



**Highway Factors Attachment – Fort Worth Police Department Witness Interview
Transcripts**

Fort Worth, TX

HWY21FH005

(59 pages)

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH *

IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, *

Accident No.: HWY21FH005

ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021 *

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Interview of: RICHARD CAMACHO, Sergeant
Fort Worth Police Department

Fort Worth Fire Department
Fort Worth, Texas

Wednesday,
March 31, 2021

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN WALSH, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT ACCETTA, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

ERIC GREGSON, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Richard Camacho:

By Mr. Bragg

4

By Mr. Walsh

9

I N T E R V I E W

(9:49 a.m.)

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3 MR. BRAGG: Today is Wednesday, March 31st, 2021. It's 9:49.
4 We are at the Fort Worth Fire Department administration building
5 in Fort Worth, Texas. This interview is regarding the multiple
6 vehicle crash on February 11, 2021, in Fort Worth, Texas. My name
7 is Kenny Bragg. I'm a senior investigator with the Office of
8 Highway Safety for the NTSB. And seated to my left --

9 MR. WALSH: Dan Walsh, senior highway accident investigator.

10 MR. ACCETTA: Robert Accetta, investigator in charge.

11 MR. GREGSON: Eric Gregson, highway accident investigator.

INTERVIEW OF RICHARD CAMACHO

12
13 BY MR. BRAGG:

14 Q. Sir, can I get you to state and spell your first and last
15 name please?

16 A. First name is Richard, R-i-c-h-a-r-d. It's Camacho, C-a-m-a-
17 c-h-o, and I'm a sergeant with the Fort Worth Police Department.

18 Q. How long you been employed with the Fort Worth Police
19 Department?

20 A. Nineteen years.

21 Q. Were you working or on duty on February 11th, 2021?

22 A. Yes, I was.

23 Q. Did you have an occasion that you responded to a pretty large
24 crash on the toll lanes of I-35?

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 Q. Go ahead and explain to us how you became involved in that.

2 A. Okay. So I was the Charlie District Sergeant, which is the
3 sergeant for the area that covers -- the crash occurred in, and I
4 had a couple of my officers dispatch originally to a major
5 accident call, which eventually turned into the call we arrived on
6 scene to. So, initially, it went out as a multi-car, I want to
7 say 47 (ph.) vehicles, so that got my attention. And, as the
8 first officers arrived on scene and started requesting assets, I
9 started making my way from the office to the scene.

10 Q. Okay. How far is the office -- how far is it from the office
11 to the scene?

12 A. It was approximately, I would say -- I don't know, 4½ miles,
13 maybe 4 -- 3½, 4 miles.

14 Q. And you responded lights and siren?

15 A. I did.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. I did. I responded until we made it to 28th Street and to
18 enter onto the southbound 28th Street exit to 35 --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. -- and that's where traffic stopped, basically was just
21 backed up in both directions.

22 Q. And what was the road like -- what were the road conditions
23 like responding to the interstate?

24 A. Responding to the interstate, it was starting to -- we had
25 some slick spots, but traffic was still moving. But as -- I

1 believe, as the morning progressed that morning, the temperature
2 started dropping, so once I actually made it to the actual scene,
3 that's where I observed the slick conditions.

4 Q. And what time does your shift start?

5 A. Our shift starts at -- my shift starts at 5, and then roll
6 call's at 5:30, so 5:30 is when --

7 Q. And how far do you have to drive to get to work?

8 A. I don't actually -- I actually live -- I believe my route of
9 travel is about 6 miles, 6½ --

10 Q. Six miles?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. And how was the commute on the way to work?

13 A. The commute, it's pretty early when I leave the house, about
14 4:30. I believe it -- that morning, my truck didn't have 4-by-4,
15 so I went ahead and took my wife's SUV, because it did, so --
16 because I was anticipating some type of ice. And it was, it was
17 slick in spots coming out, because it's kind of rural, rural (ph.)
18 where I come out from my neighborhood. It's got a lot of hills,
19 so --

20 Q. Do you have to drive the interstate to get to work?

21 A. No, no. I drive just --

22 Q. All right. So, once you made it to the interstate, were you
23 on the actual main road or the toll road?

24 A. I actually could only access the main portion of the highway.
25 I wasn't able to actually access the toll roads with my vehicle.

