, he told me.

Lefdal: Oh, after he scratched her.

Guard: Yeah, I was like, where did you find this gal at, you know? And so he kind of broke it down for me.

Lefdal: Okay. So you called Robert on a cell, on his personal cell, you think and tell him, hey, you need to come get her, she's causing a problem?

Guard: Yep. I said she's back here in the hospital and he's like, I'm en-route and I don't remember what else he said. But, I stood there for a while and he hadn't shown up yet. So I was like, screw it. I grabbed my keys, I unlocked the bathroom and I went in there and I grabbed her and I escorted her out of the hospital. And I had control of the.... I didn't grab her shoulder, but I had a handful of her clothing in my hand from on her shoulder. And as I was walking her out towards those doors that she came in at, every once in a while when we went by a hallway, she tried to pull and go that way and I just redirect her and directed her right to those doors and walked her out the back.

Lefdal: Okay. Out the same doors that she came in?

Guard: Yep.

Lefdal: When you unlocked the bathroom, what was she doing in there when you see her?

Guard: You know, I really don't know. My recollection, when I opened the door, she was right there at the door. So I don't know if, when she heard me unlocking it, if she was going to try and push the door to keep it shut or what she was doing, I do remember, I didn't have to use really any force to open the door. I know when I opened the door it bumped into her. So she was right at the door. And when she backed up and I got the door open, she she didn't have really anything. So everything that she had was on her. I don't really think she was in there long enough where I would say she could tear anything up. So I just pulled her out of there and walked her out.

Lefdal: To the best of your recollection, and if you don't know you don't know. Are you able to approximate how long she was in that bathroom? If you had to go back or if you don't know, you don't know?

Guard: It was no more than 10 minutes.

Lefdal: Okay. So you escort her out the front door. She's not handcuffed?

[redacted] No.

Lefdal: You escort her out those doors, those X-Ray doors, then what?

[redacted] We went out the doors and I released my hold on her clothing or body or whatever. And we started walking down the little walkway.

Lefdal: The two of you?

[redacted] Yeah. And we got up the walkway. That entrance, it's kind of sunk down a little bit. So when you're up on the top, you kind of walk down and it kind of curves around and it goes in. So once we got up to the top, there's like a retaining wall. Right on the other side of that retaining wall is the.... And there's bushes and stuff. There's the two MRI trailers. And she started walking over towards those. I was like, hey, you can't go in there. She went up the little metal stairs to one of them, tried to open the door. I grabbed her again, I pulled her down, said, you got to go off property.

She went to the other one and crawled underneath it. And there's where she sat until Sasek and Khan right.

Lefdal: Then what happened after that?

[redacted] So I wasn't going to fight with this chick anymore. So I just sat there and waited till the police department arrived. And then we.... I don't remember if we physically pulled her out from underneath there or if Sasek got there and just ordered her to come out. Anyhow, she ended up out from underneath there. She got handcuffed and she got sat in the back of a patrol car.

Lefdal: So she was cuffed?

[redacted] Yes.

Lefdal: Do you remember who cuffed her?

[redacted] I'm assuming Sasek. I don't remember, I don't even remember..... I know Khan showed up, but I don't remember exactly at what point he showed up. And then Herrera showed up and I don't even think Herrera ever got out of his car. But everybody was parked right there at the ambulance bay next to the MRI trailers.

Lefdal: So there would have been three patrol cars there?

[redacted] Yeah. But I don't think Herrera showed up until she.... I think she had actually had been sat in the back of Sasek's car when Herrera showed up. if I remember right.

Lefdal: What was her demeanor when she got handcuffed, do you recall?

[redacted] She wasn't happy, but she wasn't like screaming or yelling or anything like that. She was just in a very weird state. She just really didn't communicate very much.

Lefdal: So she gets handcuffed, she gets put in the back of a car. Do you know who's patrol car?

[redacted] Yeah, it was Sasek's.

Lefdal: Then what?

Guard

Then we sat around and had a short conversation. Sasek was asking Khan what they needed to do with her. Like I had told Gil before, this was kind of a weird thing for me because I've supervised all three of these individuals at one point in time. And it got mentioned taking her to Chico and I was sitting there thinking, why in the hell do you guys just not take her in and get an an f-ing jail clearance and take her back to jail? But Sasek opened the door and asked her, do you want to go to Chico? And I heard her say yes and he shut the door. So, the decision was made to take her to Chico.

And at that point in time, I kind of backed off of my thinking, this is a really bad idea. I was like, well, at least they have her verbal admission that she wants to go to Chico. So I was like, you know, whatever, it's just.... I do know that I made the comment, you know, she's going to get arrested in Chico and she's going to get right back brought up here again and get released? But, they made the decision that they were going to do what they were going to do.

Lefdal: When you say, they made the decision, describe that to me? Was this Khan's decision, or was it Robert's decision, was it....

Guard

So the way that I remember it going down, it was kind of Sasek's idea, hey, why don't we just take her back to Chico where she's from? And there was some conversation about that which I can't give to you word for word. But it led to Sasek opening the back door and asking her if she wanted to go to Chico, and I heard her say, yeah, she did. And then shut the door and then it was more of a conversation about logistics, get there and get back, you know, we have calls coming in.

Lefdal: And was that from Khan to Sasek?

Guard

Yeah, it was mostly those two in engaged in the conversation about doing that. Like, I don't remember it being word for word, but I do remember that Khan was the OIC, or he may have even already been promoted to sergeant, I don't remember which, but it was ultimately the decision laid on his shoulders and he made the decision to allow Sasek to drive her to Chico.

Lefdal: Do you remember any part of that conversation where Sasek was told basically hurry, go there, come back, don't dilly dally? Anything similar to that?

Guard

It was kind of like yeah, you're good, just go there and, and come back. Like I said, I don't remember the word for word conversation, I just remember Khan blessing the decision to ride her to Chico.

Lefdal: Do you remember any statements made about going to Neil Road, going towards the landfill, going partially to Chico? Anything that would indicate that she was dropped off prior to going to Chico?

Guard

No. I know there was never a mention... The only thing that was mentioned was taking her to Chico. I don't even remember if it was ever even stated where at in Chico.

I know that I said, hey, I've done this once or twice, and I've always dropped them off at the Burger King and stuff, that's right there by Home Depot in Chico, where Yuba College is at. And I said it's well lit, and everything else.

And so that's the only thing that I know of. Now I heard later about she got dropped off the Neil Road and something about she was screaming, let me out, let me out.

Lefdal: You heard that later after this night?

Guard: Yes, like days later I heard about that.

Lefdal: Where did you hear that from?

Guard: I do not remember who exactly I heard it from. I just remember that I was just like, why in the hell would you... I was like, I would continue to Chico or I'd turn around and take her right back to the jail, or something. I mean, I don't... I just didn't understand why. I just don't understand why Sasek did that.

Lefdal: Yeah, I think that's the million dollar question, right. So at no point did you ever hear anything about, either joking or not joking, about Neil Road? Landfill? Franklin construction? Nothing even in a joking manner that would indicate that they were going to go take her somewhere and drop her off somewhere other than Chico?

Guard: No, to me it was, they were going to Chico. I heard no... There was... At least the conversation that I was privy to -- and I believe I sat out there when they all drove off, I kind of remained in the area. I never heard anything about that. As far as I knew he was taking her to Chico and I really don't know where in Chico he was even going to take her. I just remember that's what they were going to do.

Lefdal: Okay. Do you remember her being unhandcuffed at any point?

Guard: No. I don't remember if... I'm going to say no, that I think she remained in the car and the door remained shut through the entirety of that conversation, other than when Sasek asked her if she wanted to go to Chico.

Lefdal: And that whole time she is sitting and cuffed in the back seat of the patrol car. Well, he had cuffed her outside of the patrol car.

Guard: Yeah. Yeah, I'm 100% certain... Yeah, I'm fairly certain that when she came out from underneath the trailer, she got handcuffed.

Lefdal: Okay.

Guard: Because my intention was -- you need to take this chick to jail. And if you got to get a med clearance, you do what you got to do, but she can't be walking around.

It wasn't safe for her or anybody else for her to be walking around. And it really wouldn't have been... And it obviously wasn't safe for her to just go into the ER on her own accord and seek help. She seemed medically fine to me, other than she was extremely high.

Lefdal: Sure.

Guard: And so... And I don't remember, and I don't know if it was ever told to me why she wasn't medically cleared. I just know, based on my own personal experience and training, that yeah, it sucks it takes an officer off the street. But spend the 20, 30 40 minutes, whatever, however long, get her freaking clear to take her to jail.

Lefdal: Yeah.

Guard: And then when the jail says she's sober and they release her, you know, so be it. Any kind of liability is off your ass.

Lefdal: Correct.

Guard: And so... Yeah, that was just kind of...

