



**HIGHWAY ACCIDENT BRIEF**

**Attachment 3 – Interview with Driver of Dodge**

**Washington, D.C.**

**HWY17SH001**

(21 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

Accident No.: HWY17SH001

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: ERICK RAMOS-AYALA  
(Driver)

October 2016

## APPEARANCES:

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

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

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I N T E R V I E W

1

DET. CLAXTON: Just have a seat right here in this chair.

2

3

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Okay.

4

DET. CLAXTON: We'll be with you in just a minute.

5

(Detective Claxton exits.)

6

(Detective Commodore speaking at the door.)

7

DET. COMMODORE: Erick?

8

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Yeah.

9

DET. COMMODORE: Okay. Are you comfortable speaking your  
10 first language or --

11

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Yeah, English is fine.

12

DET. COMMODORE: English is fine?

13

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Yeah.

14

DET. COMMODORE: Okay.

15

(Detectives Commodore and Claxton enter.)

16

DET. COMMODORE: Where's your phone be at? I need to take  
17 your phone from you.

18

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: My brother's phone (indiscernible)

19

DET. COMMODORE: Hum?

20

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: My brother's (indiscernible)

21

DET. COMMODORE: Say it again.

22

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: That's my brother's phone that you --

23

DET. COMMODORE: Whose?

24

MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: The one you took to the hospital.

25

DET. COMMODORE: Okay. Where's your phone?

1 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: My brother (indiscernible)

2 DET. COMMODORE: Who has it?

3 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: My other brother.

4 DET. COMMODORE: Which one?

5 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: The tall one.

6 DET. CLAXTON: The really tall --

7 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Um-hum.

8 DET. CLAXTON: -- gentleman?

9 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Yeah, you got (indiscernible).

10 DET. COMMODORE: All right. So this is, this is Jon's phone?

11 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Yeah, Jon's phone.

12 DET. COMMODORE: Okay. Did it just crack, or --

13 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Yeah, I guess, and then I just got it  
14 from him.

15 DET. COMMODORE: All right.

16 INTERVIEW OF ERICK RAMOS-AYALA

17 BY DET. COMMODORE:

18 Q. All right. I'm Detective Commodore from the Major Crash  
19 Unit.

20 A. Hum?

21 Q. Okay. I'm Detective Commodore --

22 A. Okay.

23 Q. -- from the Major Crash Unit. This is Detective Claxton.

24 All right. And I'm actually investigating this crash that took  
25 place. So basically all I want to do is find out exactly what

1 happened --

2 A. Um-hum.

3 Q. -- what happened like inside the club, what happened outside  
4 the club. But before I do that, I'm just going to write your info  
5 down real quick because I didn't, I didn't have --

6 So all of you brothers?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You're the youngest of all those?

9 A. Right.

10 BY DET. CLAXTON:

11 Q. So four brothers?

12 A. One sister. Yeah.

13 Q. Four brothers and one sister. Where's your family from?

14 A. Salvador.

15 Q. El Salvador?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Were you born here or you were born in El Salvador?

18 A. Over there.

19 Q. Over there?

20 A. But we came when I -- I came when I was 5. The one that went  
21 to the hospital came when I was 5, as well.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. My sister same thing. My two older brothers came when I was  
24 11, 12.

25 Q. Okay.

1 DET. COMMODORE: Okay. One second.

2 BY DET. CLAXTON:

3 Q. Do you all live together?

4 A. The one who, the one who's in the hospital, I think he lives  
5 with his baby mother.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. And then the rest of us live with my mother.

8 Q. With your mother?

9 A. Yes.

10 (Detective Commodore phone call.)

11 BY DET. COMMODORE:

12 Q. All right, Erick. What's your telephone? Your cell phone?

13 A. [REDACTED]

14 Q. That's your cell phone?

15 A. Yeah. [REDACTED].

16 Q. Here you go, sir. All right. I had to have some information  
17 (indiscernible).

18 All right. All right. Can you tell me exactly -- basically  
19 what happened the moment you all walked into the actual club?  
20 What was the name of the club you all went to?

21 A. I forgot. I can't get it out from my head.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Yeah, it's some -- P something.