1 We -- I ended up having to park on the exit and walk to the actual
2 crash site.

3 Q. So how far did you drive on the main road before -- from you
4 getting on till you reached the location of the crash?

5 A. It was about a mile.

6 Q. About a mile?

7 A. So, where I entered on at 28th Street, I entered on at 28th
8 Street and 35 southbound. I actually had to backtrack because it
9 was just -- there was no, no -- people just -- there was nowhere
10 to go, so I actually had to backtrack, drive off the side of the
11 highway there up the service road. And there's actually Cold
12 Springs Road, which runs north and south adjacent to the highway,
13 the main highway, and then I was able to drive up Cold Springs to
14 Northside Drive, and I entered up the highway on the wrong side of
15 the road going -- that's the south, southbound exit to Northside
16 Drive.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. And that's where I ended up parking my vehicle, right there,
19 and walking to the scene.

20 Q. Now, when you got there, were -- had all the crashes
21 already --

22 A. Occurred? Yes.

23 Q. Yes. So there's no more crash --

24 A. There was no more crashes, yes.

25 Q. Okay. I assume, at some point, you got out of the car.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And what did you observe about the roadway when you got out?

3 A. The road was slick. Actually walking on -- it was slick to
4 the point like, basically, it's like being on an ice rink. And I
5 was walking up the service road, and it's kind of inclined there,
6 if you know how that incline is, and it was pretty slick.

7 And actually, my -- and I think I mentioned this, but upon
8 arrival, one of the officers who's not here, who probably would've
9 been here speaking with you guys, is Officer Kent Mouton (ph.),
10 and so my initial mission, Kent had -- he was one of the first
11 officers to dispatch out there. And it might've been on a
12 separate call. There was several calls that went out that the
13 officers responded to, to -- but it ended up being the same
14 accident.

15 He had actually slipped, slipped crossing over from the
16 southbound side over the wall into the expressway. I believe
17 that's where he slipped. And he fell, and he ended up injuring
18 his shoulder. So that was initially my mission was try to get him
19 out and get him some help.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. So I had to basically walk probably half a mile just to get
22 to him. So it was pretty slick. It was pretty slick. I mean,
23 the roads were slicked over by that point.

24 MR. BRAGG: Dan?

25 MR. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Bragg.

1 BY MR. WALSH:

2 Q. So you had indicated that you were walking on the general use
3 lanes up, and they were slick conditions.

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. Did you slip and fall?

6 A. I didn't fall, no. I didn't. But there were a couple times
7 where I kind of lost my footing just -- it was so -- it was that
8 slick.

9 Q. Yeah. Did you see any other individuals slip and slide or
10 fall when you were --

11 A. I didn't see anybody fall, but as people involved in the
12 accident, some injured, were exiting or coming out of the
13 expressway, they were having to use the wall to keep themselves
14 upright. I mean, they were literally walking across the wall --
15 using the wall to hold themselves up.

16 Q. Okay. Did you observe any pretreatment or salt on the
17 general use lanes when you were -- you arrived?

18 A. I did not, I did not. I don't remember seeing any, the
19 grainy texture --

20 Q. Right.

21 A. -- on the road.

22 MR. WALSH: Okay. I have no further questions.

23 MR. BRAGG: Okay.

24 MR. ACCETTA: I just have one question. Is there anything of
25 significance that maybe we haven't asked you about that you recall

1 on that day that we should know about?