Like I told Gil, I just didn't want to be -- that guy that's, you know, the retired police officer, and he's trying to tell these young bucks how to do their job.

Lefdal: I get it.

Guard: I just... I didn't feel like that was my role. And I've had experience with, you know, in early in my career with retired cops, and I just didn't want to be that dude. You know? You guys are grown men, you know what you're doing.

Lefdal: To ask a clarifying question. So he pulls her... Or we don't know how she comes out from underneath the MRI trailer. But she gets somehow out from underneath the MRI trailer, and she is handcuffed. The hospital doesn't want to press charges at that point?

Was there anything that you needed to have... I guess what's, 21 years on the job, she's clearly detained if she's in handcuffs.

Guard: Yeah.

Lefdal: Was that just him trying to figure out what's going on? Was that because, was she detained because she was going to be 602'd? Where are we at with that?

Guard: So... If she was a local chick and she was, they were going to take her to jail, I would have requested a 602 admonishment.

Lefdal: Sure.

Guard: And the hospital is not really... A lot of times it takes an act of God for them to want us to ride a...

Lefdal: Totally get it.

Guard: Because it is hospital.

Lefdal: Sure. Sometimes you just need the problem solved and move on.

Guard: Right. No, none of that... What I told Sasek is -- she has got to go, she cannot be on my property. You do what you got to do. Take her to jail. You got to take her to... I don't care what you do, she can't be on this property.

Lefdal: At which point he applied the handcuffs?

Guard: I think that happened right when we got there, and they'd gotten her in the car, and I was telling him she cannot be here.

And that's what they were trying to figure out.

So here, I don't want to talk bad. But the problem is, those three guys had to make a decision on what they were going to do with her. And clearly the decision to take her to jail was not in their frontside scope. It just wasn't. That wasn't something that seemed like they wanted to do. Because getting a jail clearance sucks ass half the time.

Lefdal: I get it. I totally get where you're coming from. And we've all seen it a million times where the last thing I want to do whether it's 20 minutes before the end of shift or I've got 19 calls pending or whatever, this one, I can solve the problem quickly by not having to do this, this, this and this, and I'm already down pavement. Totally getting it and I'm not going to defend that at all.

I guess I'm trying to get to the mindset of, because somebody could look at this and go -- well, okay, if she's in handcuffs, it's what we would call 1148, you know, just transport, courtesy transport.

Guard: Right.

Lefdal: Because I'm not going to give somebody a courtesy transport in handcuffs.

Guard: Right.

Lefdal: But there are times where I don't know what I'm dealing with and I may end up detaining you in cuffs until I figure out what the heck's going on, even if there's no crime, I just don't know, and it's for everybody safety until I can figure out what's going on.

In your opinion, 21 years on the job, is that kind of where we were where Robert was at, in your opinion? Like, yeah, I don't know what I'm going to do with this chick. She's in cuffs for now, and then I'll figure it out.

Guard: Yeah, that's pretty much.

Lefdal: Okay.

Guard: That's pretty much where we were at.

Lefdal: Okay. But she wasn't arrested, that you saw.

Guard: I was not... I was not pursuing any type of criminal complaint. I just wanted her off the hospital grounds.

Lefdal: Fair enough.

Guard: Because I don't... Just, as a security guard, especially at the hospital, I have a really limited scope of practice.

Lefdal: It doesn't look good when people are getting arrested at the hospital every day. It's not good for the company.

Guard: Right. And I wasn't really comfortable putting my hands on this gal. But the only reason that I did was because she was trying to go into -- the X ray, you know, she's trying to go into areas of patient care, where she's not supposed to.

Lefdal: Really, your whole job to keep that from happening.

Guard: Right.

Lefdal: No, I totally get that.

Guard: And so that was... And I think that might have been a night where it was just me and one other guard on. And he was off doing his other duties. And so it was like...

I was a little pissed because I felt like it was a dump-and-go at the hospital. A lot of times the jail is like, they don't do a jail clearance so you take them to the hospital. She wasn't... She got arrested for, I believe, a warrant. So I don't think she was... I don't know, but it didn't appear that she was getting any charges for what occurred at Dollar General. And so there was no fresh charges on her.

And he basically would be able to write in his report, hey, the jail didn't clear. So we took her for her to seek medical aid if she needed to.

But she didn't, which I'm good with. But I'm not good with her hanging out around the hospital.

Lefdal: Correct. I get that.

[redacted] Guard: Because now the liability that Sasek and the jail had now becomes a hospital's liability because she's on our property.

Lefdal: Totally get it. Alright.

