



**Human Performance Attachment – ISP Interview with Passenger Vehicle Driver**

**Teutopolis, IL**

**HWY23MH017**

**(92 pages)**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

\*

FATAL TRUCK SEMI-CRASH \*

NEAR TEUTOPOLIS, ILLINOIS \* Accident No.: HWY23MH017

ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: [REDACTED]

Motorist

Wright State University  
Dayton, Ohio

Wednesday,  
October 4, 2023

APPEARANCES:

JAYME MICHEL, Trooper  
Illinois State Police

KEVIN DAWES, Trooper  
Illinois State Police

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I N T E R V I E W

INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]

1  
2  
3 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: I'm just here as a juvenile officer  
4 because you are 17.

5 [REDACTED] Yeah. Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: That's why I'm here. They're going to  
7 be the ones talking --

8 [REDACTED] I know, but --

9 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: They're going to be the ones talking  
10 to you.

11 TROOPER MICHEL: So, yeah, I'm -- like I said, I'm Trooper  
12 Jayme Michel with Illinois State Police and with me is Kevin --

13 TROOPER DAWES: I'm Trooper Kevin Dawes (ph.).

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

15 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

16 Q. And so since we are in a police department here -- this is  
17 the campus police here at Wright State University here in Ohio,  
18 you are a juvenile, I'm going to read you this before we move any  
19 further with an interview. Okay? So before asking you any  
20 questions, I'm going to advise you of your Miranda rights.

21 You have the right to remain silent. That means you do not  
22 have to say anything. Anything you say can be used against you in  
23 court. You have the right to help you -- you have the right to  
24 get help from a lawyer. If you cannot pay for a lawyer, the court  
25 will get one for free. You can ask for a lawyer at any time. You

1 have the right to stop this interview at any time.

2 Do you want to have a lawyer?

3 A. Do I need one? What the hell?

4 TROOPER DAWES: It's just we have to--

5 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

6 Q. I have to ask you these questions. Since you're a juvenile,  
7 I have to read your rights up front.

8 A. Okay. Well, I have no idea. Just -- so you just want to  
9 know what I know about what happened, which is --

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. -- nothing more than is on the news.

12 Q. So do you want to have a lawyer? I just have to ask --

13 A. I have no idea how to answer that. I mean, I'm going to say  
14 no, but like --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. -- I'm probably going to regret this if --

17 Q. Do you want to talk to me?

18 A. Yeah. I want to know what this is about.

19 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Well, and like he said, this is on  
20 your own free will and you, you can --

21 [REDACTED] I know. But this, like, stuff scares me because  
22 like usually like you hear and you're supposed to say, yeah, I  
23 will not say anything without my lawyer present. And like --

24 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Okay.

25 [REDACTED] -- this doesn't seem like it's, like something

1 that I did something wrong, and so it's like -- it's just a random  
2 thing and --

3 TROOPER DAWES: Just for the sake of the camera interview.  
4 It's October 4th, 2:38. We always just do that at the beginning  
5 of the interview and --

6 [REDACTED] Okay. Yeah.

7 TROOPER DAWES: -- I don't want to get too far. And you're  
8 at the --

9 [REDACTED] No. Cool. Cool.

10 TROOPER DAWES: We are at the Wright State Campus Police  
11 Department.

12 TROOPER MICHEL: I'll just need your signature here stating I  
13 read this to you, and then I'll have him sign his.

14 TROOPER DAWES: And we did talk to your -- our supervisor  
15 talked to your mom and --

16 [REDACTED] You already did?

17 TROOPER DAWES: No, he just, he just let her know we were  
18 going to talk to you and she said it was okay to him.

19 [REDACTED] Oh. So my mom said it's okay?

20 TROOPER DAWES: That's what she told our --

21 TROOPER MICHEL: That's what she told our supervisor,  
22 Jonathan.

23 [REDACTED] If she told you that, okay, then no problem. You  
24 should have led with that. Gosh. I was wondering if you'd gone  
25 to my house.



1 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yes.

2 [REDACTED]: I was wondering how we ended up at the school and  
3 not the house.

4 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

5 Q. So like I said kind of here before we started, you said that  
6 you were in the area of this crash. I guess what was the nature  
7 of your guys' trip over in Illinois?

8 A. Okay. So basically my mom's boyfriend lives in Illinois,  
9 right? Kind of a long distance relationship.

10 Q. Where is he located at?

11 A. Near Highland. There's --

12 Q. Near Highland?

13 A. Can I get my phone to -- there's like a smaller town --

14 Q. It's not that big of a deal, but --

15 A. Oh, okay. So just --

16 Q. So you came from -- I guess you drove from your residence  
17 here in Ohio?

18 A. Yeah. Xenia.

19 Q. From Xenia.

20 A. To Illinois. We do that a lot, probably several times a  
21 month.

22 Q. So your mom's been dating this person for quite some time?

23 A. Yeah, a couple years.

24 Q. Do you remember the last time you went there before the 29th?

25 A. Oh, my gosh. Not --

- 1 Q. Or did she go by herself sometimes?
- 2 A. She does also go by herself.
- 3 Q. But I guess Friday, last Friday, the 29th, who all went on  
4 that trip?
- 5 A. Okay. So there was my mom and my brother and me. Sometimes  
6 my sister goes as well, but that -- it was just my brother and my  
7 mom.
- 8 Q. It was just you three? And when you say that, I don't know  
9 everybody's name, so --
- 10 A. Okay. So my brother --
- 11 Q. I talk to a lot of people.
- 12 A. No, that's fine.
- 13 Q. And that's the reason that this is recorded, too, is I want  
14 to know --
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. -- who I talked to.
- 17 A. Well, my brother's name is Joshua.
- 18 Q. Joshua.
- 19 A. And my mom's name is Heather.
- 20 Q. What's Joshua's last name?
- 21 A. [REDACTED], like mine.
- 22 Q. Okay. And mother's name is Heather?
- 23 A. Heather.
- 24 Q. Riggs?
- 25 A. Heather Riggs. Yeah, Riggs.

1 Q. And would you state your name for me?

2 A. [REDACTED]

3 Q. And your last name?

4 A. [REDACTED]

5 Q. And what's your birthday?

6 A. [REDACTED].

7 Q. Okay. And so we're kind of talking about the crash that  
8 occurred.

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Do you know where you were at whenever the crash happened?

11 A. So I heard that the crash happened like -- well, I don't  
12 know. I don't know exactly where it happened, right, but it was  
13 on the 40, right?

14 Q. Um-hum.

15 A. So we took the road -- because there was another crash, I  
16 think, right, that happened maybe before?

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. So we got off the 781, I guess, or whatever it is to take the  
19 40 because we thought we'd at least keep moving. That's what we  
20 always do.

21 Q. I know you're not familiar with Interstate 70, but do you  
22 guys remember where you guys would have got off the interstate at?  
23 Or who was driving, I guess, at that point whenever you got on 40?

24 A. We switched actually. So let me try to remember. I was  
25 driving.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. I was driving on the 40. But actually I stopped driving  
3 because we stopped for gas on the 40, and then after that --

4 Q. Do you know what time that was?

5 A. If I looked at Google Maps I might could figure out the gas  
6 station we stopped at.

7 Q. Okay. Maybe we can help you out with bringing up a Google  
8 Map on your phone.

9 A. Is it important?

10 Q. Well, I just like to know where everybody's --

11 A. Okay. Sure, sure, sure.

12 Q. -- at during this --

13 A. Yes. I got that. So let me describe it. So we got on the  
14 40, right?

15 Q. Um-hum.

16 A. So there was a lot of traffic, a lot of trucks.

17 TROOPER DAWES: From Interstate 70, you got on 40. Can you  
18 describe who's driving and where they're sitting in the car?

19 [REDACTED] I was driving. But basically like the crash, so  
20 you guys are interested in that, right? So I think we were ahead  
21 of it because we saw emergency vehicles coming the opposite way.

22 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

23 Q. Where were you at when you seen the emergency vehicles?

24 A. It was before we stopped for gas. Again, I'm trying to -- I  
25 should probably find the gas station to help you.

- 1 Q. Okay. Yeah, we can, we can get to that later.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. So you're driving --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- Heather's in the car, Josh is in the car.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Where is Heather sitting at?
- 8 A. Oh, my goodness. Probably in the passenger seat and my  
9 brother's probably behind.
- 10 Q. So does that mean front seat passenger?
- 11 A. Yeah, yeah.
- 12 Q. Okay. And brother's behind you or behind mom?
- 13 A. I don't remember.
- 14 Q. Okay. Just in the back seat somewhere?
- 15 A. Yeah. Because it was a van, right, a van.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. So three rows of seats.
- 18 Q. And what kind of van is that? It's a --
- 19 A. It's a Toyota. It's black.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. And yeah, so after we stopped for gas, me and my brother -- I  
22 think my brother drove the rest of the way because my mom was  
23 pretty tired.
- 24 Q. I gotcha. So --
- 25 A. But, yeah, I don't know, what does the driver even matter?

1 Are -- what are trying to find out exactly? I'm sorry.

2 Q. Yeah, I just -- well, of course, we've looked at like people  
3 in the area and there's like -- so there's like a four-way in  
4 Montrose --

5 A. How did you even find out that we were there?

6 Q. We had a lot of people working this. This is kind of a big  
7 incident.

8 A. I heard it killed some people.

9 Q. Yeah. It was, it was kind of a --

10 A. Two people or three? Wait. So there was the driver of the  
11 truck and then one other car and then two people in a house,  
12 right?

13 Q. I think confirmed, what was it, like --

14 A. That's what was on the news.

15 Q. -- five, somewhere in there.

16 A. Yeah. So like three people killed in a house because of the  
17 ammonia that got out.

18 Q. Where did you hear about this at?

19 A. In the news. I didn't look myself. My mom was literally  
20 reading it to me on our way back, which I believe we also took the  
21 40 back, at least the first part of it, before we got on the  
22 highway, because it doesn't let us slow down. So she was reading  
23 the story about what had happened Friday night.

24 Q. So something I want to ask you about the gas station.

25 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

1 Q. So you're at the gas station. Did you get gas? Did your mom  
2 get gas? Did your brother get gas? Who fueled up the car?

3 A. I don't really -- I don't think it was me. But I might have,  
4 I might have done the thing where I like buy the gas with the  
5 nozzle and then I went in and used the bathroom and told my  
6 brother to watch it. I think that's what I did.

7 Q. Okay. I get it.

8 A. Not that it probably matters.

9 Q. Yeah. No, no, no.

10 A. That's as accurate as I can give you.

11 Q. Okay. So you guys make that stop, then you guys -- where do  
12 you guys continue on? Do you go to Highland and stay that night?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Do you stay at her boyfriend's?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. Yeah, I'm pretty -- we went out for a funeral. Anyway --

18 Q. Somebody on his side?

19 A. -- it probably doesn't matter. Yeah.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Exactly. His mom, yeah.

22 Q. Okay. So I guess we'll get back to where you were at and  
23 everything, what you can remember what -- how long do you think it  
24 was before you started seeing ambulances and stuff like that?

25 A. Well, again, it was pretty much before we stopped for gas,

- 1 pretty close to that.
- 2 Q. Do you remember anything in that little town you were driving  
3 through or do you remember the name of it?
- 4 A. Oh. Okay. So what's the name of the town --
- 5 Q. Or anything -- do you remember anything specific about the  
6 town?
- 7 A. I feel like there's a town that starts with a T, right?
- 8 Q. Um-hum.
- 9 A. And then further on, maybe the next town over.
- 10 Q. Starts with a T? Okay. Yeah, so --
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. -- the name of the town is Teutopolis. A lot of the --
- 13 A. Yeah, something like weird like that.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. So we were beyond that obviously. Maybe, maybe one --  
16 another town further beyond that one going towards --
- 17 Q. Okay.
- 18 A. That's where we stopped.
- 19 Q. So let me ask you this. I know you're driving --
- 20 A. I think it was one of those Phillips 66 stations.
- 21 Q. There you go. Okay.
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. Yeah, yeah. I remember that one. I think I looked at that  
24 one as well.
- 25 A. Do you know which one I'm talking about?



