

SHE INFORMED US THE HELICOPTER HAD CRASHED IN THE BACKYARDS BETWEEN THE RESIDENCES AT AND EAST ROMA AVENUE. BOTH RESIDENCES SUSTAINED DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF THE CRASH. THE HELICOPTER WAS OWNED BY CANYON STATE AERO. THE PILOT AND PASSENGER IN THE HELICOPTER WERE TRANSPORTED TO SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL FOR TREATMENT OF INJURY. TWO WITNESSES, RONALD PONCE AND ALAN COTTRELL, WERE TRANSPORTED TO BANNER GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT OF INJURY SUSTAINED WHILE RENDERING AID TO THE PILOT AND PASSENGER OF THE HELICOPTER. NO PERSONS IN THE RESIDENCES HAD SUSTAINED INJURY AS A RESULT OF THE CRASH.

OFFICER LAUFER PROVIDED US WITH THE INFORMATION FOR THE PILOT, PASSENGER, MANAGER AND OWNER OF THE HELICOPTER. SHE ALSO PROVIDED US WITH INFORMATION FOR THE HOME OWNERS AND THREE WITNESSES TO THE COLLISION.

UPON THE CONCLUSION OF THE BRIEFING, I WAS ASSIGNED THE CASE AGENT RESPONSIBILITIES. DETECTIVE INFANGER WAS ASSIGNED THE SCENE INVESTIGATION WITH DETECTIVE SOLACE ASSISTING. DETECTIVE MULLENEAUX IS A DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT. HE RESPONDED DIRECTLY TO SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL TO EVALUATE THE PILOT FOR ANY INDICATIONS OF IMPAIRMENT. SERGEANT LONG WOULD BE THE INVESTIGATION SUPERVISOR AND TAKE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE COLLISION SCENE.

I COORDINATED MY EFFORTS WITH JACK OGLE FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTACT THE PILOT AND PASSENGER IN THE HELICOPTER AND REQUESTED I CONTACT WITNESSES.

**** WITNESSES ****

Witness #1 BRYAN LIFSHITZ **

FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT BRIEFING, I CONTACTED BRYAN LIFSHITZ WHO WAS STILL AT THE COLLISION SCENE. HE TOLD ME THE FOLLOWING:

HE WAS AT HIS RESIDENCE WHICH IS ONE BLOCK NORTH OF ROMA. HE HEARD THE HELICOPTER OVERHEAD AND HIS ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO IT BECAUSE IT DIDN'T "SOUND RIGHT". THE ENGINE WAS "SPUTTERING" AND SOUNDED "WRONG". AS HE WATCHED IT, IT WAS "ROCKING AND TEETERING". IT THEN LOST ALTITUDE AND "NOSE-DIVED" TOWARD THE GROUND, SOUTH OF HIS LOCATION. HE HEARD THE CRASH AND OBSERVED DEBRIS.

HE WENT TO THE LOCATION AND OBSERVED THE HELICOPTER WAS IN THE BACKYARD OF A HOUSE ON ROMA. THERE WERE TWO CITY OF PHOENIX WATER DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES ATTEMPTING TO GET ACCESS TO THE BACKYARD TO ASSIST THE CREW OF THE HELICOPTER. HE HEARD ONE OF THE PERSONS IN THE HELICOPTER SAY "THE ROTOR WENT OUT".

