

# SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

**Witness Interviews** 

**Spring, Texas** 

**HWY21MH007** 

(31 pages)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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FATAL CRASH AND FIRE OF TESLA \*

MODEL S IN SPRING, TEXAS, \* Accident No.: HWY21FH007

ON APRIL 17, 2021

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: BRETT JENSON

Witness to Accident

Via telephone

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator National Transportation Safety Board

## I N D E X

ITEM		PAGE
Interview	of Brett Jenson:	
	By Mr. Kaminski	5

## INTERVIEW

MR. JENSEN: Hello?

MR. KAMINKSI: Hello, Mr. Jensen?

MR. JENSEN: Yes, how are you doing?

MR. KAMINSKI: Hey, thank you so much for calling me back.

This is Ron Kaminski with NTSB.

MR. JENSEN: Yes, no problem. What can I do for you?

MR. KAMINSKI: Turns I was call -- I've been trying to call you for about a month or so, or a little bit over, but I was dialing the wrong number. I finally got a hold of somebody at the other number. It was your neighbor who has the same last name as I do, Tom Kaminski.

MR. JENSEN: Oh, Tom, yeah.

MR. KAMINSKI: And he finally answered today and I -- and he said no, that's my neighbor across the street, so then I went back into the logs and starting looking and I found your number. But I appreciate you giving me a call back, sir.

MR. JENSEN: Yeah, no problem. Obviously, you know, whatever I can do to help you. It was a while ago, but anything I can --

MR. KAMINSKI: Sure.

MR. JENSEN: -- do for you, sure.

MR. KAMINSKI: So, I have read your statements and I guess if you could just for our purposes kind of go through it again and give me a -- what you saw, what you heard, and then what you went out there and saw and I know --

MR. JENSEN: Sure.

MR. KAMINSKI: -- Corporal Cappy (ph.) did a nice job of asking some questions. I think I just have a couple other ones to follow-up on.

#### BY MR. KAMINSKI:

- Q. But if you could start off from the time you -- I think you said you got a text from your neighbor?
- 8 A. Yeah, so I -- you know, obviously we're now several months 9 removed from this event.
  - Q. Right.

A. So, but yeah, I received a text message from Kyle Brown, it was Saturday night, and asking -- I'm sure you guys have seen all these and copies and all that stuff. Did I -- basically, did I hear something, or sounded like gunshots or something. I was in my driveway. Come back from dinner, and there's a wall in front of my driveway, I was in the interior part. And I texted him back that I thought it was kids with fireworks, because I had seen some sparks or flame -- I don't want to say flames but something that looked like that over the top of my wall. And I think that's when I told him, kids with fireworks, something along those lines.

I went out past kind of the gates to the front part of my driveway where I could see the street, and saw that there'd been a car accident. Kind of on the corner of my lot and pond area. So I walked over that way. I think I was talking to him on the phone and then I hung up and dialed 911 as I was walking over there.

I got to the car, which had crashed into a tree, and it definitely -- it struck the tree, I don't remember -- it didn't look like it was really -- like, the front wasn't super crumpled in, but I don't -- it was dark and I wasn't looking that closely. I was looking inside and I -- there weren't flames yet. I think I told them that, and I remember that because I remember seeing inside. And I remember seeing that the door handles, because I realized it was a Tesla, and I'd been in one before obviously, it -- they were flush, like they weren't popped out so you couldn't open the door.

And then the front driver window was -- like there were was no glass in it. Like, it had been shattered or it was down, I don't remember exactly what, but I didn't see anybody in the car. But it happened quickly, it was at night, I was on the phone with 911 trying to explain what was going on and get them there. So -- and there were like, popping and -- noises. I mean it was clearly -- I don't remember that the fire started at that point, but it started pretty quickly thereafter. It might have started kind of around -- but the interior of the car wasn't in flames, but within another couple minutes after that the whole thing was in flames.