- 1 Q. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So --
- 2 A. Okay then.
- 3 Q. -- 1505 West Main is where --
- 4 A. I mean, I can look. Want me to --
- 5 Q. No, that's where that's at. I remember that now.
- 6 A. Okay.
- 7 Q. I looked at a lot of different areas.
- 8 A. (Indiscernible) Double O's or something.
- 9 Q. Yeah.
- 10 A. Okay. Cool.
- 11 Q. So I guess let me ask you this. While you're driving, at any  
12 point while you're driving do you notice any cars coming at you?
- 13 A. Oh, obviously. There's plenty of people coming the other  
14 way.
- 15 Q. Okay.
- 16 A. Lots actually.
- 17 Q. Even --
- 18 A. Lots of trucks, lots of cars.
- 19 Q. Okay. And then what about behind you? Is there anybody  
20 behind you?
- 21 A. Definitely. Definitely. It was pretty crowded.
- 22 Q. Was there, was there a bunch of traffic -- can you remember  
23 like anything about once traffic got diverted off of I-70, you're  
24 on 40, do you remember like going through an intersection where  
25 like a flagger was like, hey, go on through at a stop sign?

1 A. I, I remember -- there was a flagger, but I can't remember if  
2 it was after we stopped for gas or before.

3 Q. It could've been both sides, I mean.

4 A. He was just kind of standing around. He wasn't really waving  
5 at me, I think.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. I could be getting this confused with earlier.

8 Q. Okay. And I know you had a long trip, lots of hours, but  
9 whenever something like that, you know, a crash like that happens,  
10 I didn't know if you started thinking about, you know, who was all  
11 around you during that, like during that area? Anything you can  
12 think of?

13 A. Well, I would have known if I had been like near it.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Right? Because it --

16 Q. Do you remember, do you remember if --

17 A. Didn't it explode or something? The truck?

18 Q. I don't know if you'd call it explode, but I mean it --

19 A. Oh. Well, I heard that maybe it flipped. Did it flip?

20 Q. Yeah.

21 A. Is that how it got -- why did it flip? Did it go off the  
22 road? What happened?

23 Q. Yeah, it went off the road to the right and then it flipped  
24 over on its side.

25 A. Oh, my God.

1 Q. Yeah. So do you remember seeing that anhydrous tanker  
2 anywhere when you were driving?

3 A. I don't know how I would have recognized it. There was a lot  
4 of trucks.

5 Q. Yeah. Do you remember if you were behind a truck or behind a  
6 car anytime that (indiscernible)?

7 A. I was behind several trucks. I was behind this, this like  
8 boxy maybe trailer or RV. And he was going super duper slow, so I  
9 passed him.

10 Q. Passed him? Yeah, yeah.

11 A. Yeah. After that -- that's pretty much before we stopped for  
12 gas. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay. So there's -- do you remember what kind of camper  
14 setup this was? Was this like a pickup truck pulling a camper?

15 A. Oh, wait, I actually passed two people. Another was a truck,  
16 yeah.

17 Q. Okay. So you passed two people?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Okay. Where was -- do you remember where that was at?

20 A. But that was early on, though. Wait. Actually no. One of  
21 them was shortly before the gas station.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Yeah. That one was a truck.

24 Q. So you're coming up to the --

25 TROOPER DAWES: Do you remember what the truck was pulling?

1 TROOPER MICHEL: That's what I'm asking about that camper.

2 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

3 Q. Do you remember anything specific about the camper that you  
4 passed?

5 A. A camper?

6 Q. Because you said it was like a --

7 A. I feel like it -- it just had a really big trailer. It was  
8 terrible visibility, so as soon as I could get past him, I wanted  
9 to. He was going really slow.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. I think it was black, but I could be wrong. I just remember  
12 it being this big box. It was dark.

13 Q. Yeah. Was that before the flagger or after the flagger, the  
14 guy that was kind of waving?

15 A. I could not give an answer to that that I'm sure about. I'm  
16 not sure.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I'm trying to get the sequence of events, right --

19 Q. Right.

20 A. -- but I'm --

21 Q. And I guess let me ask you this. So you're driving along.  
22 You can remember passing like a truck pulling --

23 A. At least two people, maybe three.

24 Q. -- a camper trailer at some point.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And then you said you think you passed a truck tractor or  
2 semi trailer of some sort?

3 A. Yeah, maybe two, maybe two. I don't remember.

4 Q. Okay. And I guess let me ask you this, too. So you drive  
5 through, did you drive through like clean and you don't see a  
6 crash or -- were you after the crash or before the crash?

7 A. I did not see a crash, hear a crash or anything. I just  
8 remember seeing the emergency vehicles coming the other way.

9 Q. Coming at you. So you must have been in that window  
10 somewhere between the crash and the emergency vehicles?

11 A. Which is -- basically I just thought like it happened behind  
12 me, basically.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Had to have.

15 Q. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

16 A. Because they were coming that way.

17 Q. Right. And like the time --

18 A. I could be wrong.

19 Q. -- like looking, looking at like times and stuff, I know  
20 we've had like a large group working on all these people that are  
21 in the area of this crash --

22 A. There must be a lot. It was crowded.

23 Q. -- and it looks like at that Phillips 66, if I'm remembering  
24 correctly, it was somewhere around 8:45, 8:46, somewhere in there?

25 A. I think we got to Highland at like maybe 10.

1 Q. So you got to Highland at 10?

2 A. Thereabouts, because I know my mom's boyfriend wanted me to  
3 get drinks --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- at Walmart in Highland, (indiscernible) there somewhere.  
6 And it, like it closes at 11. So I was like, okay, I got a window  
7 there. So we got -- probably around 10 we were there, maybe a  
8 little bit after.

9 Q. Okay. So you said somewhere around 10 p.m. you get there at  
10 mom's boyfriend's.

11 A. Or earlier. I'm not sure, because I had plenty of time,  
12 again.

13 TROOPER DAWES: What's mom's boyfriend's name?

14 TROOPER MICHEL: Yeah.

15 [REDACTED] James Carter.

16 TROOPER DAWES: James Carter?

17 [REDACTED] Yeah. Yeah.

18 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

19 Q. Do you remember what time you left that morning, too, I guess  
20 from Ohio? I guess like when you left your house.

21 A. I mean, I can work backwards, do math, but that's about all.

22 Q. That's all?

23 A. Yeah. I --

24 Q. Did you stop anywhere eat along your trip?

25 A. Yeah, (indiscernible)

- 1 Q. A drive-thru, sit down?
- 2 A. Yeah, Panera. We went there.
- 3 Q. Do you remember what time that was at?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. No? Okay.
- 6 A. Well, it's the one we usually go to. I bet my mom could tell  
7 you.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. I just don't know because, again, she, she does most of the  
10 navigating.
- 11 Q. So I guess before you got gas, let me ask you this. I keep  
12 going back to like gas station and stuff.
- 13 A. Yeah. No, it's important.
- 14 Q. It just -- it's something that --
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 Q. -- I seem to know because I was watching all these people in  
17 this area at the time during the crash. And so something I  
18 noticed at the gas station is, I noticed you get out, you go to  
19 the bathroom, like you said.
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. Your mom's in the front passenger seat. Was she awake before  
22 that?
- 23 A. Oh, yeah, yeah. She was awake the whole time.
- 24 Q. Awake the whole time?
- 25 A. But after we stopped, again, me and my brother switched

1 driving.

2 Q. Okay. And your brother --

3 A. So he was driving after that.

4 Q. Okay. Gotcha.

5 A. Yeah. We switch like that, kind of do it in shifts.

6 Q. Gotcha. Understood.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Was there any conversation between your mom and brother and  
9 stuff like that about --

10 A. Oh, sure. Yeah.

11 Q. What about after like after you see the emergency the  
12 vehicles?

13 A. Oh, yeah. We were like, something must have happened back  
14 there. And like, oh, we're glad that we're ahead of that and not  
15 behind it because it probably stopped everything, so --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. We were super relieved that that happened in that order  
18 basically, but also wondering what happened, which is why she was  
19 on the news later looking for what happened.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So --

22 TROOPER DAWES: Later that night she was on the news?

23 [REDACTED] No, I don't -- well, you could ask -- you'd have  
24 to ask her. I just know that as we were driving back here, she  
25 was reading to me a story from some paper, maybe two. We were



1 really curious. But we didn't find out that much.

2 TROOPER DAWES: Did you guys drive back by the house on the  
3 way home? Like what time would it be like we're driving through  
4 like Effingham, Teutopolis area on the way home? To where you  
5 would buy gas again.

6 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

7 Q. Because you probably wouldn't want to go on 40 --

8 A. I didn't see --

9 Q. -- again to avoid --

10 A. Going back, I don't remember seeing anything, like, oh,  
11 that's where they crash happened. I think --

12 Q. Was it daytime or nighttime when you were driving back?

13 A. It was, it was daytime when we were going back.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. What does it look like, but I, I didn't remember seeing  
16 anything.

17 Q. Right.

18 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: You would've been able to.

19 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

20 Q. If --

21 A. I would?

22 Q. Yeah, everything in that area is like yellow and dead and  
23 there's like a pond dried up and --

24 A. Well, again, we weren't really looking for it. In fact, if  
25 anything, she might have pulled up the story after we passed that

1 place.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Because she was remembering it. I don't know. I feel like  
4 we were at that -- what was the name of that town that starts with  
5 a T? I feel like --

6 Q. Teutopolis?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. I feel like on the way back we stopped at that town again at  
9 like --

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. -- a Love's station, got gas again, and then got on the  
12 highway.

13 Q. At Love's fuel station on the way back? Okay.

14 A. I don't know if that matters.

15 Q. No --

16 A. Well, basically I feel like I've told you all that I know --

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. -- about our drive over there and -- I don't know. I really  
19 don't know how helpful that is, but --

20 Q. Yeah. I just --

21 A. That's about all I can remember.

22 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this. So obviously every truck out  
23 there like operating on the highway they have dash cam videos,  
24 okay?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Is there any reason that your van, your license plate number  
2 registered to Heather Riggs, would be on this dash camera passing  
3 this tanker truck right before it flips?

4 A. Is it?

5 Q. I'm asking you.

6 A. Did that happen? Oh, my gosh. Because again, I'm telling  
7 you I passed one or two trucks on there. So is that what  
8 happened? Is it literally -- does it flip after I pass the guy?

9 BY TROOPER DAWES:

10 Q. Well, hey, Heather [sic], did you recall having a very close  
11 call head-on collision with a truck?

12 A. I didn't even collide with anything (indiscernible)

13 Q. No, no, no, no. I'm not saying you did. But just a very  
14 close call when you go past a truck?

15 A. I mean, it might have been a bit close. I don't really  
16 remember.

17 Q. Like almost scary close? Really like where you kind of, kind  
18 of --

19 A. Well, I was going pretty fast. So I guess, yeah, pretty  
20 scary. My mom gets nervous.

21 Q. Okay. But was it a big dually pickup or -- coming?

22 A. Pickup?

23 Q. Like a big --

24 TROOPER MICHEL: Pulling a trailer?

25 BY TROOPER DAWES:

- 1 Q. They call them like a hotshot truck or either a dually.
- 2 A. Oh, you mean the guy coming at me --
- 3 Q. The guy coming at you.
- 4 A. -- before I did the pass?
- 5 Q. Yeah.
- 6 A. I don't really remember.
- 7 Q. But could you say it was a pickup maybe hauling a bigger
- 8 load?
- 9 A. I couldn't say anything for sure. It was dark. I just saw
- 10 headlights.
- 11 Q. But you, but you will say that, you know, you came pretty
- 12 close?
- 13 A. But, oh, my God, I need to know did I make the guy go off the
- 14 road?
- 15 TROOPER MICHEL: Well, you didn't hit --
- 16 [REDACTED] The truck?
- 17 TROOPER MICHEL: -- you didn't -- it doesn't look like you
- 18 hit him or pushed him, right?
- 19 [REDACTED] Of course, but did he go off the road right after
- 20 I passed him, the truck?
- 21 BY TROOPER DAWES:
- 22 Q. Do you recall like the truck maybe moving over a little bit
- 23 whenever --
- 24 A. I don't remember anything.
- 25 Q. -- whenever you were trying to pass?