Witness #2 RONALD PONCE **

RONALD PONCE WAS TRANSPORTED FROM THE COLLISION SCENE TO AN AREA HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT OF INJURIES HE RECEIVED WHILE RENDERING AID TO THE PILOT AND PASSENGER IN THE HELICOPTER. I LATER CONTACTED HIM BY TELEPHONE AND HE

ADVISED ME THE FOLLOWING:

HE IS AN EMPLOYEE WITH THE CITY OF PHOENIX'S WATER DEPARTMENT. HE WAS WITH HIS CO-WORKER, ALAN COTTRELL, IN THE ALLEY BETWEEN ROMA AND TURNEY AVENUES. THIS IS THE ALLEY SOUTH OF ROMA AVENUE. HE HEARD THE HELICOPTER AND IT DID NOT "SOUND RIGHT". THE ENGINE WAS "SPUTTERING" AND THE ENGINE RPM'S WERE INCREASING AND DECREASING. IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT THE MAIN ROTOR BLADE WAS ALSO INCREASING AND DECREASING IN SPEED. AT TIMES HE COULD SEE THE BLADES AND THEN THEY WOULD SPEED UP AND BECOME A BLUR AGAIN.

THE HELICOPTER MADE A U-TURN OVERHEAD WHILE LOSING ALTITUDE. AS ITS ALTITUDE DECREASED, HE LOST SIGHT OF IT BECAUSE OF THE TREES AND HOUSES, BUT HE HEARD THE SOUND OF THE CRASH AND HE AND ALAN COTTRELL GOT INTO THEIR VEHICLES AND DROVE TO ROMA AVENUE. HE AND ALAN COTTRELL WERE ABLE TO FORCE OPEN THE GATE TO BACKYARD IN WHICH THE HELICOPTER HAD CRASHED. THE ENGINE WAS STILL RUNNING AT VERY HIGH RPM'S. HE BEGAN TURNING ALL SWITCHES WHICH WERE LABELED ON AND OFF TO THE OFF POSITIONS, BUT THE ENGINE KEPT RUNNING. THE PILOT WAS OUT OF THE HELICOPTER. THE PASSENGER WAS STILL IN THE DAMAGED HELICOPTER. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ALAN COTTRELL AND OTHER CITIZENS, THEY WERE ABLE TO GET THE PILOT AND PASSENGER OUT OF THE HELICOPTER AND BACKYARD.

RONALD PONCE SUFFERED A SEPARATED WRIST AND A POSSIBLE HERNIA AS A RESULT OF OPENING THE GATE AND HELPING THE PILOT AND PASSENGER TO SAFETY.

Witness #3 ALAN COTTRELL **

ALAN COTTRELL WAS TRANSPORTED FROM THE COLLISION SCENE TO AN AREA HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT OF INJURIES HE RECEIVED WHILE RENDERING AID TO THE PILOT AND PASSENGER IN THE HELICOPTER. I LATER CONTACTED HIM BY TELEPHONE AND HE ADVISED ME THE FOLLOWING:

HE IS AN EMPLOYEE WITH THE CITY OF PHOENIX'S WATER DEPARTMENT. HE WAS WITH HIS CO-WORKER, RONALD PONCE, IN THE ALLEY BETWEEN ROMA AND TURNEY AVENUES. THIS IS THE ALLEY SOUTH OF ROMA AVENUE. HE NOTICED THE HELICOPTER TURNING AROUND AND GOING LOWER. THE ENGINE "DIDN'T SOUND RIGHT". IT SOUNDED LIKE IT WAS JUST BARELY IDLING. IT CONTINUED TO LOSE ALTITUDE AND IT BECAME APPARENT THAT IT WAS EITHER GOING TO LAND OR CRASH. RONALD PONCE WENT TO HIS VEHICLE AND ALAN COTTRELL WENT TO HIS VEHICLE AND THEY BOTH DROVE TO WHERE THE HELICOPTER HAD CRASHED AT A HOUSE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF ROMA AVENUE.

THE ENGINE WAS RUNNING AND CONTINUED TO RUN FOR SOME TIME. HE DID NOT KNOW WHO FINALLY WAS ABLE TO SHUT IT OFF. HE DID NOT HEAR THE PILOT OR PASSENGER SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE CRASH.

**** FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION ****

THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CONDUCTED THE INSPECTION OF THE HELICOPTER AND INTERVIEWED THE PILOT AND PASSENGER. THEY WILL DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH.