

HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS

Attachment 8 – Witness Interview Transcript Palm Springs, CA

HWY17MH005

(26 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Investigation of:

*

TOUR BUS COLLISION WITH SEMI-TRUCK *
ON INTERSTATE 10 NEAR DESERT HOT *
SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA ON *
OCTOBER 23, 2016 *

* Accident No.: HWY17MH005

Interview of: MICHAEL STEVEN OLIPHANT

Via Telephone

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

APPEARANCES:

B. DOWNING, Officer California Highway Patrol

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1 INTERVIEW 2 MR. OLIPHANT: Good. 3 OFFICER DOWNING: So I was wondering, would you have time for 4 a -- to provide a more detailed statement this morning? 5 MR. OLIPHANT: Yeah, go ahead. You want to do it over the 6 phone? 7 What do you prefer? Do you prefer a phone OFFICER DOWNING: 8 or in person? 9 MR. OLIPHANT: Phone is fine with me. 10 OFFICER DOWNING: Okay. Okay. 11 INTERVIEW OF MICHAEL STEVEN OLIPHANT BY OFFICER DOWNING: 12 13 So basically, what I'm going to do is I'm just going to ask 14 you obviously what happened in the collision, and I want you to 15 think about as you approached the collision scene, what were you 16 doing, what were your observations, then what drew your attention, 17 what did you see, and then, you know, what did you observe around 18 you at that time, and then what you did after the collision. 19 And then what I'm going to do is after -- I'm listening to you and taking notes, so even -- if you don't hear anything from 2.0 21 me, it's probably just because I'm taking notes. And then I may 22 stop you from time to time. If I do, I'm not trying to be rude. 23 It's just sometimes a thought or a question will pop into my head. 24 And then, at the end of your statement, what I'll do is I'll 25 probably just ask some clarifying questions and things along those

- 1 lines, okay?
- 2 A. Okay.
- 3 Q. All right. So yeah, so like I said, just kind of think about
- 4 what it is and just kind of think about, like, step-by-step, kind
- 5 of just of what you saw, okay? So --
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. All right. Go ahead, sir.
- 8 A. Okay. So I'm going to start from the very beginning.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. And that's when I left my house --
- 11 Q. Okay. Perfect.
- 12 A. -- and I was going to Las Vegas to pick up a puppy. And I
- 13 have an application that works on my cell phone that is called
- 14 TRIPLOG, and so when I start the car, it starts logging my mileage
- 15 and my time when I leave. And it also uses GPS to track my route.
- 16 So when I left, I think TRIPLOG was at, like, 4:54 a.m.
- 17 So I left pretty early, it was dark, and I got on Interstate
- 18 | 10 heading west. And there was, there was light traffic, not
- 19 really -- you know, one or two cars around me within a mile or
- 20 | two. And I was in the second lane doing approximately 70 miles an
- 21 hour and I was heading towards the 62 to go to Yucca Valley.
- 22 And as I was approaching the Indian -- Canyon Bridge, Indian
- 23 | -- the Indian Road Bridge there where ARCO and Loves (ph.) is --
- 24 Q. Yeah. Indian Canyon Drive, yeah.
- 25 A. Yeah. Indian Canyon Drive. As I was approaching that,

there's a lot of lights because it's night and, you know, from the windows, but they normally blink red. And I saw a bunch of amber lights that looked like a semi-truck in my lane as I was coming up to it. And I was coming up pretty hot, 70 miles an hour, and I could see it through the bridge because it was confusing me.

And as I got close, I did an abrupt lane change from the second lane to the third lane and that's when I saw it was -- it looked like it was a parked semi. I don't -- if you guys, you know, thought it was moving, but I don't remember seeing brake lights or anything like that. It looked like it was parked. And I could see, you know, the entire semi, was recognized as a semi. The trailer had all the running lights on.

And so I spun around -- or I went around it and I was waiting for him to, like, turn his hazard lights on or move over to the side of the freeway, and I was watching it in my rearview mirror for about a mile. And the road -- the highway starts to crest and then I couldn't see him anymore. And but I never saw him move, I never saw hazard lights, and I don't even really remember seeing brake lights on.