24 Q. Okay. Where is the club?

25 A. Right there on Georgia and Kennedy Street.



1 Q. Hum?

2 A. Georgia and Kennedy Street.

3 Q. Okay. Is it right by where your car is right now?

4 A. I believe so. Yeah, it's right there.

5 Q. Okay. All right. So what actually happened at the -- who  
6 went to the -- first of all, who went to the club?

7 A. It's all four of us.

8 Q. Who's four of us?

9 A. My brothers and another friend. And we were at a different  
10 club around there, the same part. And after that, we leave there.  
11 Then we went over there to -- you know, we were celebrating my  
12 older brother's birthday basically. And we're just drinking there  
13 and having fun, whatever. And then my brother and I, we got into  
14 a disagreement. And it started off when we're paying the bill.

15 Q. How did your brother get there?

16 A. Which brother?

17 Q. All your brothers? Who rode with who?

18 A. Okay. So my older brother, he was already at the other club.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. And then --

21 Q. You can say -- that's your older -- Herbert?

22 A. Herbert, yeah. Herbert, he was already there. And then  
23 Jonathan, he took a Uber to --

24 Q. Oh, he took a Uber?

25 A. Yeah. He came out of work.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. He came (indiscernible). I wasn't planning on going, but  
3 then I end up going. And he took Uber there and I met them with  
4 my other brother, at the place. And then we all -- we all met up  
5 at the other place, the one that this thing happened. And like I  
6 said, we were there drinking beers. We took one shot each, all of  
7 us just one. And after that, the bill came up to like 170 or  
8 something. We were just like -- our other friend, I guess he, I  
9 guess he was kind of mad because like he kept paying each time.

10 This is only like my first time going there and -- or barely  
11 hang out with them going out. And like I said, I've heard them  
12 speaking or whatever. My brother saying that, well, he was kind  
13 of like pissed or -- pissed that he always pay, he always pay  
14 everything. He kept saying that.

15 Q. This is your brother's friend?

16 A. Yeah. He kept saying that, yeah, you guys haven't paid or  
17 something. You know, he just wanted cooperation, you know, to put  
18 some money so he don't have pay. So whatever, we all joined, we  
19 all put up.

20 Then my older brother, he gave me -- he gave Jonathan his  
21 card. Yeah, then (indiscernible) and then I paid him. He had  
22 just -- you know, Herbert paid it. And then like Jon was just  
23 talking to, well, our friend, I guess, telling him that, you know  
24 -- I guess he was just pissed the fact that he kept bragging about  
25 he always pay, he always pay, and whatever. And like I guess he

1 was trying to make it seem that we don't have money to put up or  
2 anything.

3 And Jonathan just kind of like -- I don't know. They were  
4 talking, but -- and I just kept saying, Jon, just drop it. Jon,  
5 Jonathan, and then (indiscernible).

6 Q. Inside the club?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. You and Jonathan?

9 A. Yeah. But then I guess we bumped into each other and then  
10 (indiscernible) like got into it, like, physically like that, but  
11 we just pushed each other out and then just started separating the  
12 us. That's when they took us out. And then I guess I was waiting  
13 for my brother outside. And then my other brother went over there  
14 with my other brother, hunted him down.

15 Q. Which other brothers?

16 A. Herbert (indiscernible) Miguel, hunted him down because we  
17 were ready to, you know. And then I was making sure my brother,  
18 he was good, Jonathan. Make sure he was good. And then -- yeah,  
19 I mean, I was mad at, you know. I'm like, look, why are we doing  
20 this for? And then that's when we got both in each other's faces.

21 Q. Outside?

22 A. Yeah, outside. And then that's when we both fell. Like  
23 that's when we was falling down and he grabbed my shirt. That's  
24 how (indiscernible) --

25 Q. How did he fall down?

1 A. He got (indiscernible) or anything.

2 Q. So any punches or just grabbing --

3 A. No, not any punches. Because we fell and then like after  
4 that my older brother came and tried to separate us.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. So that's when, you know, when he was going down, he had a  
7 hold of my shirt. That's how my shirt ripped. And then after  
8 that, he -- after about (indiscernible) to try to make a scene  
9 here at the club. And I told him, you go ahead, I got you down.  
10 You know, you can go home now.

11 And then I tell my other brother I was going to take him  
12 home. And then as I get in my car, I drive up and then try to  
13 make a U-turn. And then I didn't see my brother and that's when I  
14 hit him.

15 Q. Okay. You drove up where?

16 A. Up Kennedy. Then I made a U-turn.

17 Q. Back to Georgia?

18 A. Yes, (indiscernible) towards New Hampshire, in the street.

19 Q. So as soon as you made a U-turn -- because you're still  
20 Georgia, right?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Where -- how far was it, how far --

23 A. It's essentially the same block. Like so if the club's here,  
24 we went that way. It's (indiscernible) --

25 Q. Like how far were you driving before you hit your brother?

1 How much driving were you doing?

2 A. Like how far is --

3 Q. Right. So you made a U-turn, right?

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. Where exactly -- what side --

6 A. Right there in the middle.

7 Q. So as soon as you make the U-turn, your brother's right  
8 there?

9 A. No, no, no. Like I drove down --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- and then I didn't see him walking by.

12 Q. Which way did he walk from?

13 A. From the -- this side to that side.

14 Q. So he's walking -- so from -- he's crossing left side of the  
15 street?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Okay. He's crossing left side to the right side?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. Okay. At what point did you see him?

20 A. I didn't see him, so I hit him.

21 Q. Okay. Do you know how fast you were going?

22 A. I didn't look.

23 Q. Is this right after you made your turn?

24 A. No, it was like -- I kept going.

25 Q. Okay. So do you think you know how fast you were going?

1 A. No (indiscernible).

2 Q. Okay. All right. Okay.

3 BY DET. CLAXTON:

4 Q. Where was your vehicle parked? When you came out of the  
5 club, where was your vehicle parked?

6 A. On the street. The same block.

7 Q. On Kennedy Street or on Georgia?

8 A. It was on Georgia. It was on Georgia.

9 Q. Georgia?

10 A. I just kept saying Kennedy because the block was right there  
11 (indiscernible) Street.

12 Q. Was it parked -- was your vehicle parked south -- was it  
13 parked south of the club or north?

14 A. South.

15 Q. South of the club?

16 A. When you get out, you're down there like the same block.  
17 Down there.

18 Q. Okay.

19 BY DET. COMMODORE:

20 Q. So was your car -- your car is facing south right now on  
21 Georgia Avenue. All right? If you were to get out of your car  
22 and walk to the club, how far would you have to walk?

23 A. Like less than 30 seconds.

24 Q. So the club was basically right there?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. So I was parked like -- let's say going from that way.

3 Q. Um-hum.

4 A. The car is right here; the club is right here.

5 Q. Okay. So you just walk on and go right across the street?

6 A. Walk down and then --

7 Q. Okay. Right. So you passed the club to turn around?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. All right. So do you know -- I'm just trying to, I'm  
10 just trying to, trying to get an estimate. Once you made your  
11 U-turn -- right? You made a U-turn?

12 A. Um-hum.

13 Q. How far do you say you drove? Not how fast, but how far?

14 A. Like halfway. Like so the club is like right in the middle.

15 Q. Um-hum.

16 A. I made a U-turn, let's say, half the whole block; I did it  
17 halfway.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Before the light.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. There was a alley right there, a (indiscernible) there.

22 Q. Um-hum.

23 A. Around there.

24 Q. Okay. All right.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't get the printer to work.

1 (Detective Claxton exits.)

2 BY DET. COMMODORE:

3 Q. Because you were in a crash that caused, you know, injuries  
4 and stuff, we have to actually get a urine sample from you.

5 A. I mean, I don't really have to use the bathroom now, right.

6 Q. Try your best.

7 A. All right.

8 Q. Yeah. Are your brothers going to be waiting for you or --

9 A. I don't know. I overheard that they said that my sister and  
10 brother was downstairs. So I'm not quite sure what they're --

11 Q. All right.

12 A. And I got to remember like my windshield being foggy and I  
13 didn't see him.

14 Q. You say your windshield was foggy?

15 A. Yeah, it was kind of foggy.

16 DET. COMMODORE: All right. All right. Let me see what he's  
17 going to do with you real quick because, like I say, we need to  
18 get a sample from you. So just hang tight.

19 (Det. Commodore exits.)

20 (Det. Claxton returns.)

21 DET. CLAXTON: Okay, sir. As standard procedure, we're going  
22 to have you take a urine sample, okay?

23 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Uh-huh.

24 DET. CLAXTON: Is that all right?

25 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: Yes, sir.



1 DET. CLAXTON: (To Officer) Any, anything special that needs  
2 to be done? Anything --

3 Okay. Come on.

4 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Got to go?

5 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: I really don't.

6 DET. CLAXTON: You really don't? You drank some water,  
7 right?

8 MR. ERICK RAMOS-AYALA: I did.

9 DET. CLAXTON: All right. Let's see. Let's try.

10 To the left.

11 (Everyone exits.)

12 (Mr. Erick Ramos-Ayala and the detectives return.)

13 BY DET. COMMODORE:

14 Q. All right. We're almost done. All right. Let me just ask  
15 you a question. At what point did you see your brother before you  
16 hit him?

17 A. Again, right there when we were -- I had been screaming and  
18 we were fighting.

19 Q. No, like when you, when you hit him with the car?

20 A. The last time I saw him?

21 Q. No, where exactly was he? You said he was crossing the  
22 street, right?

23 A. Right.

24 Q. Right.

25 A. So I was on the left lane --

1 Q. Um-hum.

2 A. -- road and then that's when I hit him. I just saw him like  
3 falling like that.

4 Q. You couldn't see him from a distance?

5 A. I couldn't.

6 Q. Okay. So do you see him before, like right before you hit  
7 him?

8 A. No. Like I --

9 Q. Did you see him walk across the street?

10 A. I did not, no.

11 Q. Okay. So you just -- so how do you know he was walking from  
12 the left to the right?

13 A. Because he was coming this way.

14 Q. How do you know that if you didn't see him?

15 A. Because I hit him, he was right there. Because if I would  
16 have hit him on the other side, he would have been on the right  
17 side laying down.

18 Q. Okay. Or, I mean, he, he could have, you know, darted all  
19 the way out. I mean, what I'm saying, we, we just need to make  
20 sure.

21 A. Right.

22 Q. You know what I mean?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And you couldn't see anything in front of you?

25 A. Right.

1 Q. Okay. All right. Well, unfortunately your brother didn't  
2 survive the injuries. He passed away.

3 And did you know that already?

4 A. (Shakes head)

5 Q. So right now we have some investigating to do. I'm -- you  
6 know, you're not going to like get locked up in here right now.  
7 Because we have to investigate. We have to see everything that  
8 happened. And I have to be honest with you, we have to make sure  
9 he -- you weren't in your feelings that you actually hit him for  
10 real or you were upset. We have to make sure of that because, you  
11 know, you're fighting inside, you're fighting outside, and all of  
12 a sudden he's hit, and now killed. Okay. So we have some work to  
13 do. And I'm going to, you know, I'm going to be reaching out to  
14 you.

15 Where was your phone when all this happened? Someone else  
16 had it?

17 A. Yeah, my brother.

18 Q. Hum?

19 A. Yeah, my brother has it. Or (indiscernible), I guess.

20 Q. All right. So --

21 DET. COMMODORE: Is his brother still downstairs?

22 DET. CLAXTON: Yes.

23 DET. COMMODORE: They're waiting for him?

24 DET. CLAXTON: Yes.

25 BY DET. COMMODORE:

1 Q. Okay. All right. So we're going to take you downstairs with  
2 your brothers, all right? And, you know, it's just something that  
3 unfortunately happened. All right?

4 So what we're hoping is that you don't go downstairs and a  
5 whole lot of stuff is, you know, happening, you know, in the lobby  
6 with you and your brothers.

7 Okay? So just hang tight. We -- hold on and I'll walk you  
8 down there, all right?

9 (Detectives exit.)

10 (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 Erick 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.



Kay Maurer  
Transcriber