1 A. I was just passing him because he was going kind of slow  
2 and --

3 TROOPER MICHEL: Yeah. I guess --

4 [REDACTED] But now I feel really bad. Was it my fault?

5 TROOPER MICHEL: Well, let me ask you this, too. So like  
6 what do you think -- like what would your protocol or policy or  
7 like your own, like for yourself, what would you do if you seen a  
8 crash happen?

9 [REDACTED] I've never seen one happen like right in front of  
10 me.

11 TROOPER MICHEL: Okay.

12 [REDACTED] And I didn't even know this -- it happened behind  
13 me, right?

14 BY TROOPER DAWES:

15 Q. So whenever you --

16 A. So literally the truck flipped over right after passed him,  
17 right?

18 Q. So did you see that in your --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- your rearview mirror? Because you --

21 A. I thought I would have seen, right, because it exploded or  
22 heard it or something. I didn't hear anything like that.

23 Q. Because it was a really close call, so like whenever you're  
24 merging back into your lane --

25 A. I don't think it was that close of a call. It felt safe to

1 me.

2 Q. -- usually you like look back to make sure you've cleared the  
3 car you're passing, right?

4 A. Of course. I wait till I see their headlights in the  
5 rearview mirror and then I get over.

6 Q. And what -- can you describe what you saw when you passed the  
7 vehicle?

8 A. His headlights. That's what I look for. It was dark.  
9 That's all I could see.

10 Q. Can you be specific on what you saw?

11 A. How specific? What do you mean?

12 TROOPER MICHEL: Just like where you see --

13 TROOPER DAWES: Exactly what you saw.

14 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

15 Q. Okay, like whenever you pass a semi, were you seeing anybody  
16 coming at you? Were you like, oh, my gosh, I need to gun it?  
17 Were you like --

18 A. Yeah. I thought --

19 Q. -- oh, we're clear, I'm taking my time?

20 A. I thought, I thought basically that I do need to go a little  
21 faster than normal because this is -- because of just the  
22 distance, judging it.

23 TROOPER DAWES: All right.

24 [REDACTED] So I was going fast. Okay. I probably went way  
25 faster passing that guy than I should have. Seriously. Like 90.

1 I don't know if I should tell you that, but like I went pretty  
2 fast.

3 TROOPER DAWES: Okay.

4 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

5 Q. And then after you pass, I guess what happened after you  
6 pass?

7 A. I just went on my merry way. I had no idea a truck flipped  
8 behind me.

9 Q. What was, I guess what was --

10 A. I thought --

11 Q. -- Josh and your mom doing, I guess, during that time?

12 A. I don't know, (indiscernible)

13 Q. Were they, were they like chewing you out or anything?

14 A. Well, my mom, obviously, she got nervous, because who  
15 wouldn't see headlights coming at you?

16 TROOPER DAWES: Right. Right. So did your mom maybe say  
17 anything like, hey, you know, this was a close call and this  
18 truck --

19 [REDACTED] Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

20 TROOPER DAWES: -- behind us just ran off the road?

21 [REDACTED] No. Of course not. None of us knew that this  
22 truck went off the road. I'm finding this out now.

23 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

24 Q. Whenever -- I guess whenever you thought about the crash and  
25 stuff like that, did you think maybe you were involved in any way

1 or maybe that you should call, call in, or --

2 A. I mean, I briefly considered the possibility. Actually, no,  
3 I -- I mean, I never really thought, hey, that must have been one  
4 of the people behind me that I would've -- well, it's just like I  
5 thought I would've noticed if that had happened like right near  
6 me.

7 Q. Yeah.

8 BY TROOPER DAWES:

9 Q. Hey, [REDACTED] we just need you to be honest (indiscernible).  
10 We're just trying to find the facts.

11 A. I have been.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Why wouldn't I be? I'm trying to figure out what happened,  
14 too.

15 Q. Right. I mean --

16 A. I mean, now I feel like shit because like it seems like this  
17 might have been my fault somehow.

18 Q. How long you been driving?

19 A. Okay. Well, I'm 17. I got my license 16. So I don't know,  
20 not that long.

21 Q. A little over a year, so -- okay.

22 A. More than a year, yeah. Well, obviously there's starting  
23 driving and there's getting your license, different thing, but --

24 Q. So what was the conversation in the --

25 A. I mean, I'm not a great driver, but --



1 Q. What was the conversation in the car whenever like you had  
2 that close call with a head-on collision and then you got back in  
3 your lane? What was mom and brother saying?

4 A. I mean, my mom obviously, well, she's a -- I don't know, she  
5 was just -- it wouldn't have been something she would've done, you  
6 know. She wouldn't have passed the guy.

7 Q. Right. But, I mean, did she say like --

8 A. She said it freaked her out a little bit.

9 Q. -- (indiscernible) kill us, like --

10 A. Well, I mean, not that --

11 Q. Something along those lines?

12 A. -- not that, word for word.

13 Q. No, I know. But, you know, something --

14 A. But she does say that kind of thing sometimes.

15 Q. -- an excited, an excited statement, you know, like --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- like, wow, that was a close one, you know?

18 A. Something like that, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean, I'm  
19 not really sure what you're asking, but --

20 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

21 Q. Did Josh say anything or was he sleeping or do you know what  
22 Josh was doing?

23 A. He usually listens to music. He might've --

24 Q. Is he sitting --

25 A. Because I went really fast, right? I think that woke him up

1 and he joined the conversation, but --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- other than that, I don't really know.

4 Q. And he took over at the Phillips 66?

5 A. At the Phillips, yeah.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Pretty much.

8 Q. Now everything, everything that you're telling me --

9 A. But now I really feel like shit, right, because I basically  
10 killed five people. I mean, I don't know what was up with the  
11 semi truck driver, right? But it happened because I passed him,  
12 right? He got startled or something?

13 BY TROOPER DAWES:

14 Q. So can you describe like the roadway when you passed him?  
15 Was it on a -- was it flat? Was it on a hill? Was it --

16 A. It was dark. How am I supposed to know?

17 Q. Do you recall it being a, like a no-passing zone?

18 A. Oh, no. I generally always wait for passing zones.

19 Q. Do you -- can you describe the -- how the lines looked on the  
20 road?

21 A. Well, that basically means it's broken at least on my side,  
22 right? That's --

23 Q. Right.

24 A. I'm pretty positive it was like that. If it wasn't, then --

25 TROOPER MICHEL: Is there a solid line on either side?

1           ██████████ -- that's obviously my bad if it was.

2           TROOPER MICHEL: Okay.

3           TROOPER DAWES: Can you just describe how you were feeling in  
4 the moment whenever you're coming -- you notice that you're  
5 driving around 90 mile an hour driving into maybe a head-on  
6 collision with a bigger vehicle, you know?

7           ██████████ I really thought I had enough time, but -- I mean,  
8 I wasn't that nervous.

9           BY TROOPER MICHEL:

10          Q. Did it look wide open or anything whenever you pull out in  
11 the left lane to pass or did you see like a car, like I got plenty  
12 of time, and you just kind of --

13          A. Yeah. I really felt like I had plenty of time. I mean, the  
14 guy oncoming might have been going faster than I had thought just  
15 looking at it first, which is why I sped up.

16          Q. Yeah, let me ask you this. So from, from -- the little town  
17 before is called Montrose.

18          A. Yeah.

19          Q. So as you're driving west towards Teutopolis, after that  
20 four-way, you're probably driving for 2 or 3 miles before that  
21 area. Do you remember like were you behind that truck the whole  
22 time and just decide at that point like, ah, I've had enough being  
23 behind it, or --

24          A. Well, it wasn't really -- the reason I passed him was because  
25 he would kind of seem to vary his speed for no reason. There was

1 nobody in front of this guy.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. So I kind of get annoyed when that happens. Maybe I  
4 shouldn't. Maybe I should just sit there and accept my fate,  
5 which is actually something my brother said to me, I believe,  
6 which is like, yeah, you should've just sat there and like just  
7 waited instead of passing the guy. But he like never passes  
8 anyone ever, which, you know, if it ends up -- well, honestly, you  
9 know what? You say you have a video of this truck's --

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. -- dash cam. So like I'm not telling you have to show me it,  
12 but --

13 TROOPER DAWES: No, that's fine. I'll look at the dash cam.

14 [REDACTED] That's the only way you're going to be able to  
15 determine if this was my bad.

16 TROOPER DAWES: Right. And we -- right, and we just want --  
17 we were planning on bringing that up to you. We just wanted to  
18 get some background info before that.

19 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Well, if you want to, I have no  
20 problem doing that.

21 [REDACTED] I mean, Jesus, I had no idea that that was one of  
22 the trucks I passed.

23 TROOPER DAWES: Did, did -- again, I know I probably asked  
24 you this already, but did mom and brother say anything? Like did  
25 they say like, hey, watch out for the semi on the right, whenever

1 when you were -- whenever you're getting back in your lane after  
2 passing the semi?

3 [REDACTED] No. They were really just nervous because, again,  
4 it looked like there's headlights coming right towards you and  
5 they're just like, oh, geez, it's so scary, something like that.

6 TROOPER DAWES: So would you say that all three of your guys'  
7 attention was on what's ahead instead of like what's to your  
8 right?

9 [REDACTED] I don't know. You're going to have to ask them.

10 TROOPER MICHEL: I'll just come around over here to you and  
11 let you take a look.

12 [REDACTED] Have you talked -- you said you talked to my mom,  
13 right, and she said it was okay to talk me?

14 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yes.

15 TROOPER MICHEL: Yes.

16 [REDACTED] Okay. Then --

17 TROOPER MICHEL: Our supervisor Jonathan Austin (ph.) --

18 [REDACTED] -- honestly she would know. She would probably be  
19 able to tell you more useful stuff than I can. I mean, you know  
20 what, I can totally imagine this being my bad because like --

21 BY UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

22 Q. So here is the --

23 A. This is the truck.

24 Q. -- trucking company, yes, that's hauling the anhydrous.

25 Okay?

1 A. Yeah, (indiscernible).

2 Q. So this is the drive. It's driving in between Montrose  
3 towards Teutopolis, okay?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. I'll just let it play from here.

6 (Video playing)

7 [REDACTED] So this is --

8 BY UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

9 Q. This Route 40. There's the no-passing zone sign. See that?

10 A. Oh, shit.

11 Q. Okay?

12 A. Yeah. Oh, my goodness. Yep, totally my bad. Wow.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Holy shit.

15 Q. So we'll watch this again.

16 A. No, you don't have to. It was totally my fault.

17 Q. Okay. I'll get that out of the way.

18 A. Yeah. No, I mean, that -- I've honestly in the past had  
19 times when I just don't use good judgment in judging like  
20 distances and whether I have enough time for something. So it  
21 doesn't shock me, but obviously like the consequences of this like  
22 are no joke.

23 BY TROOPER DAWES:

24 Q. Hey, [REDACTED] did you have prior knowledge of the crash?

25 A. Of course not. I told you that like three times. I had no

1 idea. I thought -- generally you would think, right, if you're  
2 going along a road you would know if a truck flips behind you.  
3 There was nothing like audible.

4 Q. From watching the video can you see a reasonable driver would  
5 know -- would actually look back and think like, oh, man, I just  
6 passed a truck, like I need to, I need to look --

7 A. I mean, I thought for sure I saw his lights and it looked  
8 normal. Like I didn't see anything that I was like, oh, this is  
9 abnormal, I should like see what's going on behind me and like  
10 something's wrong.