20 Q. Okay.

- 21 A. So but like you said, I mean, it could've been me.
- 22 O. Yeah.
- A. I just was fortunate enough to recognize that it was a semi
 there and got out of the way. So I made it to Las Vegas and I
 picked up my puppy. I was there a little early. I got texts back

- 1 and forth with the breeder, you know, because I got there a little
- 2 | bit early. But I knew that because I was going to do -- you know,
- 3 | fill up the gas and get ready to come back around, turn back
- 4 | around. And then I got the puppy and I left Las Vegas about
- 5 around 10:45 or so.
- And as I was coming back down on 62 and making the turn onto
- 7 Interstate 10 going home, back to Bermuda Dunes, that's when I saw
- 8 the semi-truck had been rear-ended. And I didn't know by what or
- 9 anything. You could just see it was, it was destroyed. It was
- 10 bad. But I never, I never really -- I thought the tractor was
- 11 red, but I was going really fast and I don't know if it is. But I
- 12 definitely saw the entire semi, you know, the lights on the
- 13 trailer and everything, and he wasn't moving.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. He was, he was stopped, or going so slow I couldn't tell he
- 16 was moving.
- 17 Q. Which is sometimes possible with big-rigs, you know, because
- 18 they're moving at such a slower speed. But --
- 19 A. Right. But this was not like -- I mean, he -- this wasn't
- 20 | like he was moving at all. I came up on him, you know, and it was
- 21 an abrupt lane change. It was like holy smokes.
- 22 Q. Yeah.
- 23 A. But I guess that's what I saw. That's what I could tell you.
- 24 So I could make some, you know, assumptions, but --
- 25 Q. Yeah, well, we're -- yeah, we -- yeah, you don't want to make

- 1 too many assumptions because you want --
- 2 A. Well, and I -- what I told you is no, there's no assumptions.
- 3 | That's what I saw.
- 4 Q. Yeah, I --
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. Yeah. Are you acquainted with any parties in this collision
- 7 by chance?
- 8 A. You know, I made it a point not to watch any of the news or
- 9 anything like that. A couple of people told me, you know, what
- 10 | they saw on the news, some things about the news, but I don't know
- 11 anyone personally, you know, involved in it. I'm completely
- 12 independent.
- 13 Q. Okay. Now, you said you avoided the media coverage. Did you
- 14 watch any media coverage at all or did you avoid most of it?
- 15 A. The only thing I did was when I got home on Sunday, I pulled
- 16 up the Desert -- KSQ or Desert Sun, one or the others, and I saw
- 17 the picture and it said -- I think it said at the time that there
- 18 was 12 dead and 21 injured. And so that's when I called, I called
- 19 the highway patrol office number and they said call back on Monday
- 20 during regular business hours unless it's an emergency.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. So, I mean, that obviously not an emergency now. So that's
- 23 when I had called.
- 24 O. Okav. Perfect. Now --
- 25 A. But as far as the other, I haven't watched any news. That's

- 1 the only, that's the only --
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. -- one that I, you know, I did, I had seen.
- 4 Q. Okay. Perfect. Yeah, so because some people, I know, like,
- 5 just make sure that the media sometimes, whether it's right or
- 6 wrong information that is sometimes put out there, we want to make
- 7 | sure it doesn't, like, affect your statement and things like that.
- 8 So --
- 9 A. Right. Did --
- 10 Q. -- it's good that you're sticking to just what you observed.
- 11 | I appreciate that.
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Now, you said you were doing about 70 miles an hour. How do
- 14 | you know you were doing 70 miles an hour?
- 15 A. I had the cruise control on.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. Yeah.
- 18 Q. Is cruise control at 70 something you normally do?
- 19 A. Yeah, 70. You know, I -- you know, I cheat like everybody
- 20 else, so -- 70, 75, right. I mean, to be honest.
- 21 Q. Thank you for admitting that. No, I'm just joking.
- 22 A. But on my TRIPLOG, it says exactly when I stop -- started and
- 23 when I stopped, the mileage, and then the average miles per hour.
- 24 And so --
- 25 Q. Yeah.

- 1 A. And there wasn't a lot of traffic so, you know, it's kind of
- 2 high.
- 3 Q. Now did you notice when you were approaching Indian Canyon
- 4 Road or Drive when you were heading westbound, did you notice any
- 5 signs advising of -- did you notice any signs on the freeway or
- 6 any other, like, lights other than, like, the red windmill lights
- 7 or the lights of the big-rig?
- 8 A. It was just the, you know, every -- normal every other day
- 9 there. I didn't see see any special signage out to, you know,
- 10 warn of slowing traffic. There wasn't any flashing lights of --
- 11 or anything like that. This guy was -- he was parked in the
- 12 second lane, you know? And I even went by and I said holy --
- 13 somebody's going to get killed here, you know, if that guy doesn't
- 14 get out, out of the way. And so, you know, I -- you know, that's
- 15 | just what I thought to myself. But what are you going to do at 70
- 16 miles an hour and you keep going along, you know? I -- you know.
- 17 | So anyways --
- 18 Q. Well, when you changed lanes, you said you went -- did you go
- 19 to the left of him or to the right of him?
- 20 A. I went to the left of him.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. I didn't want to go to the first lane because I didn't know
- 23 -- you know, it's kind of on a curve there, and so I didn't know
- 24 | if there was something on the inside of him. So I was -- it was,
- 25 and then plus, you know, you're on the driver's side, so I could