Q. Okay, so where were the sparks coming from? Do you recall?

- Q. Okay, so where were the sparks country from: Do you recall:
- 22 A. They -- so the -- when I first saw them when I was still kind
- 23 of inside my courtyard -- my auto court, I saw them over the wall.
- 24 So, they -- the wall's, I don't know, eight feet tall, and my
- 25 house kind of sits a little higher than the crash site, so, and

- there's all those kinds of trees, with sort of low hanging limbs and stuff.
- $3 \parallel Q$ . Right.

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- A. So, they shot up in the air. I don't want to make it sound
  like they -- some crazy explosion or something, but I mean, they
  were traveling vertically. Right? I saw them kind of jump up
- 7 over the wall, if that makes sense.
- 8 0. Okay.
- A. And then when I got over to the car, there were kind of the sparks and the pops were kind of on the ground, and sort of around. I certainly -- more on the right side of the car than the left, because I was on -- I don't want to say I was right on the left side of the car, but I approached it from what would be the
- kind of crashed into the tree, head on, and I was on the street-

left side of the car, the driver's side, because that's where they

16 | side.

14

- 17 | 0. Sure.
- A. I do remember after I was on the phone with 911, I think, or it was right shortly thereafter, when the back rear right tire
- 20 exploded like, from fire.
- 21 | Q. Okay.
- 22 A. And that definitely -- there were some flames at that point.
- 23 Q. Okay, and so --
- A. And there was occasionally like, sparking when I first got over there.

- Q. Okay, but the interior that --
- A. Like, popping and sparking.
- $3 \parallel Q$ . Was there smoke coming out from the interior? Do you know?
- 4 A. I don't -- there wasn't smoke like, billowing out of the
- 5 interior. I can't say that it wasn't smoky inside, once again, it
- 6 was dark and I couldn't see real clearly inside. I definitely
- 7 didn't see anybody in the driver's seat, which I think I told
- 8 | them.

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- $9 \parallel Q$ . Right, and how close would you say you got up to the car?
- 10 A. A few feet. Maybe somewhere between three and five feet.
- 11 | Maybe a little closer. I mean, I certainly wasn't like, banging
- 12 on the car or anything, because it seemed like it was dangerous.
- 13 I mean, if I had seen somebody I would have done something, but I
- 14 couldn't like -- I wanted to tear apart the car with my bare
- 15 hands.
- 16 Q. Sure. Sure, I understand that. So, you got about three to
- 17 | five feet, say from the front door, you noticed the handles were
- 18 still recessed.
- 19 A. Yes, that's a good way to put it.
- 20 Q. Did you yell inside? Is anybody in there, or did you --
- 21 | anything like that?
- 22 A. I think I was on the phone with 911 when I was there. I
- 23 think I was, it might have been right after it. Once again, I
- 24 apologize, it's, I --
- 25 | Q. I know, it's been several months, yeah.

- 1 A. Yeah. I probably did, and I don't fully remember it. Or
- 2 like, I think I probably, like, shouted like, hey, is anybody in
- 3 there? Because I think it was right around that time one of the
- 4 neighbors came out. I think Tom Kaminski came over because he
- 5 heard me yelling.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. He never crossed the street. I ended up meeting him on his
- 8 side of the street, and it was shortly thereafter that Kyle Brown,
- 9 my friend and other neighbor who's a law enforcement -- retired
- 10 | law enforcement, made it over and then right after that, the
- 11 | firetrucks came. Well, they came to the wrong street so then we
- 12 had to direct them over to the right street.
- 13 Q. Right, and so you were gone three to five feet, you couldn't
- 14 see anybody in the driver's seat, but it was --
- 15 A. Yes, and I could not see in the back windows. Like, they
- 16 were up and I couldn't see. Whether it was smoky or just dark or
- 17 | whatever, I could not see into the car.
- 18 | Q. Okay. And so it was kind of -- was it fairly dark out at
- 19 | night still?
- 20 A. Yes, it was very dark.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 | A. And I have video from right when the firetrucks came. When
- 23 | -- in fact, it was -- I mean, you can see it's dark out.
- $24 \parallel Q$ . Right. Would you be able to send me that video?
- 25 A. Sure.

- Q. That'd be --
- $2 \mid A$ . I figured you guys already had it.
- $3 \parallel Q$ . No, I haven't seen that.
- $4 \mid A$ . Okay, because it has the -- right when the firetrucks roll up
- 5 and then you can see the car on fire and it's actually me and Kyle
- 6 | talking.

- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. For like, 30 seconds. (Indiscernible).
- 9 Q. Now, I know you said you --
- 10 A. Can I like, text it to you at this number, or?
- 11 Q. Yeah, that would be fine.
- 12 A. That's just like --
- 13 Q. Yeah, that'd be fine.
- 14 A. Yeah, I have a few different videos from that evening, so.
- 15 Q. Yeah, please do send those to me, we can send one of our fire
- 16 | people --
- 17 A. Yeah, so this one was from 9:36 p.m.
- 18 Q. Okay. Yeah, that's right when the fire department got there
- 19 | I believe, 9:36.
- 20 | A. Yeah, because we're talking about it here on the side of the
- 21 road. You can see that this is when the constables first rolled
- 22 up. What's your phone number?
- 23 | Q.
- 24 A. Okay. Because I'll send you all the ones.
- 25 Q. Sure, yeah, that'd be great.

- 1 A. I have a few different -- I mean, not that I was sitting
- 2  $\parallel$  there recording a lot that night, but I did happen to have my
- 3 phone out.
- $4 \parallel Q$ . Right. Well, you were calling 911, too, right?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. So do you recall the damage to the driver's door? Did the
- 7 driver's door look like it was -- could have been jammed? Or any
- 8 kind of damage you that you could tell to that driver's door area?
- 9 A. Not that I could tell, but like I said, it was a pretty
- 10 | casual visual inspection.
- 11 | Q. I just got one text. I just got a movie from you. Thank
- 12 you.
- 13 A. Yeah, no problem. I'm sending you a couple others. It
- 14 definitely -- it did not appear to be heavily damaged. That would
- 15 be my opinion, my layperson's opinion.
- 16 | Q. Okay.
- 17 A. Like I can't say that it wasn't like a little bit scratched
- 18 or something, but it definite -- it was not -- it did not look
- 19 severely damaged, except for the glass being out.
- 20 | Q. Right.
- 21 A. Or down.
- 22 | Q. Well, did you see any glass in that area there by the door,
- 23 or was it too dark?
- 24 A. No, I really didn't -- I don't remember. I really didn't --
- 25 | like I said, it was kind of dark but the -- I didn't. I remember

- 1 | thinking, and you know, I mean, memories fade, that it was --
- 2 | like, that the window was down. Or feeling like well, the window
- 3 must have been down. But I can't tell you for sure.
- 4 | Q. Okay.

- A. I wish I was more help.
- 6 Q. Oh, no, no, I understand. Like again, I know it's been
- 7 | several months and then we -- it wasn't until we got your second
- 8 interview from Corporal Cappy (ph.), I think we got that finally
- 9 in early June, so -- and we've been busy with other crashes as
- 10 | well, but --
- 11 | A. I can imagine.
- 12 0. Sure. And --
- 13 A. I did talk to your guys, casually. You -- someone from --
- 14 | there was a group from the NTSB, maybe the following week --
- 15 | Saturday, it was the -- and I talked to them because they
- 16 | recreated -- it appeared to me they were recreating the events
- 17 because it was at the exact same time of night on a Saturday
- 18 | night.
- 19 || Q. That was me. I was out -- I was one of the people out there.
- 20 Yes, sir.
- 21 A. Oh, okay, well then, I may have talked to you, because -- and
- 22 there was a gentleman from California, I think there were people
- 23 | from Tesla there, they literally found they exact same Tesla's and
- 24 | Bill's, like it was the same color --
- 25 | O. Yeah.