11 Q. What about like your mom?

12 A. No, her either.

13 TROOPER MICHEL: Nobody seen headlights --

14 BY TROOPER DAWES:

15 Q. But being a passenger and also being freaked out like, hey --

16 A. It really --

17 Q. -- there's a car coming head on to me, but also I need to get  
18 in my lane. I know there's a lot of stuff going on, but a  
19 reasonable driver is going to know to check on that truck and to  
20 know that that truck was there before I started passing.

21 A. Yeah, of course I knew he was there. I just didn't --  
22 nothing really stood out to me as in like something happened, this  
23 guy went off the road. I had no idea. I thought it was normal.  
24 I thought it was fine.

25 Q. So when you guys are looking at these headlines and seeing

1 all this news about it, nothing -- I mean, something's got to come  
2 up like --

3 A. I mean, it briefly flashed through my mind like maybe that  
4 was like --

5 Q. Maybe --

6 A. But it didn't really give any details of like why the truck  
7 went off the road.

8 Q. I mean, did you ever think maybe --

9 A. Honestly --

10 Q. -- that's the truck that I passed because --

11 A. I mean, it -- like briefly I -- you would, you would think,  
12 right, you would just randomly hypothetically think that. But no,  
13 nothing happened to make me sure of that, you know? I thought,  
14 oh, it's probably not. There's almost no chance of that, right?  
15 Like I thought, no, that would be a crazy coincidence. Because  
16 again, you would think -- you just wouldn't think it would happen  
17 like that. Like you'd think I would notice, something would have  
18 tipped me off.

19 TROOPER MICHEL: And that's kind of what I was talking about,  
20 like normal protocol, like if you seen something like that happen,  
21 what would you do?

22 [REDACTED] If a truck --

23 TROOPER MICHEL: Like if you, if you seen it?

24 [REDACTED] -- flipped off the road behind me, I -- of course  
25 I would stop, go see if everything's okay, take responsibility.



1 Because, I mean, obviously I had no idea he was hauling like a  
2 hazard chemical, which would be -- in that case if I had known  
3 that, then I might not have gone up and approached the truck  
4 because I would've been like, well, geez, I'm just going to die.  
5 But I didn't find out about the chemical, like I don't know if  
6 it -- was there some marking on the truck that I would've been  
7 able to know that? I don't know.

8 BY TROOPER DAWES:

9 Q. So do you recall what the type of trailer it was?

10 A. No, not really.

11 Q. Would you say it was a tank?

12 A. Yes. Yes.

13 Q. It was a tank?

14 A. Probably.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. I mean, I'm assuming it had to have been. If I passed that  
17 truck, then that's what it was.

18 Q. Just, just checking your memory on that, but --

19 A. My memory is not great, but yeah, that's what happened.

20 Q. So --

21 A. Obviously.

22 Q. -- there's three -- you know, you're, you're not technically  
23 an adult yet, you know, 18 is an adult. But you're brother's an  
24 adult and you're mom's an adult, and you're all driving in a car,  
25 and you can't tell me that nobody said anything about the semi

1 driving off the road. I'm sorry. I don't believe --

2 A. Nobody said that. Nobody said, oh, the guy behind you drove  
3 off the road. That would've been a huge deal for everybody. We  
4 would've been like, oh, shit, I just caused something really bad  
5 to happen and then like our whole night would've been figuring  
6 out -- I don't know. It's just not -- we did not know.

7 Q. Was your night ruined after that close call?

8 A. No. Because I thought I just passed a truck normally and  
9 everything was fine. I didn't know he went off the road. I mean,  
10 logically looking back on it, I would've thought he could brake.  
11 But obviously trucks can't stop quickly, so I -- it looks like it  
12 was my fault from the video.

13 Q. Do you think it was your fault?

14 A. Now I do, but back then I had no idea. Of course I think  
15 it's my fault now. How could I not? And like five people died.  
16 Who else died? Okay, so the truck driver died --

17 Q. The truck driver didn't, didn't die.

18 A. Oh, really? Well, some people in a house did, right?  
19 They're totally innocent.

20 Q. When did you find out about the people that died in the  
21 house?

22 A. The news story. It was like a dad and two kids, right?

23 Q. Yeah.

24 A. I'm so sorry.

25 Q. You're fine.

1 A. No, it isn't fine. What the hell? Some people died, right?  
2 You said five people?

3 Q. We don't have to go into that right now.

4 TROOPER MICHEL: We don't have to --

5 [REDACTED] I need to know. Oh, my God.

6 BY TROOPER DAWES:

7 Q. When you guys got past there -- I know your mom's a doctor,  
8 right?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Did she maybe say anything about like maybe going back and  
11 helping?

12 A. No. We didn't know it happened, okay? How many times must I  
13 tell you that? What the fuck? You just totally ruined like my  
14 future and everything.

15 TROOPER MICHEL: Luke, is this is going to be an issue for  
16 age? I might have to step out for a second.

17 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yeah.

18 [REDACTED] I need to know what happened. Like how many other  
19 people died? Like were these people in the cars or were they in  
20 houses that got hit by the ammonia, ammonia whatever?

21 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Just explained everything, might as  
22 well.

23 [REDACTED] What?

24 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Oh. I'm telling him to explain --

25 TROOPER MICHEL: Yeah. What do you want me to explain?

1           ██████████ Who else died, right? So there was two people in  
2 a house.

3           BY TROOPER MICHEL:

4 Q.    Yeah, there was a father and two kids that just got home.

5 A.    And who else? There's three more.

6 Q.    And the other two were in vehicles --

7 A.    On the road?

8 Q.    -- that had pulled up to the crash site and got exposed.

9 A.    Who saw it happen. Okay.

10 Q.    Yeah. So --

11           UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yeah, (indiscernible) --

12           BY TROOPER MICHEL:

13 Q.    And several people were hospitalized and stuff like that  
14 because of it, of the --

15 A.    Like so five people died, though?

16 Q.    Confirmed. There may be, there may be more.

17 A.    Confirmed. So they're in the hospital now?

18           UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: No, no. Five are dead, but there's  
19 others in the hospital.

20           ██████████ Right. Okay. That's -- yeah, that's what I  
21 thought. Yeah.

22           BY TROOPER MICHEL:

23 Q.    So as far as -- we pretty much covered everything other than  
24 your, your brother took over and he started driving. Were you  
25 sitting in the back seat from then on out?

- 1 A. Okay, none of this matters. We know what happened.
- 2 Q. Right.
- 3 A. What happens now basically?
- 4 Q. Yeah. So --
- 5 A. So what are the consequences for like through your actions
- 6 literally killing people? Like I don't know how to put that.
- 7 Q. Well, it's, it's complicated. It's up to, it's up to a
- 8 state's attorney in our county, which is Effingham County. And
- 9 that's someone that --
- 10 A. Okay.
- 11 Q. -- you can be in contact with if you have any questions.
- 12 A. All right. There's got to be something you can tell me about
- 13 what generally happens in these situations. Like what like I do
- 14 expect --
- 15 Q. Well, this is a very specific --
- 16 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Well, this is a different situation.
- 17 BY TROOPER MICHEL:
- 18 Q. -- situation. You didn't make any contact with the vehicle,
- 19 okay? So --
- 20 A. Of course. I didn't know it happened.
- 21 Q. You didn't make any contact with it, so that's why it's
- 22 complicated. But we still need to know the truth, you know? And
- 23 I feel like you've been very truthful --
- 24 A. Yeah.
- 25 Q. -- and I appreciate that.

1 A. As much as I can.

2 Q. And do you think -- let me ask you this. Do you think your  
3 brother Josh or your mother Heather is going to know more about  
4 the -- be able to talk about, you know, the pass and how it  
5 happened and everything?

6 A. If you, if you --

7 Q. Do you think mom's --

8 A. -- have questions, they might be able to give more details.  
9 But the impression I got is that nobody knew a truck had crashed  
10 behind us.

11 Q. Right. So like at that gas station when you guys were --

12 A. I don't know how we would not have noticed that. Literally,  
13 that still makes no sense to me. You'd think it would like make a  
14 big noise or like we'd see the headlights going off the road or  
15 like some explosion like -- you would think we would've known, but  
16 we didn't know.

17 Q. So this is the next thing I was going to show you and ask  
18 you. So what this is in front of me is a consent to search your  
19 phone.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Is that something that you would consent to do?

22 TROOPER DAWES: You'll get it back here before --

23 [REDACTED] Honestly, no. Because I don't know how this is  
24 relevant. I haven't talked with anybody about this on my phone.  
25 The only people I talked -- honestly, it's like I said, it's like

1 I talked -- the only thing I knew about this is what my mom read  
2 to me from the news stories on our way back.

3 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

4 Q. Okay. So is that, is that a yes or -- yes or a no?

5 A. Well, like what are you looking for on the phone? If you're  
6 looking for something specific, then I can obviously --

7 Q. I would say just -- it would just be locations, but if -- I  
8 mean, if you're --

9 A. How would you find where I've been?

10 BY TROOPER DAWES:

11 Q. We just -- just there's -- the phone holds so much data that  
12 we -- this is almost just common practice that we do when we're  
13 investigating something. We always ask people, can we dump your  
14 phone? And then we would be able to --

15 A. Honestly, (indiscernible). I have given you pretty precise  
16 information about where exactly I was. We know what happened, so  
17 I don't see the relevance of that. I really don't.

18 Q. Have you --

19 A. I really don't.

20 Q. Have you communicated with anybody on your phone about the  
21 crash?

22 A. No. Again, I have not. I did not know it happened the way  
23 it did until now.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. Who would I talk to about it? Again, I didn't even have any

1 idea. It was nothing until today. You know, it was just random.

2 Q. Are you sure you haven't talked to anybody about it?

3 A. Yes. Of course. Not on my phone. Again, the only person  
4 I've talked to about it is my mom, basically, in the car.

5 Q. In the car?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You and your mom didn't text or call and talk?

8 A. No, of course not. I can literally swear that right now.  
9 Like -- no. Because again we didn't know. It's not, it's not  
10 like, it's not like basically we ran this truck off the road and  
11 then we're like, oh, shit, this is terrible, let's keep driving  
12 and not tell anybody about it and not stop. No. Oh, my God. We  
13 are -- well, my mom's a Christian, for one thing. She would  
14 never hit and run, and that's basically what that is. But no, of  
15 course not. That is not what happened. I told you what happened.  
16 It's not like this is something that we conspired to hide or  
17 anything. I'm, I'm just now figuring out -- okay, what else?  
18 Like I don't even know. Like what --

19 Q. I think we already talked about this, but what -- can you  
20 just describe the make and model of your mom's van?

21 A. Yeah. It's a black -- what's the name of it?

22 Q. A name like a Tiana -- Teana?

23 A. Yes, exactly. That's it. It's in the video. Like goddamn  
24 it.

25 Q. Okay. And who owns the car?



1 A. Probably my mom.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Yeah, she bought it.

4 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

5 Q. Is that a normal one that you drive or do you have a  
6 different one, too?

7 A. Oh, we've got several, but it's usually the one we drive out  
8 there, yeah.

9 Q. Drive the one out to see boyfriend, James Carter?

10 I guess after seeing the video and seeing how you passed that  
11 and everything, is there anything you'd do different?

12 A. What do you mean?

13 Q. Just is there anything you'd do different, anything at all,  
14 with the whole thing?

15 A. I'm not sure how to answer that. I mean, it, it sounds like  
16 I made a shitty decision on the road that for whatever reason  
17 seemed completely fine to me in the moment, and it turned out not  
18 to be fine at all and I killed five people and now I'm -- yeah, of  
19 course I'd do that differently. Are you kidding me?

20 Okay. I don't know. I mean, assuming five people hadn't  
21 died from this, I would be like, okay, going forward I will become  
22 more cautious as a driver or not drive at all or some crazy  
23 decision like that. But like me being responsible for five people  
24 dying like that, (indiscernible) like heads or tails of that,  
25 right? I don't know what to do or say like -- what else do you

1 need me for, honestly? Like I, I know that sounds ridiculous,  
2 like, oh, let me go back to class, I killed five people.

3 BY TROOPER DAWES:

4 Q. No, and, you know, I'm sorry we got to ask you these  
5 questions, but you got to realize the job we do, you know,  
6 everybody's usually lying to us and --

7 A. Yes, I understand that, but I am not lying to you.

8 Q. No, and what it -- and [REDACTED] what it comes to down to is,  
9 we just, we're just fact finders, okay? So --

10 A. Okay, but you have the facts, you know what happened.  
11 What -- is there anything else you need to know, because I  
12 honestly think you know everything?

13 Q. Just maybe some more background info on you. Do you have a  
14 job?

15 A. No, but I just applied for one actually.

16 Q. What do you, what do you do in like your spare time here?

17 A. How in the hell is that relevant, seriously?

18 Q. I'm just, like I said, I'm just getting background, that's  
19 all. Have you always lived in Xenia?

20 A. No. No, I -- again, I don't see how this is related, but I  
21 was born in Las Vegas while my mom was in the military. And then  
22 we moved, I guess, to Indianapolis, and that's where my dad lives  
23 still. And then we moved again in Indiana and then back -- then  
24 we moved to here, to Ohio.

25 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

1 Q. You know, [REDACTED] something I -- I usually always start my  
2 interviews the same way. I just neglected to ask you this, but  
3 I'll go ahead and ask you now. What is a good contact phone  
4 number if I do need to reach you?

5 A. [REDACTED].

6 Q. Okay. And is that a mobile phone, I guess?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are you on like dad's plan, mom's plan, I guess? You don't  
9 pay for your own yet?

10 A. No, I don't.

11 Q. Okay. Okay. Understood.

12 BY TROOPER DAWES:

13 Q. What, what branch of service is your mom in?

14 A. She's not in the military anymore.

15 Q. Well, I mean, what was she in?

16 A. Oh, Air Force.

17 Q. Air Force. Okay. Is that how you guys ended up in the  
18 Dayton area, because of the Air Force base?

19 A. No. She got out of the military a long time ago. It was  
20 really to get through, you know, her education really.

21 Q. Okay. We haven't talked much about your dad. Is he around  
22 or --

23 A. He lives in Indianapolis.

24 Q. He does? Okay.

25 A. I see him sometimes.

1 Q. Is he a doctor as well?

2 A. Kind of, yeah. He runs his own clinic.

3 Q. Okay.

4 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

5 Q. Brother, I guess -- I don't know if we really talked much  
6 about Josh. I was wanting to talk to Josh, too, at some point.

7 A. Yeah. He's an electrician's apprentice.

8 Q. Do you know what time he gets off work today?

9 A. I don't know. I can ask him.

10 Q. Yeah.

11 A. You called me though, so you have my phone number. Do you  
12 want me to give --

13 Q. Right.

14 A. -- you his or something? I don't know.

15 Q. What, I guess, what is a good --

16 A. Someone called me.

17 Q. -- what is a good phone number for Josh just so I have it?

18 A. I don't have it off the top of my head. Let me look.

19 Q. Some of these basic questions is usually how I start out, but  
20 I just neglected to ask some of these phone questions and  
21 background information.

22 A. (Indiscernible) It's fine. It's fine. I know you just  
23 wanted to figure out what happened. Okay. So, for Joshua,  
24 [REDACTED].

25 Q. And I might as well ask you for Heather's, too. Your

1 mother's?

2 A. Okay. Yeah. I'll just have to make sure it's the new one  
3 that she (indiscernible).

4 TROOPER DAWES: Who, who do you guys all live with out there  
5 in Xenia?

6 [REDACTED] Okay. So there's my mom -- sorry. Let me do this  
7 first.

8 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

9 Q. Yeah, let's do the mother's.

10 A. [REDACTED] --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- [REDACTED].

13 Q. [REDACTED] -- what was it?

14 A. [REDACTED].

15 TROOPER MICHEL: Go ahead, Kevin. Sorry about that.

16 TROOPER DAWES: Oh, I was just --

17 BY TROOPER DAWES:

18 Q. Who do you all live with?

19 A. Okay. Right. So my mom's parents -- my grandparents, and my  
20 mom and my two siblings, basically.

21 Q. So --

22 A. So, yeah, three generations in (indiscernible).

23 Q. Okay. No --

24 A. -- that's weird.

25 Q. No. But it seems like a big house, so it looks like it

1 accommodates you all.

2 A. It is. You've been out there, right, to talk to my mom?

3 Q. We stopped out there, yeah.

4 A. She was home though?

5 Q. She was at work.

6 TROOPER MICHEL: No, she was at work.

7 [REDACTED] Did you talk to her at work?

8 TROOPER MICHEL: On the phone.

9 TROOPER DAWES: Our supervisor called her.

10 [REDACTED] Okay.

11 TROOPER DAWES: So --

12 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

13 Q. I guess I wanted to ask you this, too, I guess, since we're  
14 here at Wright State campus here. When did you start college?  
15 Since you're 17, that seems pretty --

16 A. Yeah. I've been doing classes online for a while.

17 Q. Yeah.

18 A. And I started doing it in person this semester.

19 Q. Just started in person, but did like a dual credit early?

20 A. No, no. It wasn't dual credits. It's college credit plus,  
21 that's what it's called.

22 Q. Okay.

23 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Have you already graduated high  
24 school?

25 [REDACTED] No. I'm still taking high school classes.

1 TROOPER MICHEL: Oh, so do you --

2 [REDACTED] Online, I'm taking them online.

3 TROOPER MICHEL: Online? Okay.

4 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: You're really smart, huh?

5 [REDACTED] No, I'm not. I'm clearly not smart. Oh, my God.

6 BY TROOPER DAWES:

7 Q. What are you going for?

8 A. What?

9 Q. What are you, what are you going to school for?

10 A. I haven't decided my major yet.

11 Q. We, we're waiting around for a phone call here real quick,  
12 too. Okay? Just --

13 A. What phone call?

14 Q. Just from our boss, who wants to let us know something.

15 A. So my mom's like not responsible for this at all. Basically  
16 I want to make that clear. Like she trusts me and she really  
17 shouldn't. Like there are a lot of reasons I should not be  
18 trusted to drive. Well, not like actual reasons. I'm just -- I  
19 don't know. Again, there's other things in the past that probably  
20 could've helped us -- actually, you know what, no one is going to  
21 be like, oh, you ran a red light, so you should not drive. But --

22 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

23 Q. Did you? Did you have a red light car crash, like --

24 A. No. Car crash?

25 Q. No?

- 1 A. Are you kidding me? No.
- 2 Q. Just ran a red light?
- 3 A. Oh, wait, wait. Actually I ran a motorcycle off the road.
- 4 That --
- 5 Q. Yeah.
- 6 A. -- kind of thing, and no one else was involved. It was just
- 7 me not having good enough focus, out in North Carolina, maybe,
- 8 South Carolina, one of those.
- 9 Q. Do you wear glasses or contacts?
- 10 A. I wear contacts.
- 11 Q. Yeah. Were you wearing --
- 12 A. I mean, that has --
- 13 Q. -- were you wearing contacts Friday?
- 14 A. -- something to do with depth perception, but --
- 15 Q. Do you have -- like what -- do you know anything about your
- 16 eye doctor or like your eye prescription or anything like that?
- 17 A. I think my prescription's probably fine. I think I actually
- 18 have an eye doctor's appointment tomorrow actually.
- 19 Q. What I'm, what I'm asking is like do you have a stigmatism
- 20 or anything like that?
- 21 A. I don't know what that means.
- 22 Q. Okay. It just means that your --
- 23 A. I'm basically nearsighted, right?
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. So if I take out my contacts, I can't see very well. So,



1 yeah, I get it. There's probably some issues --

2 Q. In the state of --

3 A. -- with depth perception.

4 Q. Right. Like in the state of Ohio here, like your driver's  
5 license that you got, do you have some kind of --

6 A. It doesn't say I'm blind on there, I don't think.

7 Q. -- restriction or anything?

8 A. I mean, I can get it out and look --

9 Q. Sure.

10 A. -- my license, if that has anything on it.

11 Q. That'll --

12 A. I don't think it -- it might state that I wear glasses or  
13 contacts or something.

14 Q. If you don't mind, I'll check the back?

15 TROOPER DAWES: What are you -- I'm sorry. What did you say  
16 you were going to school for?

17 [REDACTED] I said I hadn't decided --

18 TROOPER MICHEL: Hadn't decided on a major.

19 [REDACTED] -- my major.

20 TROOPER DAWES: Oh, okay.

21 [REDACTED] I mean, I'm vaguely interested in medicine, so  
22 that's probably -- I'm probably going to go for something science  
23 related, so -- I don't know. Medicine's not really a set-in-stone  
24 plan. It's just what I've set my sights on because, come on, most  
25 people don't have the advantages that I do, so --

1 TROOPER DAWES: Well, it's just in your blood, you know?

2 [REDACTED] Yeah, sure. But that's not like the actual  
3 reason. It's mostly because my mom's helping me with college. It  
4 gives me a head start. So I should (indiscernible) or whatever,  
5 but -- I don't know.

6 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

7 Q. If you did do the medical thing, how long is that going to  
8 take?

9 A. A while. It always takes a while.

10 Q. Yeah. I didn't know if you could speed things up with all  
11 the extra things that you do, like summer and all that.

12 A. I, I mean, I might end up graduating college a little younger  
13 than a lot of people, but not by much. Again, it's not like I'm  
14 that much ahead. I just did -- I've just been doing several  
15 classes online.

16 Q. You may have asked [sic] this, do you work, too? Or I --

17 A. No. But I recently applied for a job, but -- so I'm wanting  
18 to, but --

19 Q. Is it medical related?

20 A. No. Well, it's at CVS, so I guess.

21 Q. Yeah, it kind of is. Yeah.

22 A. But I'll probably just be a cashier or something, stocking  
23 shelves, I don't know, nothing, nothing too impressive. I don't  
24 know if I'll even get that job. Probably not.

25 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Since you're doing this college plus

1 thing --

2 [REDACTED] Yeah.

3 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: -- do they let you out of high school  
4 to come do that during the day or is that --

5 [REDACTED] Oh, again, I'm taking high school classes online.

6 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Oh, online. That's my bad. I forgot  
7 you did say that. Yeah, sorry.

8 [REDACTED] Yeah. It's fine. It's weird. My situation is  
9 very weird.

10 BY TROOPER DAWES:

11 Q. Well, it's good though, you get your education out of the way  
12 and get in the real world sooner, you know, but -- or, you know, I  
13 call it real world, but --

14 A. Yeah. I don't know, there's lots of reasons to do it, but --

15 Q. [REDACTED] you know, I'm really sorry this happened to you. We  
16 don't think you're a bad --

17 A. Nothing happened to me. Don't apologize to me.

18 Q. Well, I know you're upset about it. We don't -- I want you  
19 to know we don't think you're a bad person.

20 A. I am, too. I mean, I'm -- okay, sure, I didn't know what I  
21 did, but I'm still at the very least an irresponsible person. And  
22 I'm the kind of person who thinks like the intention absolutely  
23 never justifies the act. So, sure, like this might not be like  
24 something I intentionally did with evil intentions in mind, but it  
25 happened, so I am never going to, I am never going to get past

1 this, like -- I'm sorry, (indiscernible). I'm congested like --

2 Q. You're fine.

3 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Why don't you let her use the bathroom  
4 real quick?

5 TROOPER DAWES: Yeah. Do you need to use the bathroom or  
6 anything?

7 [REDACTED] What am I going to do in there? I don't care.  
8 I'm --

9 TROOPER DAWES: Blow your nose.

10 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Blow your nose or --

11 TROOPER DAWES: I'll --

12 TROOPER MICHEL: You can blow your nose real quick.

13 TROOPER DAWES: I'll see if I can find you a water.

14 [REDACTED] I don't really, I don't really blow my nose. I  
15 have a weird runny nose.

16 TROOPER MICHEL: Well, if you want to go blow your nose, I  
17 don't --

18 TROOPER DAWES: Can you see the car insurance info?

19 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

20 Q. Yeah, do you have -- I guess on your phone, do you have like  
21 an app that shows like your car insurance info and stuff like  
22 that? Or like --

23 A. No, not -- not for the van.

24 Q. You don't think you --

25 A. If you're asking about that?

1 Q. Yeah. Okay.

2 A. No, I don't have that. Most of the time when I'm driving  
3 that car my mom is with me anyway, so -- I mean, I'm not really  
4 used to providing all the information for the vehicles I drive.

5 Q. So if you get stopped, it's typically in the glove  
6 compartment or something like that?

7 A. Oh, yeah. A lot of it is. Insurance, I feel like maybe the  
8 one time --

9 Q. Some people have an app on your phone --

10 A. Or -- yeah, or --

11 Q. -- or a screenshot or anything?

12 A. In the past, I feel like one time I was stopped maybe I  
13 texted my mom and she sent me everything.

14 Q. Sent you a picture? Did you save her picture? Is it  
15 something that maybe --

16 A. I was not stopped in that van, again, so it's different  
17 information.

18 Q. Right. Understood.

19 A. I don't know how it would help. And I don't know why it  
20 matters either.

21 Q. Well, so typically whenever vehicles are involved in a  
22 crash --

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. -- whether they're, whether they're like a contact vehicle or  
25 a non-contact vehicle, if they're involved in the area, you know,

1 the insurance information all gets recorded.

2 TROOPER DAWES: Here's a water for you, [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED] Thank you.

4 Would I go to jail for this if I was over 18?

5 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

6 Q. In the state of Ohio, I have no idea. But in the state of  
7 Illinois, for what I see, what I see right now, as far as today,  
8 no, like you're not, you're not --

9 A. Well, how does that work? I need to understand more -- like  
10 how would you define the thing I did? Crime or not?

11 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Okay. So I'll explain. There's --  
12 there is the possibility of a reckless homicide. That's what  
13 we're investigating.

14 [REDACTED] Yeah. Times five.

15 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: A reckless homicide, something like  
16 that in Illinois, a 17-year-old can be charged as an adult, so  
17 that wouldn't matter.

18 [REDACTED] Oh.

19 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: But this, this is -- I mean, this is a  
20 totally different circumstance.

21 TROOPER MICHEL: This is a, this is a special circumstance.  
22 This is --

23 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: This is something I've never seen  
24 before and this is (indiscernible).

25 [REDACTED] Yeah. I just (indiscernible).

1 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: This is not something we typically  
2 investigate.

3 TROOPER MICHEL: No. Our office typically handles death  
4 investigations such homicides and stuff like that.

5 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: But since this happened in our area  
6 and it was such a big event, they wanted us to work it. Now what  
7 the actual charge is going to be, is going to be completely up to  
8 the state's attorney. He -- it may be as much as a -- it could be  
9 reckless homicide. I don't --

10 [REDACTED] Okay. What does that entail? What happens --

11 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Reckless homicide, I mean, it's, it's  
12 a felony. It could be as little as probation up to jail time,  
13 yes.

14 [REDACTED] Okay. That's what I wanted to know.

15 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: But it also could be as little as a  
16 ticket for improper lane usage.

17 TROOPER MICHEL: It could be --

18 [REDACTED] That doesn't feel right.

19 TROOPER MICHEL: -- passing in a no-passing zone.

20 [REDACTED] I shouldn't get a ticket for killing five people.  
21 I mean, I mean, I'm not saying like I want to be a felon either,  
22 but like -- I mean, if I am, that obviously means changing a lot  
23 of my plans. But whatever, I can live with that. Well, I can't  
24 live with this actually, but --

25 BY TROOPER DAWES:

1 Q. [REDACTED] at the end of the day, it was just an accident,  
2 right?

3 A. But that doesn't mean anything. Again, I have pretty set-in-  
4 stone beliefs about these things.

5 Q. I'm sorry. Something just popped into my head. Did -- why  
6 did you guys end up switching drivers after the close call with  
7 the truck, at the gas station?

8 A. Why?

9 Q. Yeah.

10 A. Well, again, that's just something we do if we're tired and  
11 stuff and --

12 Q. Did it have anything to do about the scare from the --

13 A. Maybe.

14 Q. -- from the crash?

15 A. My mom kind of makes these decisions.

16 Q. So was mom kind of -- not upset, but excited? And I say  
17 excited like --

18 A. Oh, definitely.

19 Q. -- like frantic because --

20 A. I mean, I wouldn't --

21 Q. -- because of, you know, maybe --

22 A. -- escalate it that much, but yeah, she was.

23 Q. Okay. So you guys switched, you guys switched drivers just  
24 because of the close call with the crash, the head-on crash?

25 A. Maybe not exclusively. But again, like I'm saying, I passed



1 like three people. Like she, she was tired of my driving style.

2 Let's just put it that way.

3 Q. She was tired of your driving -- she just wanted brother to  
4 drive?

5 A. I guess.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Because again, he doesn't do much of that.

8 Q. No, I get it. You know, we just drove that today. So it's a  
9 little bit of a road trip, too, so --

10 A. A little bit, yes. Five hours.

11 Q. Do you guys go see James, right, often with your mom?

12 A. Yeah, again, several times a month.

13 Q. What does James do in Highland? We're pretty familiar with  
14 that area.

15 A. Well, he's retired.

16 Q. Oh, he's --

17 A. He's retired now. He's like 50- -- in his fifties. I don't  
18 know. But he used to be like a -- I feel like maybe maintenance  
19 or like he'd keep the grounds on like a, on a college campus  
20 basically.

21 Q. Oh, okay.

22 TROOPER MICHEL: How'd they meet?

23 [REDACTED] Online.

24 TROOPER MICHEL: Just online and --

25 [REDACTED] Again, they live like a couple states apart, so

1 how else?

2 TROOPER MICHEL: Okay.

3 BY TROOPER DAWES:

4 Q. Where does he live at in Highland?

5 A. I would have to -- I can get his address.

6 Q. No, no, that's fine. I'm just, I'm just, like I said, I'm  
7 just making small talk because I'm familiar with the Highland  
8 area. Do you guys, do you guys ever go get pizza or anything at  
9 Sam's in Highland or --

10 A. No. I don't really --

11 Q. -- go eat somewhere?

12 A. I don't really know.

13 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Did he work at SIU in the --

14 [REDACTED] You have to ask him.

15 (Side conversation between Troopers Dawes and Michel:)

16 TROOPER MICHEL: No, she doesn't have it. She said it's  
17 normally in the van. She said the last time she got stopped --

18 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: That's close to where I live.

19 [REDACTED] Yeah?

20 TROOPER DAWES: -- her mom maybe sent a picture but she  
21 doesn't know if she has the picture.

22 [REDACTED] Wait. What?

23 TROOPER DAWES: I was just asking about insurance.

24 TROOPER MICHEL: About insurance card.

25 [REDACTED] Oh. No, not for this car, but --

1 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: No, she was in a different car she  
2 said.

3 TROOPER MICHEL: Different?

4 [REDACTED] -- I don't have it. I was in, actually, yeah,  
5 just the same car I drove today, which is kind of my grandma's,  
6 kind of my mom's. It's an electric car. I like that car. It  
7 feels very -- very safe. Oh, actually, you know what? This is  
8 kind of relevant because I'm used to riding a motorcycle,  
9 actually. So for passing people I am very much used to getting up  
10 to speed a lot faster and also not having this long-ass car behind  
11 me. So that changes nothing, but it kind of helps to explain why  
12 the hell I did something so ridiculous.

13 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

14 Q. What kind of motorcycle do you ride?

15 A. I have two actually. One of them out in Illinois, it's a  
16 Ninja.

17 Q. What cc is it?

18 A. 650.

19 Q. That's, that's a pretty decent size bike, yeah.

20 A. Kind of mid-range.

21 Q. That's -- I have one, like a Ninja 300 and (indiscernible)

22 A. No. And then I have one out here. It's like this Italian  
23 thing, so maybe you haven't heard of it. It's like 800 cc's.

24 Q. LePera?

25 A. No. I wish. I love those.

1 Q. Yeah, I do, too, (indiscernible).

2 A. It sounds so beautiful.

3 Q. Um-hum. Which one is it, Italian bike?

4 A. Oh, it's called a Moto Guzzi. It's like a cruiser bike.

5 Q. Yeah.

6 A. Kind of vintage looking.

7 Q. I'm into bikes some. We could probably talk for hours about  
8 that.

9 A. Yeah, I'm sure. But yeah, I don't know, in a lot of ways I  
10 could've just thought more about everything, I guess.

11 (End tape 1)

12 (Start tape 2)

13 [REDACTED] But it doesn't (indiscernible) anything from  
14 happening, but I just don't live like that. I'm not like thinking  
15 of every possible contingency, like what this means and like  
16 implications and -- sorry.

17 TROOPER DAWES: You're fine.

18 [REDACTED] I don't know. I, I don't know. Again, I did not  
19 know -- this is like really, I don't know, kind of shocking to me.  
20 Like I did not --

21 TROOPER MICHEL: I guess --

22 [REDACTED] -- expect this at all.

23 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

24 Q. [REDACTED] let me ask you this. Whenever I introduced myself  
25 and said I was from Illinois, did you know what it was about?

1 A. Not really, no. I mean, again, when the guy walked over  
2 here, I guessed a million things. And this in the drive over  
3 didn't come up. Because again, I had no idea, right? I thought,  
4 oh, it -- the only thing I could think of was the police in  
5 Illinois, what did I think? I don't know. My brother got pulled  
6 over in Illinois like a month ago --

7 Q. Yeah.

8 A. -- for speeding, but that's --

9 Q. Was it on that trip to go see James?

10 A. No. No, no, no.

11 Q. Something different?

12 A. It's just like a smaller -- sorry, it was like a smaller  
13 trip, just from town to town while we were over there. It wasn't  
14 like that.

15 BY TROOPER DAWES:

16 Q. Did you guys get off the interstate at -- actually, do you  
17 know where -- what exit you guys got off the interstate that night  
18 to get onto US 40?

19 A. I don't remember these things. I can probably figure it out,  
20 but -- maybe my mom would know. Probably she'd be able to figure  
21 it out easier than I could. But again, doesn't help, we know what  
22 happened.

23 Q. Does Montrose sound familiar?

24 A. What?

25 Q. Montrose?

1 A. I don't know. I don't really pay attention.

2 Q. Okay. Or --

3 A. I just use Google Maps and go where it says.

4 Q. Or Greenup, that's kind of --

5 A. Oh, I heard that one, yeah.

6 Q. Okay.

7 TROOPER MICHEL: You said you used Google Maps --

8 [REDACTED] Yes. Always. Almost always.

9 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: (Indiscernible) stopped at a Love's  
10 gas station and that was Greenup.

11 [REDACTED] Google Maps is how we do --

12 TROOPER MICHEL: I'm sorry?

13 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: She said she stopped at a Love's gas  
14 station, right?

15 [REDACTED] That was on the way back.

16 TROOPER MICHEL: On the way back.

17 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Oh, okay.

18 [REDACTED] But the one we stopped at right after --

19 TROOPER MICHEL: Phillips 66.

20 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yeah. I --

21 [REDACTED] Yeah.

22 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

23 Q. Yeah, I was kind of curious how traffic was being diverted  
24 off 70 because there's a construction area and there's been a lot  
25 of accidents on 70, which is pushing people --

1 A. There have.

2 Q. -- off on 40, which is why --

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. -- you were on 40 --

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. -- that particular night.

7 A. And Google Maps is how we knew about the accident --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- and avoided it. And the same coming back, there was  
10 something going on, on there, so we took the 40 again. And I  
11 don't remember seeing the yellow area you were describing, but --

12 BY TROOPER DAWES:

13 Q. Could you approximate in a time, from the time you got off  
14 the interstate to the time you passed the semi, had the close call  
15 with the truck, the head-on crash?

16 A. What? Sorry. Can you repeat that?

17 Q. I'm sorry. Could you give an approximate time from the, from  
18 the time you got off the interstate to the time you had the close  
19 call with the head-on collision?

20 A. I really couldn't. Yeah, again, I don't know, we -- oh, my  
21 gosh. I can't really remember that much. Yeah, there was both --  
22 there was like plenty of traffic going both ways, so --

23 TROOPER MICHEL: Yeah, I think they had both ways shut down  
24 on 70, so they were --

25 [REDACTED] I wouldn't know.

1 TROOPER MICHEL: -- everybody was, everybody was on 40 that  
2 night.

3 [REDACTED] It was so many people.

4 BY TROOPER DAWES:

5 Q. So, and you mentioned passing three vehicles. Was that all  
6 in that stretch?

7 A. Two or three. I --

8 Q. Two or three?

9 A. Again, I, I just can't remember very well. I know the first  
10 guy I passed was like this like trailer. It wasn't a semi. It  
11 was --

12 TROOPER MICHEL: A camper.

13 [REDACTED] Yeah, kind of. Something like that. I don't  
14 know. This big black box, basically, but that's all.

15 TROOPER MICHEL: Yeah. That's when the flagger was sending  
16 you through. You were in between the camper and (indiscernible)

17 [REDACTED] I really couldn't say anything definite about the  
18 flagger. I remember seeing one, I think, or it could have been  
19 some other dude, but he was wearing reflective something or other,  
20 so probably, probably so.

21 BY TROOPER DAWES:

22 Q. When you guys drove through -- you know, we talked about  
23 Teutopolis, T-town, and into Effingham, where did you get back on  
24 Interstate 70 at, or (indiscernible).

25 A. Wait. So are you talking about coming back?



1 Q. No, no, no.

2 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

3 Q. No, no. You get gas at the Phillips 66 after the accident  
4 occurred.

5 A. Oh, yeah, yeah.

6 Q. You switch drivers. Your brother --

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. -- takes over. Where did you guys get on the interstate?

9 A. At some point we did, but again, if I'm not the one driving,  
10 I don't really pay attention --

11 Q. You didn't really?

12 A. -- where we're going. But we did, I believe we got back on  
13 there.

14 Q. Do you remember seeing anything around you before you got on  
15 the interstate, like where you would've been at? Like any  
16 particular gas stations? I know you just got gas, so probably  
17 not -- don't care, but any restaurants, anything at all? Maybe  
18 did it look --

19 A. Honestly, no.

20 Q. Did it look like a bunch of houses around there?

21 A. Well, you tell me. You find the gas station, tell me what it  
22 is, yeah.

23 Q. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

24 BY TROOPER DAWES:

25 Q. I mean, did you notice any like fast food restaurants or --

1 A. I was looking (indiscernible).

2 Q. No, no. I was just seeing if you remember anything specific  
3 that, you know --

4 A. I have really already said pretty much anything I can be sure  
5 of. Yeah. Yeah, I don't know why it matters. We know what  
6 happened.

7 Q. What, you know, off the top of your head, what did you guys  
8 do all weekend at James' place?

9 A. Well, again, we went out for his mom's funeral, so that's  
10 what we did. And after that -- so that was on Saturday. And the  
11 next day I guess we went to church and -- yeah, I don't know. Not  
12 much else I can -- oh, also, it was my brother's birthday, so we  
13 went out to eat after church.

14 TROOPER MICHEL: Where did you go eat?

15 [REDACTED] P-Dubs. That's his favorite place. He always go  
16 there. It's kind of annoying actually.

17 TROOPER MICHEL: Is that in Highland?

18 [REDACTED] I don't remember.

19 BY TROOPER DAWES:

20 Q. It's probably in Edwardsville. Does that sound familiar?

21 A. Maybe. Yeah, we've gone to that one a few times. I don't  
22 really remember where. But that's where we went.

23 I mean, I'm sorry if you guys don't know this, but like what  
24 is going to happen now? Like technically this is a felony, right?  
25 But nothing really happens to me because I'm under 18, but -- what

1 happens?

2 Q. So I -- the best information we can tell you is we're just  
3 fact finders and we just have to send this off, okay, so --

4 A. Okay. I know.

5 Q. We, you know, we don't, you know, decide what happens with  
6 this kind of stuff. It just --

7 A. So where does it go now? What, like what --

8 TROOPER MICHEL: It'll get presented to a state's attorney  
9 and he'll decide what fits best for what facts are in front of  
10 him.

11 [REDACTED] Okay.

12 BY UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER:

13 Q. This could be anywhere, like I said, from a ticket to --  
14 he'll decide that.

15 A. I mean --

16 Q. Ultimately it's --

17 A. -- I can see them taking my license away or something logical  
18 like that. But other than that -- I don't know, it doesn't seem  
19 like give her a ticket, she killed five people, that doesn't make  
20 sense. So it's probably going to be more than that. I just want  
21 to kind of know what to expect.

22 Q. Well, I mean, we have accidents all the time that happen  
23 where people just get a ticket and --

24 A. Not for killing five people.

25 Q. When people die in accidents here, sometimes that happens.

1 A. Yeah. Well, it's big deal, I mean.

2 Q. I mean, you didn't intentionally kill them, did you?

3 A. (Indiscernible) happened.

4 Q. Well, I'm just saying, it wasn't --

5 A. And it only happened because of a stupid decision on my part,  
6 so -- so I obviously -- I don't know.

7 TROOPER DAWES: What -- I know we talked about car insurance  
8 a little bit ago. Do you know what brand or company you guys use  
9 of car insurance?

10 [REDACTED] Car insurance, I have no idea. Again, I haven't  
11 had to really be part of that conversation, so --

12 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

13 Q. You said typically you just contact mom if you need a  
14 insurance card?

15 A. That's been my plan. I mean, again, I've only really done  
16 that once. And maybe --

17 Q. You said you've been stopped once, at least, right?

18 A. Me. But also in the car while my brother was stopped, yeah,  
19 I believe so. I was texting her then, too.

20 Q. What vehicle were you in with your brother? In the van,  
21 maybe?

22 A. Maybe, yeah. It could've been.

23 Q. What route did you have to take to find it? Was it in the  
24 glove compartment or was it in -- on the phone?

25 A. Oh, well, what -- I remember we were asked (indiscernible)

1 something, probably insurance over the phone. But I -- it was  
2 weird because -- I don't know, that was a weird situation. I  
3 don't remember that much about it. I feel like, like my mom had  
4 two phones and like one of them was actually with us in the car  
5 because she had left it there. We haven't had two cars -- it was  
6 a really weird situation, but it all got worked out.

7 Q. Well, let me ask you this. I know your mother has like --  
8 does she have a work cell phone and then a personal cell phone?

9 A. Pretty much. Yeah, exactly.

10 Q. Does she pretty much carry it with her everywhere kind of  
11 like I do? I always have --

12 A. Usually she will -- yeah. So I think the number I gave you  
13 for her is her personal, but I don't -- again, I could go back and  
14 check, but either one -- she checks both, but one of them she'll  
15 get back to you faster. But you say you already talked to her,  
16 so --

17 Q. Yeah. I don't remember which phone number my supervisor had  
18 called her on.

19 A. Oh. I don't know.

20 Q. Do you know the other -- her work phone, her work cell phone  
21 number as well, just in case I need to call her after this?

22 A. I wouldn't hesitate to do the personal one, though.

23 Q. But I know the one you gave me is [REDACTED]. I think  
24 that's a personal. I would --

25 A. Yeah. Well --

- 1 Q. Or wait. Wait.
- 2 A. -- honestly, the work one sounds like a personal one, too,  
3 because it's really just a mobile phone. It's just she has two  
4 things. I think she even has two different plans for both of  
5 them, like all sorts of different -- I don't know. So this is the  
6 old one.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 A. That she uses for work. It's [REDACTED].
- 9 Q. [REDACTED].
- 10 A. Actually, no, that one is (indiscernible)
- 11 Q. Do you think that's a work or a personal, do you know?
- 12 A. It's really just her second number, the one she gives to  
13 people like when she doesn't -- it's like the low priority one,  
14 maybe.
- 15 Q. Low priority?
- 16 A. I would say. But she still checks it. She gets a lot of  
17 notifications, spam, and --
- 18 Q. Well, I'd think you'd be busy being a doctor.
- 19 A. Okay. Yeah.
- 20 Q. You know, what's her special -- what's her specialization?
- 21 A. She's an oncologist.
- 22 Q. And hematology, right? I thought I seen that.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What is that?
- 25 A. That's blood stuff, basically. And then geriatrics, I

1 believe she's certified in, and --

2 Q. Do you know how long she's been doing that?

3 A. Well, I don't know, I feel like her specialties have always  
4 kind of been in there and like that she's -- I don't know. She  
5 was, I feel like, in like maybe a fellowship or something maybe in  
6 these.

7 BY UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER:

8 Q. Was she a doctor in the military, too, or just --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Yeah, that's where it all started.

11 A. Well, yeah, she joined the military, I feel like, before med  
12 school and then it helps pay for it.

13 Q. Yeah.

14 A. So it's a really smart choice.

15 Q. I see your design on your hand.

16 A. Oh, yeah. It's like --

17 TROOPER DAWES: Yeah. Do you have a tattoo all the way up  
18 your arm?

19 [REDACTED] No, it's not a tattoo.

20 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: That's not, that's not -- that's a  
21 Hindu --

22 TROOPER DAWES: What is it?

23 [REDACTED] Yeah, it's henna. It's like --

24 TROOPER DAWES: Not -- you don't have a tattoo?

25 [REDACTED] No, of course not. Well, not of course not,

1 but --

2 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: It's a -- usually, I mean --

3 TROOPER DAWES: Your mom could probably (indiscernible) one  
4 of those.

5 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: -- in the Hindu religion they put that  
6 on for ceremonies. I didn't know if --

7 [REDACTED] For weddings and stuff, yeah.

8 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yeah. I didn't know if --

9 [REDACTED] I'm surprised you know that.

10 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: I didn't know if you happened to have  
11 that on for something like that or --

12 [REDACTED] It was really just I went to a study abroad fair  
13 maybe a week ago and some girl was doing that, and I was just  
14 sitting at a table while she was doing that while some lady was  
15 telling me how to study in Japan, so what's why.

16 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Gotcha.

17 TROOPER MICHEL: Does that stay on longer than normal?

18 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: It's a henna tattoo. I mean, it's  
19 just like a --

20 [REDACTED] I mean, you can look up how long it lasts. I  
21 don't know.

22 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: A couple weeks.

23 TROOPER MICHEL: Is that like an airbrush thing or is that  
24 actually a (indiscernible).

25 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Yeah, kind of like a -- I mean, I



1 don't know what they, what they use. But I mean it's just like  
2 when you were a kid and you'd get the tattoos in Florida or  
3 wherever, you know, when you go. Same type of deal.

4 TROOPER MICHEL: My kids get those all the time.

5 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Is that what they use? Was it an  
6 airbrush or what did -- is it like a pencil type --

7 TROOPER DAWES: It doesn't look like a stencil. I can't  
8 tell.

9 [REDACTED] No, it wasn't. She drew it step by step.

10 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: No, they freehand --

11 TROOPER DAWES: Oh, freehand?

12 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Um-hum.

13 [REDACTED] It's a like this little -- I want to say -- it  
14 reminded me of like the things you use for icing, like a  
15 (indiscernible) thing.

16 TROOPER DAWES: Okay. That's all I have.

17 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

18 Q. I guess what classes are you in right now? I guess I was  
19 curious like your day today, what kind of classes were you in?