- 1 | easily see. There was another car next to me, but we were the
- 2 only two cars and I didn't see -- again, I was a mile up before,
- 3 you know, it crested and I couldn't see him anymore, and I didn't
- 4 | see any cars or anything behind me. It was really light traffic
- 5 on the 10 for that time of the morning, you know, Sunday morning.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. And because I saw it before the accident, I mean, that's why
- 8 I figured I really needed to call because that's -- I mean, you
- 9 know, after the accident, you guys can piece the stuff together,
- 10 | but --
- 11 Q. Yeah.
- 12 A. -- somebody driving by and calling and saying, hey, that's --
- 13 O. Yeah.
- 14 A. -- I figured that was, I --
- 15 \mathbb{Q} . Now just, and also just so we could clarify and understand
- 16 each other a little bit better, when you say number 1 lane, 2
- 17 | lane, 3 lane, 4 lane, do you count from right to left or left to
- 18 right?
- 19 A. Yeah, I'm counting number 1 as the slowest lane and number 4
- 20 as the fastest.
- 21 Q. I figured as much, because --
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. I figured as much when you were, as you were describing it.
- 24 But this is just so I can -- you know, we can make sure, like,
- 25 when we put it together we understand how people's reference

- 1 points are.
- 2 A. Yeah. And I know how memories change after, you know, time
- 3 too. So that's why I wanted to call right away when everything
- 4 was fresh and -- you know, talk about it right away.
- 5 Q. Now, when you went around the vehicle -- so you see a big-rig
- 6 stopped in front of you and you change lanes to the left to go
- 7 | around it, what did you observe in front of the big-rig?
- 8 A. It was, it was -- there was -- it was open freeway. There
- 9 was no cars, no traffic or anything in front of him. The only
- 10 thing I did recognize was on the Frontage Road, it looked like
- 11 | there was a highway patrol pickup truck parked on the Frontage
- 12 Road. I think it was a highway patrol truck, you know, but I
- 13 | didn't --
- 14 Q. Okay. Hold on --
- 15 A. -- it's dark. But it -- but they do kind of stand out.
- 16 Q. Okay. But -- okay, we'll talk about that real quick too,
- 17 but --
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. -- back to when you changed lanes, you said open freeway
- 20 | ahead of him?
- 21 A. Um-hum.
- 22 Q. What did you say after that? There was no other traffic or
- 23 you saw traffic?
- 24 A. I didn't see, I didn't see -- I changed lanes and got in the
- 25 third lane and there -- I didn't see any other vehicles or signage

- 1 or -- it was just, you know, there's the open freeway, like --
- 2 | like you would imagine at 4:00 in the morning it would be. Or I
- 3 | mean, I'm sorry, at -- it was a little after 5:00 then on a Sunday
- 4 morning. So there wasn't, there wasn't any other cars or anything
- 5 parked in front of him that I saw. It's not like he had stopped
- 6 and there was something in front of him like he was trying to push
- 7 | or help or anything. I didn't see anything like that.
- 8 Q. I'm not ignoring. I'm just writing some stuff down real
- 9 quick.
- 10 A. It's okay. I'm just trying to recollect the best I can so --
- 11 Q. No, that's why I said I was, like, going to ask some
- 12 questions as well --
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. -- without leading any sort of direction or whatnot.
- 15 When you changed lanes -- I know I keep saying when you
- 16 changed lanes, but when you went to the lanes, did you ever reduce
- 17 | your speed? Did anything ever force you -- did your speed ever
- 18 | change in your vehicle?
- 19 A. I'm sure I, I'm sure I took it out of cruise control to look
- 20 in my rearview mirrors to see what was -- you know, to look at it,
- 21 | because I -- once I was past him, I felt safe, you know, or safer.
- 22 And so I was -- I'm sure I slowed down a little bit. I'm not
- 23 saying I -- you know, I was still probably doing 65 or something
- 24 like that. I didn't stop. But other than that, no I didn't slow
- 25 down significantly.