2 MR. CAMACHO: No, not specifically. Nothing, nothing that
3 really pops out.

4 MR. ACCETTA: So we've covered pretty much --

5 MR. CAMACHO: Pretty -- yes, sir. Yes, sir.

6 MR. ACCETTA: Okay. All right.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I do have one question. The location
8 where the crash occurred on the expressway, was that significantly
9 worse than other locations, like when you drove up to it? In
10 other words --

11 MR. CAMACHO: Honestly, I wouldn't be able to tell you just
12 -- I mean, just between that 28th Street and Northside Drive was
13 the only locations I was -- that I accessed in that area, so --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, when you first -- but was it --
15 when you first accessed --

16 MR. CAMACHO: 28th Street?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You -- no, when you first accessed the
18 -- that's right, because you didn't drive up there. You came
19 up --

20 MR. CAMACHO: Yeah, yeah. I came --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

22 MR. CAMACHO: I had to come up and walk, walk up to the site,
23 so --

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, okay. I got you.

25 MR. CAMACHO: Yeah.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Well, I have no further
2 questions.

3 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Well, we'll conclude the interview. The
4 time is 9:58 a.m. Thank you for your participation.

5 (Whereupon, at 9:58 a.m., the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE

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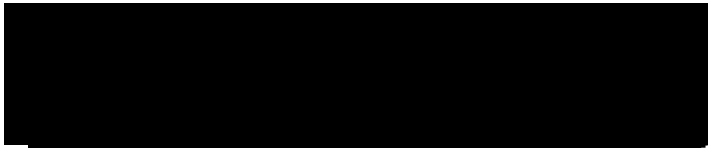
IN THE MATTER OF: MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH
 IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS,
 ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021
 Interview of Richard Camacho

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH005

PLACE: Fort Worth, Texas

DATE: March 31, 2021

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.



Autumn Weslow
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH *

IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, *

Accident No.: HWY21FH005

ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021 *

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Interview of: TYLER GLAPA, Sergeant
Fort Worth Police Department

Fort Worth Fire Department
Fort Worth, Texas

Wednesday,
March 31, 2021

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN WALSH, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT ACCETTA, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

ERIC GREGSON, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

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Interview of Tyler Glapa:

By Mr. Bragg

4

By Mr. Walsh:

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I N T E R V I E W

(9:40 a.m.)

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3 MR. BRAGG: Today is Wednesday, March 31st, 2021, 9:40 a.m.,
4 and we are at the Fort Worth Fire Department administration
5 services building in Fort Worth, Texas. My name is Kenny Bragg,
6 investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, the
7 Office of Highway Safety. This interview is in regards to a
8 multiple vehicle crash which occurred on February 11, 2021, in
9 Fort Worth, Texas. Seated to my left, we have --

10 MR. WALSH: Dan Walsh, senior highway accident investigator.

11 MR. ACCETTA: Robert Accetta, investigator in charge, the
12 Office of Highway Safety.

13 MR. GREGSON: Eric Gregson, highway accident investigator.

INTERVIEW OF TYLER GLAPA

14
15 BY MR. BRAGG:

16 Q. And, sir, could I ask you to state and spell your first and
17 last name please?

18 A. Sure, it's Sergeant Tyler Glapa. That's T-y-l-e-r, G-l-a-p-a
19 ID 3946, Sergeant with the Fort Worth PD, Patrol Northwest
20 Division.

21 Q. And how long have you been with the Police Department?

22 A. I've been hired with the department since March of 2010, so
23 11 years now.

24 Q. Okay. Were you working on the morning of February 11th,
25 2021?

1 A. Yeah, I was.

2 Q. What time did you report to work?

3 A. Shift started for me at 0500 on that day.

4 Q. And did you have occasion to respond to a multi-vehicle crash
5 on the toll lanes of I-35?

6 A. I did, yes.

7 Q. Where were you at when you got dispatched?

8 A. So I believe I was somewhere around 28th Street, Northwest
9 28th Street approaching Dean, because we had -- I was in my
10 office, myself and Sergeant Camacho. We work together, and we
11 were both in the office when we heard the call come out, and then
12 we just decided to kind of make our way that direction before
13 actually jumping onto the call, which was probably, like I said,
14 around 28th and Dean, so pretty close when we actually took the
15 call.