When he hooked her up after coming from the MRI trailer, did he say anything to her as far as, hey, you're under arrest, or, hey, I'm just going to detain you for right now, do you recall any statements made by Robert?

[redacted] Guard: I don't remember any of that. I just remember that he handcuffed.

I almost 100% certain that he handcuffed her.

Lefdal: Alright.

[redacted] Guard: [aside] Hey, [redacted] can you give us a few? Sorry buddy.

[redacted] Guard: You're good. [inaudible]

Lefdal: I think that's about all I got unless you got something else that you think I should know.

[redacted] Guard: No, I mean that is pretty...

Lefdal: I guess to clarify, I do have one other question. Robert had said... Or, you had made a comment that you had supervised him in the past and you know him. Obviously you had his cellphone. Did he ever make any statements to you after this? Like an apology? Like -- hey dude, sorry, I kind of dumped this on you -- or telling you his side of the story, or anything like that?

[redacted] Guard: Yeah, he's told me... He kind of told me his side of the story. And... So I heard about what happened, and I don't remember exactly who told it to me. Because I... So, there's officers that come and go from the hospital on a daily basis. Almost every shift, I bump into one of my former coworkers. And then when I talked to Sasek, you know, he just told me -- hey...

I can't remember 100% of the conversation but he kind of verified a little bit of what I heard that she was kind of freaking out so that's where she wanted to go.

And I was just like, dude, come on.

Lefdal: Was that like, at the hospital?

Guard: Yeah.

Lefdal: Okay.

Alright. Just to clarify, I got to ask. Did he ever contact you and ask you to change your statement in any way, shape or form?

Guard: No, no, not at all. I think we talked about it one time a little bit after, a couple of days after it happened, maybe.

Lefdal: Okay.

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Lefdal: Do you remember who it was?

Guard: I don't remember his name. I just remember he said that he was the private investigator for compl attorney. And he pretty much did what we're doing right now. He recorded an interview with me.

Lefdal: He come sit down bedside?

Guard: No, he did it over the phone.

Lefdal: Really?

Guard: Yeah. Did it over the phone. I don't know where he was. I don't recall where he was from or where he was making the phone call from.

And, so, yeah, I agreed to answer his questions. And I pretty much told him what I'm telling you guys. So I was just like...

Like, when you called me, then I ended up... I had a conversation, I just called Gil, like, hey, just... He'd reached out to me and -- I just wanted to make sure Sasek... I don't want to get Sasek in trouble for anything. I just...

And he was like, no, we're just... I guess there's a civil part of all this, obviously.

Lefdal: There is. And I think that that's, like I said, I handle the IA side. I have a feeling some of those things are going to emerge, which is why I got brought back into it.

Guard: Oh, okay.

Lefdal: But that's above my pay grade.

Guard: Yeah. It's...

Lefdal: If LT asks me to do something, I do it. You know how that goes.

Guard: Yeah. The whole thing is unfortunate. And you know, and I told Sasek before. I said, dude, you know, first of all, if I was your supervisor, that wouldn't have happened.

Lefdal: You told him that?

Guard: Yeah. Oh yeah. And the only reason... And I told Gil this too. I'm not these guys' -- I'm a freaking security guard now. I'm retired. And I'm just... The only reason I'm working anyway is just for medical insurance. And so it's not like... I don't go to the department and hang out. I just did not want to be that guy that got retired and, you know, can't let go of the ghost. You know?

Lefdal: I get it.

Guard: But, and like I told Gil, you know, when I was young, that's something I would have done.

Lefdal: Sure.

Guard: Never because I couldn't get a jail clearance. You know, we've had guys in Oroville where, just generating numerous calls, but you never have enough to arrest them, and you're like, hey...

Lefdal: Got to solve the problem. Sure.

Guard: Is there somewhere I can take you within reason that will alleviate?

Lefdal: Got to solve the problem. I've got other things to do.

Guard: Yeah. But I've never taken anybody that's clearly as allebriated. That's the problem with Sasek that I found, was that, you know, it's not like you had a person with all their faculties that wanted to go to Chico. You had somebody that was highly allebriated and high. And... They don't make good decisions or they wouldn't be in the situation they're in to begin with. Yeah, I was just disappointed in the whole thing, to be honest. But is what it is.

Lefdal: Alright, man. That should do it. Are you okay if I call or text with like follow up questions, if I have any?

Guard: Yeah. No, you're fine.

Lefdal: Cool. Try not to bug you if I don't have to, but I appreciate you taking the time.