- 1 Q. And --
- 2 A. Because I didn't want to get rear-ended, you know, by, you
- 3 know how it --
- 4 Q. And this may sound like a silly question, but why didn't you
- 5 feel the need to slow down? Does that make sense? Like, when you
- 6 went around him, why didn't you have to slow down? Was there any
- 7 | reason you would've had to have slowed down?
- 8 A. There was -- no, there was no reason to. There -- you know,
- 9 | it was in -- you know, I was riding in the second lane. It was
- 10 open freeway. If I hadn't -- if he didn't have his running lights
- 11 on, I would've ran in the back of him. There's no doubt. But I
- 12 was fortunate to recognize he had running lights, what the running
- 13 lights were and make the lane change in time.
- But otherwise I would've just, I would've run right in the
- 15 back of him. Because there was, it was just, I mean, for a four-
- 16 | lane freeway, I mean, you know, you could've counted how many cars
- 17 | were around him on one hand. There was not -- there wasn't really
- 18 | very many cars or -- I didn't see any semi-trucks at all, other
- 19 than the one that was parked in the second lane.
- 20 Q. How far back do you think you were when you first noticed the
- 21 | truck stopped in the lane?
- 22 A. Wow. That's a good question.
- 23 Q. Yeah, you know --
- 24 A. I'm just, I mean, I'm sure it was under a half mile, you
- 25 know. I mean, maybe even -- it's hard to, you know --

- 1 Q. It can be.
- 2 A. Yeah. I would say, you know, maybe a quarter mile before I
- 3 | finally decided, oh, man, that's something in my lane, I got to
- 4 get over, you know. I mean, it was -- it wasn't like, you know, I
- 5 | had to turn so hard where I started to skid the wheels. It was
- 6 | like, oh, there he is. And you know, again, I didn't even --
- 7 | because it was just running lights and I was coming up on him so
- 8 hot, he just -- you know, I wasn't expecting that.
- 9 Q. I'm just writing. So obviously you're familiar with this
- 10 portion of the roadway, correct?
- 11 A. Yeah. I drive to Orange -- week, so I, yeah, I drive the 10
- 12 quite a bit.
- 13 Q. Okay. Let's see here. Was there any, did you have any
- 14 passengers in the car with you or were you by yourself?
- 15 A. By myself. Just my puppy.
- 16 Q. Just your dog?
- 17 A. (Indiscernible).
- 18 Q. What kind of dog did you get?
- 19 A. It's a Vizsla.
- 20 Q. A visa?
- 21 A. Vizsla.
- 22 Q. A Vizsla?
- 23 A. It's a Hungarian Pointer.
- 24 Q. Really? Interesting.
- 25 A. Yeah. Yeah. Here he is. Hi.

- 1 Q. That's cool.
- 2 A. Hi. Eight weeks old.
- 3 Q. Oh, yeah, that is a puppy.
- 4 A. Yeah. Hi. Come here.
- 5 Q. I'm just trying to think of some other, some follow-up
- 6 questions I need to ask you. Have you ever been, have you ever
- 7 been in a traffic closure before?
- 8 A. I mean --
- 9 Q. Like, have you ever, like, come across a traffic closure
- 10 where lanes were blocked or anything like that?
- 11 A. Yes, I've been -- I have been, yeah.
- 12 Q. Okay. No, I'm --
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 Q. -- I'm just asking questions, you know --
- 15 A. Yeah. I was a volunteer fireman for a few years, so --
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. And I think that's one of the big reasons with me being
- 18 | afraid to stopping on the freeway without emergency gear or
- 19 flashing lights. One of the things that they said when we were
- 20 doing it is, you know, don't become a victim.
- 21 Q. Yup.
- 22 A. So, you know, but -- yeah, the --
- 23 Q. All right.
- 24 A. I guess the only other one was in Moreno Valley, I mean
- 25 | recently, within the last 4 or 5 years.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. Some guy passed me. I was doing 65 and he passed me on the
- 3 | right side and he had one of those little 55 mile an hour donut
- 4 tires on the front.
- 5 Q. Oh.
- 6 A. And he flipped it right in front of me and, I mean, there was
- 7 | nothing we could do. It was a convertible.
- 8 Q. Oh, that's what I wanted to talk about, Mr. Oliphant. Going
- 9 back to where you thought you might've observed maybe a patrol
- 10 vehicle or a, like, a CHP truck. Let's go back to that. What did
- 11 you see or where do you think you saw him at?
- 12 A. Well, there is a windmill tourist center up there and -- on
- 13 | the Frontage Road, and it looked like there might've been a
- 14 highway patrol truck on, you know, next to that on that Frontage
- 15 Road.
- 16 Q. Where the -- and what made you think it was a highway patrol
- 17 truck?
- 18 A. It just, it just looked like it was one of the pickup trucks
- 19 and it had a, it had a sticker on the side, you know, a decal on
- 20 the side on the door. So it may not have been. Like I said, I
- 21 was --
- 22 Q. Do you know what color it was?
- 23 A. -- you know, I was -- it looked like it was all white.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. Because it had that same kind of camper shell and stuff on

- 1 | it, so --
- 2 \mathbb{Q} . And were there any lights on or anything like that?
- 3 A. No. It was, it was just parked.
- 4 Q. Just parked?
- 5 A. Yeah. That --
- 6 Q. Just parked with, like, headlights on, running lights?
- 7 A. I don't remember seeing any lights on it.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Okay. Let's see. Did you pass any traffic on your way, as
- 11 | you were approaching Indian Canyon and that stopped big-rig?
- 12 A. I don't remember passing -- there was, like I said, there was
- 13 another car that we were kind of riding next to each other.
- 14 Q. Yeah.
- 15 A. Yeah. It seems like cars always pace you when you run a --
- 16 | run with a cruise control.
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. So, and I did -- he was in the third lane, and so I did, I
- 19 turned in front of him. Well, you know, I made the lane change in
- 20 | front of him and he was behind me when we passed the semi-truck.
- 21 Q. Okay. I'm just writing. Let's see. So by chance, did you
- 22 | have a, were you well-rested as well? Like, were you, did you
- 23 feel like peppy in the morning, I guess, if you will? Like, did
- 24 you feel like you had slept enough the night before?
- 25 A. Yeah. Oh, yeah. I, you know, I'm used to, you know, I'm

- 1 used to -- I'm a deep sea fisherman. I'm used to getting up early
- 2 and --
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. -- doing that kind of stuff.
- 5 | Q. And do you need to wear glasses or anything like that for any
- 6 | particular reason?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. No. I had the cataract surgery done last year, so I don't
- 10 use them anymore. I've got 20/20 from the -- you know, according
- 11 to the doctor. But I think my driver's license still says I need
- 12 | corrective lenses. But, you know, I don't think you have to go in
- 13 and get your -- a new driver's license for that, do you?
- 14 Q. No, but it helps not to have a restriction on there. Just, I
- 15 | mean, let's say -- I mean, hypothetically, let's say I stopped you
- 16 for speed and I noticed that you needed to wear corrective lenses
- 17 | while driving and I didn't see any soft or hard contacts or
- 18 glasses on you, I could write that as a violation. Have I done it
- 19 | before? Yes. Have I -- do I use that -- do I write that
- 20 violation all the time? No. So there is that -- there's always
- 21 that chance. So maybe when you get your license renewed or
- 22 | whatever, maybe you want to talk to the DMV about no longer
- 23 needing that restriction on your license.
- 24 A. Okay.
- 25 Q. That's what I would --

- 1 A. But again --
- 2 Q. That way it's just, it's just one less thing you have to
- 3 explain out, you know?
- 4 A. Amen. Well, that's why I'm saying right now so it's full
- 5 disclosure on, you know --
- 6 Q. Yeah. Oh, no --
- 7 A. -- they're going to say, hey, what's this? This guy's --
- 8 supposed to be wear corrective lenses and --
- 9 O. Oh, no. You don't --
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. No, this is just -- these are just questions we ask to --
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. -- not come after a witness to get them in trouble for, like,
- 14 not wearing corrective lenses, but just to get an idea of, like,
- 15 | their possibility to perceive and react to a -- like, a possible
- 16 | collision or a possible object in the roadway, or just anything
- 17 | that might come up. So it's just, it's just some questions we
- 18 ask, and I'll pretty much ask everybody that same thing as well.
- 19 So no, not like -- and --
- 20 A. Well, I mean, considering the severity of the accident and
- 21 stuff, I mean, if it's a ticket for me --
- 22 Q. No, no, no.
- 23 A. -- you know, I mean, I, you know --
- 24 Q. No, I wasn't --
- 25 A. -- it's just such a tragedy.

