



## **HIGHWAY ACCIDENT BRIEF**

**Attachment 2 – Interview with Passenger of Dodge**

**Washington, D.C.**

**HWY17SH001**

**(17 pages)**

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN CRASH ON  
GEORGIA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON,  
D.C., OCTOBER 2, 2016

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Interview of: MIGUEL ANGEL RAMOS-AYALA  
(Passenger)

October 2016

## APPEARANCES:

DET. ANTHONY COMMODORE  
Major Crash Unit  
Metropolitan Police Department  
Washington, D.C.

DET. FELIX CLAXTON  
Metropolitan Police Department  
Washington, D.C.

FEMALE OFFICER

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) INTERPRETER

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I N T E R V I E W

1  
2 DET. COMMODORE: She's on her way up here.  
3 DET. CLAXTON: She's coming up?  
4 DET. COMMODORE: Yeah.  
5 DET. CLAXTON: She's an officer, right?  
6 DET. COMMODORE: Yeah.  
7 DET. CLAXTON: She's an officer?  
8 DET. COMMODORE: Yeah. Do you have anything to drink in  
9 there?  
10 DET. CLAXTON: Yeah.  
11 (Det. Claxton exits.)  
12 DET. COMMODORE: Number? (Indicating)  
13 Hey, Felix --  
14 (Det. Commodore exits.)  
15 (Conversation off camera)  
16 (Female officer enters.)  
17 FEMALE OFFICER: Joe, are we good?  
18 JOE: Yeah, that's fine.  
19 FEMALE OFFICER: That's good?  
20 JOE: Yes.  
21 FEMALE OFFICER: Okay.  
22 (Det. Commodore enters.)  
23 DET. COMMODORE: Where am I going to sit? And where you are  
24 going to sit?  
25 FEMALE OFFICER: Over here.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that's fine.  
2 (Sign language interpreter enters.)  
3 FEMALE OFFICER: You have started the machine?  
4 DET. COMMODORE: Yes.  
5 FEMALE OFFICER: You hit the play button already?  
6 DET. COMMODORE: Yes.  
7 FEMALE OFFICER: I have to ask because you know it happens.  
8 DET. COMMODORE: Let me just make sure. I'll go look at it,  
9 because he did it.  
10 I think he just locked us in. Yes, he just locked it.  
11 (Knocks on door.)  
12 ASL INTERPRETER: So I'm just going to introduce myself to  
13 him.  
14 FEMALE OFFICER: Yeah, yeah, yeah.  
15 And I ask because there was a situation with like a 2-hour  
16 interview --  
17 ASL INTERPRETER: He needs to go to the bathroom.  
18 DET. COMMODORE: Okay. All right. I have to get this door  
19 open first. (Knocks on door.)  
20 (Door opens.)  
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She did it.  
22 DET. COMMODORE: What's that?  
23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She did it.  
24 DET. COMMODORE: Okay.  
25 (Det. Commodore exits.)

1 FEMALE OFFICER: Joe -- I mean, Commodore, let him go to the  
2 bathroom?

3 DET. COMMODORE: Let me make (indiscernible) --

4 FEMALE OFFICER: Are you taking him?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure. I'll take him.

6 FEMALE OFFICER: Okay.

7 (Mr. Miguel Ramos-Ayala leaves.)

8 (Conversation between the female officer and interpreter.)

9 (Mr. Miguel Ramos-Ayala and Det. Commodore return.)

10 INTERVIEW OF MIGUEL ANGEL RAMOS-AYALA

11 (Whereupon, Miguel Angel Ramos-Ayala answered questions  
12 through the assistance of a sign language interpreter.)

13 BY DET. COMMODORE:

14 Q. All right. First of all, I'm Det. Commodore from the Major  
15 Crash Unit. And I'm actually investigating the crash that just  
16 took place on Georgia Avenue. All right. And my reason for  
17 bringing you here is to basically find out exactly what happened  
18 tonight.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. But before you do that, can you just basically introduce  
21 yourself: your name, your date of birth, your home address, and  
22 your age?

23 A. Sure. My name is Miguel R-A-M-O-S, is the last name, Ramos.  
24 And I am 26, and I live very close to here, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] .

1 Q. Okay.

2 ASL INTERPRETER: Do you want the exact date of birth?

3 DET. COMMODORE: Yes.

4 MR. MIGUEL RAMOS-AYALA: [REDACTED].

5 BY DET. COMMODORE:

6 Q. Okay. Thank you.

7 First of all, tell me exactly where you all were before --

8 where did you all go this evening and who went with you?

9 A. I'm not sure the name of the place exactly. It's kind of

10 like a restaurant, and it's like a bar that kind of has like a

11 party happening there at it.