- 1 A. -- it was the same year, it was a model S with the little P or whatever.
  - Q. Right.

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- 4 A. It was like -- yeah. The whole -- and I watched -- and then 5 I watched you guys run your course.
- 6 Q. Oh, what a shame. I must have been in the car, I don't recall --
- pickup truck, like a Toyota pickup truck or something that I
  talked to for a little while. Maybe he was with Tesla, he said he
  was with the NTSB, and then I was up with the constable who I knew

Yeah, there was a gentleman from California who had like, a

- 12 for a while.
- Q. Yeah, there's only two of us and we were both in the car with the Tesla contractor.
- 15 A. Got it. Maybe it was the Tesla contractor I talked to then.
- Q. Right, they had a couple other people out there with Tesla as well.
- 18 A. Yeah.

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- Q. And I think you're right, I think one of the other people
  with Tesla -- the Tesla contractor was from California. So, okay,
- well I appreciate your help very much. And you're -- you said you
- 22 got the text from Mr. Brown, would what time --
- A. Sure, let me -- yeah, would you like to know what time that was exactly?
  - Q. Well, I think you said in the -- in your statement, I think

it was 9:24.

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- 2 A. Yeah, we looked it up. We looked it up when I was with the 3 officer that day.
- $4 \parallel Q$ . Okay. Yeah, I think it was 9:24 you said.
- 5 | A. Yeah.
- Q. And then I think I saw that 9:25, you called and -- called it in -- because initially it came in as a grass fire -- or a fire by the woods, and I guess you followed up and said it was --
- $9 \parallel A$ . It was a car.
- $10 \parallel 0$ . A car fire.
- 11 A. Yeah, I think one of the neighbors right at the scene -12 like, we were both calling 911 at the same time and someone -13 they couldn't -- whoever called it probably couldn't see the car
  14 because I was on the street side.
  - I do know also that -- and I told -- this is in my statement, you probably read it, it may not be relevant, but you know, I -- when I got home from dinner, I don't know, maybe ten minutes before this or something, maybe 15, I can't remember. Ms. Varner had followed me in the gate, so -- and I think they'd been out to dinner when I talked to him because you know, Terry, the wife of Dale, who's car this was, we were friends -- Bill and I were friends, and so she -- like, I saw her come in behind me from the main entry gate to the neighborhood.
- 24 | Q. Okay.
- 25 A. And I guess he had been in front of her so nobody had been

home that long.

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- 2 Q. Right, okay.
- $3 \mid A$ . And there's no way -- so -- and I know why I was telling you
- 4 too, like, that car couldn't have been out there that long because
- 5 I would have seen it. Like, the reason I was in the driveway is I
- 6 had just gotten home, and you couldn't have missed it, and Terry
- 7 | couldn't have missed it because she was right behind me, like
- 8 | Bill's Tesla was crashed on the side of the road, someone would
- 9 have seen it. It was impossible to miss.
- 10 Q. Right. Yeah, I guess because we do have some -- a lot of
- 11 | time, people have videos there, so we do have some of that
- 12 | information but, so you're --
- 13 A. Well, that's good.
- 14 0. So, you're thing is --
- 15 A. My videos weren't working that night, some problem on my
- 16 server, otherwise I would have had a video of the whole crash for
- 17 you.
- 18 Q. Yeah, I think what the Corporal -- or the Captain may have
- 19 | followed up with you on that, I know we were trying to get the
- 20 | video.
- 21 A. Yeah, they subpoenaed it, we got the AV guys over there,
- 22 there was some software glitch.
- 23 Q. Right.
- 24 A. To this massive camera system we have, because we have a
- 25 camera pointed literally right at -- that would have seen the

- 1 whole thing.
- Q. Right. So, okay. So, going back to that, that's interesting so she followed you in and --
- $4 \mid A$ . Yeah, not that we were out together just by random chance.
- 5 0. Right. Sure, sure.
- 6 A. Coming through the gate, but obviously, we know each other's
- 7 cars and she was in her -- she has a white Bentley Bentayga, just
- 8 like my wife does, with the license plate that says And
- 9 so, she followed -- basically followed me in.
- 10 Q. Right.
- 11 A. I turn in my driveway, and I watched her go home.
- 12 Q. Right, and you stayed in the car for what, maybe ten minutes?
- 13 A. Maybe ten minutes, I didn't think it was that long, but, I
- 14 think I was surfing the internet, I was texting with somebody, and
- 15 the radio was still on.
- 16 Q. And you wife wouldn't -- you were with your wife she went in
- 17 | the house then?
- 18 A. No, so my wife was home, I was alone.
- 19 Q. Oh, okay.
- 20 | A. We have a two-year-old daughter, so I was out at dinner alone
- 21 | that night. My wife is -- was in the house.
- 22 | Q. Okay.

- 23 A. Because she heard the explosion too, and went and looked in
- 24 | the window --
  - Q. Did you hear it?

- A. (Indiscernible) by the time I got there --
- Q. Did you hear it? Did you hear the explosion, or was it -- you just got the text?
- $4 \mid A$ . I got the text. I don't remember hearing it, and I don't
- 5 know how I didn't hear it because everybody else did, but I got
- 6 the text. I was in the car with the windows up in the driveway,
- 7 so I don't know, but I went out and as soon as I got the text,
- 8 went and looked at it.

- 9 0. Okay. And then --
- 10 A. But I did not hear the explosion.
- 11 | Q. But you were in the car when you first noticed the sparklers?
- 12 Was that before the call or after the call?
- 13 A. Yeah, so I was -- actually I was kind of looking at my phone
- 14 | and he texted, did you hear that, I think he said gunshot or
- 15 something, and so I looked up and that's when I saw kind of sparks
- 16 or what looked like sparks jumping over the wall, and that's -- as
- 17 soon as that happened, then I was like, oh, got to go, and jumped
- 18 out of the car and went out past the gate to see what was going on
- 19 | because that's a -- not a normal thing to see.
- 20 | Q. Sure. Okay, so at 9:24 --
- 21 A. And obviously, we thought it was kids. At that exact moment
- 22 | I thought kids were you know messing around with fireworks.
- 23 | Q. Sure.
- 24 A. You know, on the street, which has happened before.
- 25 || Q. So, at 9:24 you got the text and then you -- and then after

- 1 that you called 911. So you're thinking at 9:24 it was at most 10
- 2 minutes from the time that you pulled in? Or would -- could it be
- 3 | a little bit more? A little bit less?
- 4 A. Yeah. No, I think it was probably around that. It possibly
- 5 could have been more about 9:36, 9:24 -- yeah, I would say
- 6 certainly, -- I mean I could probably go literally trace this all
- 7 the way back to like, a credit card receipt or something from
- 8 dinner that night. But yeah, it couldn't have been more than ten
- 9 minutes or so.
- 10 Q. Okay.
- 11 | A. I don't -- I -- memories are faulty, again, you know, it's
- 12 been a while.
- 13 0. Sure.
- 14 A. But I don't know why I would have been sitting in the car
- 15 | that long. I mean, I don't remember sitting in the car that long.
- 16  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Well, as long as it wasn't longer than ten minutes or?
- 17 A. Yeah, like (indiscernible) like, sitting there you know 30
- 18 minutes or something.
- 19 | Q. Right.
- 20 A. I don't think so, and I remember going to dinner pretty late
- 21 | that night so it -- like, I'm going to start running out of time
- 22 | if I trace this back too far.
- 23 Q. Right.
- 24 A. To where I don't think I could have been sitting in the car
- 25 | that long.

- 1 Q. Okay. Okay.
- 2  $\mid\mid$  A. You know what, actually because in coming through the gate --
- 3 I could go pull the gate logs, I'm sure you guys already have, and
- 4 you could see exactly when I came through the back gate, same for
- 5 Terry.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. Because all that's logged in our gate tag system.
- 8 Q. Oh, and they -- okay, so they have your name or they have
- 9 | your license plate?
- 10 A. Yeah, so every car --
- 11 Q. Now I haven't seen that, I'll have to ask them.
- 12 A. So to get in and out of the back gate, because it's not a
- 13 manned entry, the manned entry's in front, it's by easy tag, your
- 14 | toll tag.
- 15 O. Yeah. Yeah.
- $16 \parallel A$ . And so it just reads the toll tag, and so it has a log that's
- 17 everything --
- 18 | 0. Okay.
- 19 A -- the exact time that anybody comes through, as well as we
- 20 have video back there.
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. I don't know if they -- I assume they subpoenaed all for that
- 23 | and have it, but if they don't -- the toll tag logs are probably
- 24 | still there, the video has probably been recorded over since it
- 25 was April.

- $1 \parallel Q$ . Sure, sure. But I'd just be interested in the toll tag logs.
- 2 A. Yeah, but and you would -- and you can also see when Terry's
- 3 came in because it would have read hers too.
- $4 \parallel Q$ . And she was right behind you, you said?
- $5 \mid A$ . Mm-hmm.
- 6 Q. Right, okay.
- 7 A. And I'm sure Bill came through that gate too, so probably the
- 8 toll tag on his Tesla was picked up.
- 9 Q. Oh, they took two cars?
- 10 A. Yeah. That's my understanding.
- 11 | Q. Okay.
- 12 A. But I don't know that. You know what? I shouldn't say that
- 13 | because I don't know. I certainly was not at dinner with them,
- 14 and I shouldn't assume that, but I guess I don't know.
- 15 Q. Right, sure. Okay, well I -- Mr. Jensen, I thank you very
- 16 much for calling me back, and I apologize --
- 17 A. No problem.
- $18 \parallel 0$ . -- for waiting --
- 19  $\mid A$ . If I could be of any more help to you, I'm happy to do so.
- 20 I'm probably not real useful, but.
- 21 Q. No, no no, you've been great. You've given me a lot of good
- 22 | information for me to go back on and -- so this has been a tough
- 23 case for us to work on, has been a lot of variables and a lot of
- 24 things going on, so I appreciate your help in giving me a call
- 25

back.

And yeah, if there's anything else we come up with after I talk with my other -- the other investigators involved --Yeah. Please call or text me, this is my cell phone. Q. Awesome. You're welcome to do that. Α. Okay, sir, you have a blessed day. Thank you very much. Thank you, bye. Α. Bye bye, sir. Q. (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.) 

#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH AND FIRE OF TESLA

MODEL S IN SPRING, TEXAS,

ON APRIL 17, 2021

Interview of Brett Jenson

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH007

PLACE: Via telephone

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.

Britishy they that

Brittany Hay Transcriber

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Scigación of

FATAL CRASH AND FIRE OF TESLA \*

MODEL S IN SPRING, TEXAS, \* Accident No.: HWY21FH007

ON APRIL 17, 2021 \*

Interview of: TOM KAMINSKI

Witness to Accident

Via telephone

## APPEARANCES:

RONALD KAMINSKI, Investigator National Transportation Safety Board

# I N D E X

<u>PAGE</u>

Interview of Tom Kaminski:

By Mr. Ron Kaminski

4

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him.