20 A. Well, I'm not doing that much college classes. I'm really  
21 just doing chemistry and Japanese.

22 Q. You have a foreign language?

23 A. Yeah, Japanese.

24 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Like have you learned much? Do you  
25 think --

1 [REDACTED] I wouldn't say I'm fluent, but I'm studying it for  
2 maybe a year now.

3 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Wow. That's cool.

4 [REDACTED] Yeah.

5 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: So you can get by talking to somebody?

6 [REDACTED] Yeah, I'd say so. I'd probably be in good shape  
7 to go there.

8 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: That's pretty impressive.

9 BY TROOPER DAWES:

10 Q. Do you guys do Life360 with --

11 A. Oh, yeah, we do actually. Would that help with the location?

12 Q. Yeah. Would you mind showing like just -- can you pull up  
13 the route you guys --

14 A. Well, I don't know, I only recently turned it on. Actually,  
15 I think, yeah, it was there for that trip. Let me see actually.  
16 This might be useful. So if I click on my (indiscernible).

17 Q. Maybe like on September 29th there?

18 A. I don't know if it's (indiscernible). So going back --

19 BY TROOPER MICHEL:

20 Q. I just want to know if you have an account or not.

21 A. I have to like start free trial to get 30 days of location  
22 history.

23 Q. Yeah. Otherwise it only goes back a few days.

24 A. I mean, it would be worth doing if it would help, but I don't  
25 know how much it would help, because again, you already know

1 everything. I don't know why it matters.

2 Q. Like I said, we're just fact finders and truth seekers.

3 That's what we do.

4 A. Well, you have the facts. I mean, you can get --

5 Q. But there's --

6 A. -- a lot more facts, but --

7 Q. Right.

8 A. -- they're kind of useless ones. You have the ones that  
9 matter.

10 Q. But we like to try to, you know, like no rock unturned,  
11 whether --

12 A. I get that.

13 Q. -- whether you think it's relevant or not.

14 A. Yeah, yeah. I get that. I get that.

15 Q. Believe it or not, you know, the truth sometimes hides in the  
16 small details.

17 A. I have some embarrassing shit on my phone, so like this whole  
18 thing like you guys search it, that's embarrassing as hell. I  
19 want to avoid that. But I understand -- what?

20 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: There's nothing to be --

21 ██████████ No, there's plenty to be embarrassed about on  
22 there. There's so many things. I can name a few things.

23 BY TROOPER DAWES:

24 Q. Do you think you had Life360 on last Friday?

25 A. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Again, it doesn't let me go back that far

1 unless I --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- start a free trial.

4 Q. Gotcha.

5 A. Or whatever it was. My mom would be all in, like, yeah,  
6 let's upgrade our Life360.

7 Q. Do you know what your account name is on there?

8 A. I don't know.

9 Q. Or like a -- whatever --

10 A. Probably my name.

11 Q. -- whatever, you know, address you use for it?

12 A. Oh, I think it's my iPhone email. Let me look and see if I  
13 have any spam from the history. Because they spam me  
14 occasionally.

15 TROOPER MICHEL: What generation of phone is that? Like an  
16 iPhone 14, 12, 13?

17 [REDACTED] I think 13.

18 Let me look at settings. Is that better?

19 BY TROOPER DAWES:

20 Q. Well, actually (indiscernible).

21 A. Oh. Well, again, I'm trying to figure out if it's my -- if  
22 it -- I really can't find any of the emails they send me, so I'm  
23 trying to figure out which email I'm using for it. Life360. It  
24 really doesn't give me much. Maybe --

25 Q. When you pop -- when you open the app, does it like -- is

1 there like a --

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. -- profile --

4 A. Profile.

5 Q. -- or settings thing in top right corner?

6 A. Settings, yeah, it might be in there. Account maybe. Edit

7 email address. Yeah, it's my iCloud here.

8 Q. It's [REDACTED]?

9 A. Dot com.

10 Q. Yeah. So [REDACTED] in -- that's just Life360?

11 A. Yeah. I mean, name on the account, it's really just my name,

12 so --

13 Q. Okay. And so what do you -- does that just mean your mom

14 like, she can see where you're at and stuff?

15 A. It's actually my whole family. We have my grandparents.

16 TROOPER MICHEL: Yeah, they have grandma and grandpa

17 (indiscernible) in that.

18 [REDACTED] Yeah. And it's even got my boyfriend and Joshua,

19 it's got everybody.

20 BY TROOPER DAWES:

21 Q. Is it something that you look back a week or a few days?

22 A. I think days, but not that far back as you want to go.

23 Q. All right. Well, [REDACTED] we're kind of wrapping things up

24 here, but something I always like to do at the end of an

25 interview, sometimes do just a quick recap.

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. So you're -- Friday night you guys are coming into Illinois.  
3 You're on I-70; is that correct?
- 4 A. Yeah, I started there.
- 5 Q. Approximately -- you said you get off maybe at this Montrose  
6 exit or Greenup and --
- 7 A. I don't know. But we got onto 40 because of a crash.
- 8 Q. Got on 40 because of a crash, detour. And then how long  
9 would you say -- well, you're on 40 until you pass this tanker and  
10 had the close call with the --
- 11 A. Don't know again. And I passed several people and I just  
12 know there was a RV first and then a few trucks, and then that's  
13 basically what happened. And then we stopped for gas.
- 14 Q. All right.
- 15 BY TROOPER MICHEL:
- 16 Q. At the Pillips 66 in T-Town?
- 17 A. Yeah. Before --
- 18 Q. Teutopolis?
- 19 A. Yeah. Before we got there, I saw a bunch of emergency  
20 vehicles.
- 21 Q. Right. And what -- and you were running Google Maps while  
22 you were --
- 23 A. Yeah.
- 24 Q. And that's what routed you on 40?
- 25 A. Um-hum.

- 1 Q. Okay.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 BY TROOPER DAWES:
- 4 Q. Okay. And then you guys get to Maquon and you switch  
5 drivers?
- 6 A. Ah, yeah --
- 7 Q. Is that correct?
- 8 A. Phillips?
- 9 Q. Yeah, Phillips 66.
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. Yeah. Yeah. And your brother hops in the driver's seat.
- 12 A. Um-hum.
- 13 Q. You get back in the rear?
- 14 A. Yeah. I think I was in the back, yeah.
- 15 Q. Mom stays in the --
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. -- passenger? Okay. And then brother's driving?
- 18 A. And I was pretty much until about the rest of the drive just  
19 listening to music.
- 20 Q. On your way to Highland?
- 21 A. Yeah.
- 22 Q. Cool. So you're -- [REDACTED]
- 23 A. Yeah. What?
- 24 Q. Are you 100 percent sure you didn't have any knowledge of the  
25 crash?

1 A. Yes, of course. I'm just finding out about it today. I am  
2 100 percent sure about that. I had no idea.

3 Q. You didn't look in the rearview or the sideview mirrors?

4 A. Would I have seen anything? I mean, again, what happens when  
5 ammonia blows up?

6 Q. No. So basically you would've seen a truck veer off the  
7 roadway and then onto the side and --

8 A. I mean, I remember seeing his headlights, but I didn't think,  
9 oh, he's off the road. I really couldn't tell.

10 Q. Did -- nothing look strange about that (indiscernible)

11 A. Nothing looked strange. If something looked strange, like,  
12 oh, my God, someone is off the road, someone crashed or flipped  
13 over, for God's sake, of course I would have stopped.

14 Q. And mom, mom never said anything to you?

15 A. Her, too. She would have made me stop if that happened, if  
16 she had noticed that. We did not know. We did look at the news  
17 and -- but it didn't really jump out to me like, oh, yeah, I was  
18 involved in that. I had no idea.

19 Q. Yeah, I'm aware you talked about this. But when did you guys  
20 start talking about the crash?

21 A. When did we --

22 Q. When did you -- you said, you know --

23 A. When we were driving back.

24 Q. When you were driving back?

25 A. Yeah. But again, we didn't know we were involved. We're



1 just looking at the story trying to figure out why the truck went  
2 off the road, which again, I -- it didn't really make that much  
3 sense to me. But it looks like I literally pushed him off or  
4 something and I didn't stop or -- I don't know.

5 TROOPER MICHEL: Okay. The only other question I really  
6 had --

7 [REDACTED] It seems like this stuff happens too easily. Like  
8 what the fuck is with this ammonia and like he's on this tiny  
9 little road? It should stay on the highway, because you'll notice  
10 something on a highway, there's no houses close to them. Like  
11 it's fucked up that the truck even had to go on that road.

12 TROOPER MICHEL: Right. The only other question I wanted to  
13 ask you was the iPhone, what, you know, what it is, like a 14 --

14 [REDACTED] Oh, yeah. I think I said 13, but let me just  
15 confirm it. I think it's maybe under general?

16 TROOPER MICHEL: Yeah, probably.

17 TROOPER DAWES: What are you looking for?

18 [REDACTED] He wants to know what phone. Yeah, this is an  
19 iPhone 13 ProMax.

20 TROOPER MICHEL: ProMax. I got the 15.

21 BY TROOPER DAWES:

22 Q. And [REDACTED] is this [REDACTED] your iCloud --

23 A. Yeah, that's the one I check the most.

24 Q. Is that the one that you like download apps and stuff with on  
25 your phone?

1 A. That's iffy. But it's -- well, yeah, it's my Apple ID. That  
2 is my Apple ID.

3 Q. That is -- I'm sorry, that is your Apple ID. Okay.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. All right.

6 A. Yeah.

7 TROOPER DAWES: Well -- Jayme, do you have anything else?

8 TROOPER MICHEL: No. At this point I'm probably done unless  
9 you have other questions.

10 TROOPER DAWES: Do you have any questions for right now?

11 [REDACTED] I have a ton of questions obviously, but probably  
12 not ones that it's your responsibility to answer.

13 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Well, we can do our best if you want  
14 to ask.

15 [REDACTED] Well, again, what's even the policy for trucks  
16 carrying shit that that's dangerous?

17 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Well, they have placards on them.  
18 It's a (indiscernible)

19 [REDACTED] Was there something I could have seen that I can  
20 look for in the future?

21 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: There will be a red, usually a red  
22 placard for explosives, and I can't -- I don't remember --

23 TROOPER MICHEL: There's different colors that represent  
24 different chemicals, be it white, blue, orange.

25 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Hazardous materials. It'll be like

1 a --

2 [REDACTED] Triangle type?

3 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: -- diamond shape. Yeah. It'll be  
4 usually on the back and on the side.

5 TROOPER MICHEL: Depending on what they're hauling. Yeah, it  
6 could be any --

7 [REDACTED] Yeah. I guess I wasn't looking for that.

8 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: And, once again, the reason he was off  
9 of the route basically the same reason that --

10 [REDACTED] The same thing, yeah. But it does seem  
11 unfortunate that trucks have to -- well, I don't know. Because  
12 all those people in the houses wouldn't have died if he had been  
13 on a route like a big highway where there's no houses close to it.  
14 That changes nothing. I'm just saying -- it's really sad.

15 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER: Is there anything else you want to  
16 ask?

17 [REDACTED] No, not really.

18 TROOPER MICHEL: Okay. Well, [REDACTED] appreciate your time  
19 today, appreciate you being truthful. Unless Kevin --

20 Do you guys have anything else? I'm going to go ahead and  
21 end the interview.

22 TROOPER DAWES: 3:59 p.m.

23 TROOPER MICHEL: 3:59, October 4th.

24 (Whereupon, at 3:59 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

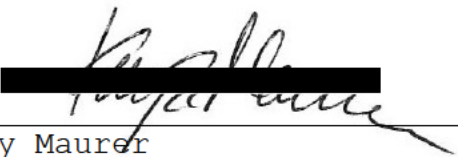
IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL TRUCK SEMI-CRASH  
NEAR TEUTOPOLIS, Illinois  
ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2023  
Interview of [REDACTED]

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY23MH017

PLACE: Dayton, Ohio

DATE: October 4, 2023

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