12 Q. Okay. Who were you with?

13 A. I was with my older brother and his friend.

14 Q. Names?

15 A. Well, my brothers, I know their name.

16 Q. Okay. Name the brother that you were with.

17 A. Okay. The oldest brother's name is -- it's spelled

18 H-E-B-E-R-T-H, Herberth [sic].

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Jonathan, Erick, E-R-I-C-K. So those are my -- so those are

21 the three brothers. And then my oldest brother had some friends

22 with him. One of his friend's name was Cesar, C-E-S-A-R.

23 Q. Okay. So Herbert?

24 A. Uh-huh.

25 Q. And what's the name of the driver of the car?



1 A. Erick, E-R-I-C-K.

2 Q. Okay. And what's the name of your brother that was hit?

3 A. Jonathan.

4 Q. Jonathan. Okay. Exact -- so tell me what happened inside of

5 the club.

6 A. Oh, we were just having fun, having some drinks because it

7 was my older brother's birthday.

8 Q. It was Herbert's birthday?

9 A. Yes, um-hum.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Yeah, his birthday.

12 Q. Okay. What else happened inside the club?

13 A. Oh, just having fun, just hanging out, you know, talking,

14 drinking. Nothing really. Just having fun. And then we left.

15 Q. Okay. Did you see Erick and Jon have an argument?

16 A. Let's see. I can't really explain. Well, okay.

17 Q. To the best he can.

18 A. Erick tried to get them to calm down, tried to get him to

19 calm down because he had drank too much.

20 Q. Who had drank too much?

21 A. Yeah, Jonathan had drank too much and so Erick was trying to

22 get him to calm down, but he wasn't listening. And he was trying

23 to get him to go home and he didn't want to go home.

24 Q. Erick was trying to get Jonathan to go home?

25 A. Right. Yeah. And I don't know exactly what they were saying

1 because they were, they were talking. But Erick was trying to get  
2 Jonathan to calm down and to go home, and Jonathan didn't want to  
3 go home. He wanted to stay.

4 Q. Okay. And Jonathan is the driver of the car, correct?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Okay. Erick is the driver of the car. I'm sorry. Erick was  
7 the driver of the car?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. Okay. And he was trying to get Jonathan to calm down.  
10 Right?

11 A. Yes. Right. Um-hum.

12 Q. At any point do they start fighting or pushing and shoving?

13 A. Yeah. They were both mad and they made contact. And then I  
14 don't know exactly what they were saying, but yeah, there was  
15 definitely an argument.

16 Q. What about physical --

17 A. But then they were separated. They didn't hit each other,  
18 just like kind of shoved each other or got in their face, like in  
19 the chest area. Yeah, and again, they obviously were upset or  
20 angry, I could tell from their facial expressions, but I don't  
21 know exactly what they were saying.

22 Q. Was Erick drinking a lot?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. Now Erick --

25 A. Because he was the driver.

1 Q. Okay. Erick has a tear on his shirt. His shirt is ripped.

2 A. Oh, I didn't see that.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. I didn't see the shirt tear or anything, so I don't know.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Yeah, and I was, I was kind of pissed about the situation,  
7 too. So I don't know.

8 Q. Okay. Who left the establishment first?

9 A. I didn't see exactly what happened, so I don't know who left  
10 first.

11 Q. Okay. Did you leave with Erick?

12 A. Yes. And then they got mad again at each other.

13 Q. Inside or outside?

14 A. Right outside of the bar.

15 Q. And what happened when they got mad outside the bar?

16 A. I was trying to separate them and just say, "Come on, come  
17 on, let it go," but they kept getting in each other's face and  
18 were obviously upset. But I kept trying to intervene and trying  
19 to separate them, but I wasn't able to.

20 Q. Okay. How did it end?

21 A. That was just for a minute or two and then everyone got in  
22 the car and left.

23 Q. Okay. Who got into Erick's car?

24 A. Me and Erick were in the front and then my older brother and  
25 another one of his friends were in another car behind us.

1 Q. Okay. Where did Erick park his -- well, where Erick car is  
2 right now, where is the club in regard -- in reference to -- in  
3 relation to it?

4 A. I don't know the name of it or even the street name. It's on  
5 the same street but it's just you -- where the car is, it's just  
6 right down almost if you just go straight -- I think it's on  
7 Georgia Avenue.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Just a little bit farther down on the right. And I don't  
10 know the name of the place, but -- I don't know, it's kind of --  
11 it's like a bar and party there, and kind of lit up.

12 Q. All right. Can you explain to me exactly how is it that Jon  
13 end up getting hit?

14 A. So I got in the car with Erick. And then we saw that it was  
15 our brother Jonathan and -- so I saw him coming from the left side  
16 somewhere, walking, and then next thing I knew, the car just hit  
17 him, and I don't know how that happened.

18 ASL INTERPRETER: And I clarified as the interpreter whether  
19 it seemed to be intentional or accidental, and he said it was not  
20 intentional, it just -- we saw him come from the left and then we  
21 hit him.