## INTERVIEW

- 2 MR. RON KAMINSKI: Hello, I'm calling for Mr. Brett Jenson.
- MR. TOM KAMINSKI: You have a wrong number.
- 4 MR. RON KAMINSKI: Okay, is this ?
- MR. TOM KAMINSKI: Yes, it is. I live across the street from
- 7 MR. RON KAMINSKI: Oh, okay. My name is Ronald Kaminski, I'm 8 with the National Transportation Safety Board.
- 9 MR. TOM KAMINSKI: Mm-hmm.
- MR. RON KAMINSKI: And I'm calling regarding the Tesla crash
- 11 | that Mr. Varner was involved in back in April.
- 12 MR. TOM KAMINSKI: Yeah, mm-hmm.
- MR. RON KAMINSKI: So, I got this number from the police cab reports. The 911 calls.
- MR. TOM KAMINSKI: Yeah, yeah, I called in when I saw a fire in the woods, yeah, mm-hmm.
- 17 BY MR. RON KAMINSKI:
- Q. Okay, so you were probably the first person to call. You
- 20 A. Probably, I guess. I didn't even know there was a car there
  21 at the time. All I saw was a fireball in the woods.
- 22 Q. Okay, and sir can I get your name?
- 23 | A. Tom Kaminski.
- 24 | Q. No, way.
- 25 A. Yes.

think?

- Q. How do you spell your last name?
- A. K-A-M-I-N-S-K-I.

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- $3 \parallel Q$ . Tom, that's exactly how my name is spelled.
- 4 A. Yeah, I saw your name come up.
- 5 | O. Wow. Anybody from Chicago?
- 6 A. No, I'm from Cleveland.
- Q. Okay. Well, I'm originally from Chicago, I've been down here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area about 20 years, but -- well, okay.
- 9 A. I mean, I have some relatives -- a distant relative in 10 Chicago I think.
- 11 Q. Okay, well that's a funny coincidence.
  - So, yeah, I guess, so you were the first one to call and why don't you just give me a brief description of how you came about it and approximately what time it was you called, if you recall.
  - A. The time was just shortly after dark so I wouldn't know what exactly what time it was. I don't know if it was eight-ish or something like that. Eight-ish or nine maybe even. I heard kind of a thump and I thought maybe a tree had fallen or something, so I went outside to look around and I notice the fireball across the street. So, I thought somebody started a fire or something blew up because it was dark outside and great fire, I guess the car was behind the fireball, so I had no idea there was a car there.

And so I called 911 saying there was a fire there and it took quite a while for the fire to arrive. Maybe three or four minutes, and they're only about a mile away so I was surprised it

- took maybe even longer than that, maybe up to eight minutes. I think they went to the cul-de-sac behind 1st, so it took another
- 3 minute to get there because I saw the truck go behind and then
- 4 come back and so --
- 5 Q. Right.
- 6 A. That's the extent of what I knew, and I didn't know there was
- 7 | a car there or people there until about a half hour later when
- 8 they -- fireman had put out the fire and began to see what was
- 9 there.
- 10 Q. Okay. And so what -- so -- you just heard the thump? You
- 11 heard a thump of some sort and that's when you went out front?
- 12 A. Yeah, kind of a thump. Right, because it almost sounded like
- 13 | a dull thud, like I've heard trees fall before. I thought maybe a
- 14 tree fell over in the yard or something, which I didn't know why
- 15 because it had rained a little bit that day and just before the
- 16 | accident, I guess.
- 17 Q. Okay, and -- okay, Mr. Kaminski, why don't you give me your
- 18 | address there on --
- 19 A.
- 20 Q. , okay. Okay, you don't happen to have Mr. Jenson's phone
- 21 | number handy, would you?
- 22 A. No, I don't have it handy.
- 23  $\parallel$  Q. Okay, well I'll look through the catalogs and see if I can
- 24 | find that but this is my phone number if you come up with anything
- 25 else, you think of anything else, feel free to give me a call, and

I appreciate you taking the time to answer my call and talk to me		
MR. TOM KAMINSKI: Okay.		
MR. RON KAMINSKI: Okay, sir. Thank you very much.		
MR. TOM KAMINSKI: All right, bye bye.		
MR. RON KAMINSKI: Bye bye, sir.		
6 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)		

#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL CRASH AND FIRE OF TESLA

MODEL S IN SPRING, TEXAS,

ON APRIL 17, 2021

Interview of Tom Kaminski

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH007

PLACE: Via telephone

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.

Britishing they that

Brittany Hay Transcriber