- 1 Q. It is. Yeah, it is.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Did you have anything to drink or, you know, use any
- 4 prescription or illegal drugs the night before or prior to
- 5 driving?
- 6 A. No, I don't drink alcohol and I don't take any medications.
- 7 Q. I don't drink alcohol --
- 8 A. Other than an occasional ibuprofen.
- 9 O. That's all I take.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. And let's see here. Well -- okay. I really don't think I
- 12 need to ask any further questions. Just is there anything at all
- 13 that I have not covered or that you've covered that you would like
- 14 to add to your statement or that you would feel is relevant?
- 15 A. I think -- well, I know that what I stated is, you know, the
- 16 facts that I've known and I've observed them from, and I don't
- 17 | have any other, I don't really have any other, you know,
- 18 | information that would be relevant to your investigation.
- 19 Q. If I had to, if I had any further follow-up questions --
- 20 | let's say I thought of a question later or if, let's say someone,
- 21 another witness brings something else to light, would I be able to
- 22 | call you back to ask follow-up questions?
- 23 A. Oh, yeah. Yeah. No problem.
- 24 Q. Okay. Well, Mr. Oliphant, I really appreciate you spending
- 25 time with me on the phone today to help us with this

- 1 | investigation, and it is appreciated, just to let you know.
- 2 A. No problem. I just, you know, this is -- I just wonder if
- 3 the guy had his parking lights on. Just I know you guys check all
- 4 that stuff, right?
- 5 Q. Yeah. So and now when you say no brake lights --
- 6 A. And --
- 7 Q. -- going back to that then, you're confident it's no brake
- 8 lights, right? That it was just the running lights or -- stopped
- 9 there?
- 10 A. I mean, I know for sure the running lights on, but I -- you
- 11 know, I would say on confidence level, I'm about 75 percent sure I
- 12 didn't see any brake lights.
- 13 Q. Okay.
- 14 A. You know, because the -- I mean, that would -- just seems
- 15 | like if it had brake lights on, that would really give you a clue,
- 16 oh, hey, you know, slow down or something stopped in the -- or
- 17 | something, you know, there's debris in the, you know, on the
- 18 | freeway or something like that. So I -- you know, like I say, I
- 19 have a high confidence that I didn't see any brake lights, and
- 20 | that's why I'm wondering if he didn't just (indiscernible) the
- 21 thing and for some reason put it in park or something like that
- 22 and went back to his sleeper or something. I don't know. But --
- 23 Q. Yeah.
- 24 A. Yeah, that's -- there was just a question. You don't have to
- 25 answer it.

- 1 Q. No, no, no. I'm just -- no, I'm just, I like to listen and
- 2 | think of, you know, what your thoughts are and things like that --
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. -- like I said, perceived and just your own thoughts, so --
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. No, I really, I really appreciate the statement and I really
- 7 | appreciate you calling. It's always good to have people who are
- 8 -- who care about, you know, the possibility of what's going on
- 9 and really want to help out. So again --
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. -- thank you. And --
- 12 A. Well, we appreciate -- I appreciate the job that the police
- do in highway patrol. And I know you guys are bad guys sometimes
- 14 when we have to write the ticket and stuff.
- 15 Q. Yeah.
- 16 A. But I never, I never lose my head, because I always
- 17 | understand, you know what, you're just doing your job. You're
- 18 writing down what it is. And my neighbor is, he's a sheriff and,
- 19 you know, I love his kids and his family and -- you know, I don't
- 20 know how you guys do it.
- 21 Q. Right. Well, I do it because I like doing it.
- 22 A. There you go. Good.
- 23 Q. Well, thank you very much. And so, if I have any further
- 24 | follow-up questions, I'll probably be giving you a call either
- 25 later this evening or in the next day or so.

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1
    Α.
         Okay. Good.
         All right. Well, thank you very much, sir.
 2
    Q.
 3
    Α.
         All right.
    Q.
         All right.
 4
          Talk to you later.
 5
    Α.
         All right. Bye-bye.
 6
    Q.
 7
    Α.
          Bye.
 8
          (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
 9
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: TOUR BUS COLLISION WITH SEMI-TRUCK

ON INTERSTATE 10 NEAR DESERT HOT

SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA ON

OCTOBER 23, 2016

Interview of Michael Steven Oliphant

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY-17-MH-005

PLACE: Via Telephone

DATE: October 26, 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.

Karen A. Stockhausen

Transcriber