22 BY DET. COMMODORE:

23 Q. How far, how far away were you in the car when you first saw  
24 Erick? I mean, Jon. I'm sorry.

25 A. Really close, like 2 feet. All of a sudden we saw him, he

1 was right there, and then hit him. It was very close, 1 or 2  
2 feet, not far at all.

3 Q. Were there a lot of cars on the street?

4 A. I mean, there were a few cars, but not a lot.

5 Q. Okay. Now are you sure it was only 2 feet?

6 A. Yeah, yeah, it was really close. I saw him, he's so close,  
7 right there, and then -- saw him, and then he was hit.

8 Q. All right.

9 A. And I couldn't stop myself from being so mad and crying and  
10 everything. You know, I wanted to, you know, make sure he's okay  
11 and what was going on.

12 Q. How far was -- how long was Erick driving before this, this  
13 crash happened?

14 A. I'm not really sure about that.

15 Q. Did he make a U-turn or was he driving straight down the  
16 street?

17 A. He went to make a left, and that's when Jonathan came. And  
18 that's how he hit him. We were making a left onto a different  
19 street, and that's when we saw him and hit him.

20 Q. Left on a different street? But the car's in the middle of a  
21 street not close to an intersection. I'm not understanding.

22 A. I don't know.

23 Q. All right. So right now, like I said, you're just a  
24 passenger in a car, and you did your best you could to break them  
25 up from, from fighting each other, all right, which is, which is

1 commendable. All right? The only issue is, because you are on  
2 Georgia Avenue, there are a lot of cameras along that street. And  
3 when we do pull the cameras, we're going to actually see what  
4 happened. And we just wanted to make sure -- if it was something  
5 intentional because the two of them were mad at each other, please  
6 make it known now. Because if we see that it's something  
7 different, you know, we may have to come back and talk to you in  
8 a, you know, in a different manner.

9 A. Okay. No.

10 Q. No?

11 A. No, there's nothing else.

12 Q. Okay. When, when -- the car was parked, I guess, on Georgia  
13 Avenue while they were at the club. When he left in the car,  
14 exactly how many turns or did the car just go straight? Or did  
15 the car make any like turns to -- what car -- which way was the  
16 car facing?

17 ASL INTERPRETER: When he --

18 BY DET. COMMODORE:

19 Q. When he was inside -- when he went to the club, was the car  
20 facing towards Silver Spring or down towards Howard University?

21 A. So the club is on the right if you're looking this way down  
22 at it. And so this is the car. And the car was across the street  
23 facing this way, which would be north towards Silver Spring.

24 Q. All right. So the way the car is facing right now, it's  
25 south on Georgia Avenue. That's the way the car is facing.

1 A. Um-hum.

2 Q. When you were at the club, was the car faced the opposite way  
3 from the way it's faced right now?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. Okay. So it's facing northbound?

6 A. So it was, and we turned.

7 Q. Okay. So if you were to get out that car right now, the way  
8 it's parked right now, how far would you have to walk to get to  
9 the actual bar?

10 A. It's close. I think maybe 3 or -- it was just a few feet.  
11 Like we're just right by there.

12 Q. Oh, okay. Okay. So the club's right across the street?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Where the car is right now?

15 A. Um-hum.

16 DET. COMMODORE: Okay. All right. All right. Okay, well, I  
17 greatly appreciate it and we're going to let you go so you can go  
18 be with your brother.

19 Did you see his brother outside? Okay.

20 MR. MIGUEL ANGEL RAMOS-AYALA: Okay.

21 DET. COMMODORE: And I'm going to call the detective to come  
22 in there to escort you down so we can get you back out to your  
23 brother.

24 MR. MIGUEL ANGEL RAMOS-AYALA: Okay.

25 DET. COMMODORE: All right. So just hang tight, all right?

1 MR. MIGUEL ANGEL RAMOS-AYALA: Okay.

2 DET. COMMODORE: Thanks.

3 (Det. Commodore exits.)

4 DET. COMMODORE: Just hang tight.

5 FEMALE OFFICER: John, they don't -- I don't have any  
6 information, so -- all of the information we both need, I don't  
7 have anything.

8 ASL INTERPRETER: I'll go with you.

9 FEMALE OFFICER: Huh? Um-hum.

10 (The interpreter and female officer exit.)

11 (Mr. Miguel Angel Ramos-Ayala exits.)

12 (Conversation off camera.)

13 (End of recording.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD


IN THE MATTER OF:           VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN CRASH ON  
                                  GEORGIA AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON,  
                                  D.C., OCTOBER 2, 2016  
                                  Interview of Miguel Angel Ramos-Ayala

ACCIDENT NO.:               HWY17SH001

PLACE:                       Washington, D.C.

DATE:                        October 2016

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Maurer', written over a horizontal line.

Kay Maurer  
Transcriber