16 Q. Okay. And so where did you access the interstate at?

17 A. I got there from, I believe it was 28th and 35. Of course,
18 traffic was backed up quite a bit, so I kind of had to take a
19 modified exit to get onto 35 South.

20 Q. And I assume you responded with lights and sirens?

21 A. Correct, yes.

22 Q. About how fast were you able to travel?

23 A. Gosh, I probably didn't go any higher than 30 just to get
24 through the traffic to get there. And like I said, I didn't even
25 turn on my lights and sirens until I got out to 28th and Dean,

1 just because I -- that's where the traffic started to back up.

2 Q. And let's back up a little bit. So you said you reported to
3 work about 5 o'clock in the morning?

4 A. Um-hum.

5 Q. Where did you -- where were you driving from to get to work?
6 What area do you live?

7 A. I live on the north side of Fort Worth, so north of 820.

8 Q. And how was traffic condition on your way into work?

9 A. Pretty kind of okay. I mean, it wasn't too bad. I think I
10 took 35 to -- yeah, 35 South to 820 West, if I remember right how
11 I got to work, and it was about as standard as it usually was.
12 Nothing too crazy. I was able to get to work on time, so --

13 Q. Did you drive through the area where the crash occurred?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. And so once you arrived at the scene of the crash,
16 what did you do?

17 A. Basically was just to establish a baseline of where -- you
18 know, what the situation is that the officers that responded there
19 first knew at the time, and then from there, it was just basically
20 to fulfill sort of the field supervisory role and also to assist
21 with Sergeant Camacho on -- because it was quite a large scene. I
22 think he went to the Northside Drive exit, which was sort of the
23 south end of it, and I stayed at the 28th side, so I kind of had
24 the north side of it, just to sort of get as much coverage as we
25 could, just sort of a supervisory role.

1 Q. And, when you got out of your car, what did you observe about
2 the roadway?

3 A. It was very slick.

4 Q. Had there been any road treatment done at that time?

5 A. Any what? I'm sorry.

6 Q. Any road treatment done.

7 A. Oh, I don't know if there was or not. I could -- I mean,
8 like I said, I just remember getting out of the car and it being
9 extremely slick out just from the ice that was on there. But
10 could I tell if it had been treated prior to that? I couldn't
11 tell. It just -- my mind was on the -- on dealing with the
12 accident and just not falling over.

13 MR. BRAGG: Dan, I don't have anything else. Go ahead.

14 MR. WALSH: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Bragg.

15 BY MR. WALSH:

16 Q. So, when you rolled up to the crash scene, were you in the
17 toll lanes or --

18 A. I was on the main lanes.

19 Q. Southbound or northbound?

20 A. Southbound.

21 Q. Southbound. Did you see any NTE sand trucks when you were on
22 35 rolling up to the crash scene?

23 A. Rolling up to it, no. No.

24 Q. Did you see any NTE sand trucks after?

25 A. I believe that the sand truck I saw was NTE, but yeah, I

1 remember -- I don't know how long it was when I was there, but I
2 remember like while I was still out on that scene, I can remember
3 going on the southbound lanes was a sand truck.

4 Q. Okay. Did you experience any slippery conditions with your
5 vehicle in the southbound general lanes?

6 A. With my vehicle, like I said, the way I was able to get onto
7 35 South main, I tried to get it with the exit from Northwest 28th
8 Street, but it was so backed up, the best way I could get there
9 was to take sort of the grassy area, so when I finally got on the
10 road, I don't recall it being -- I mean, I didn't drive very much
11 on the road, but I don't recall it being uncontrollable. It
12 wasn't until I stepped out of the car that I realized just walking
13 on it was very slippery.

14 Q. Yeah. Did you slip, slide, did you fall?

15 A. I slipped, I didn't fall though. It was just a lot of
16 walking real slow and kind of shuffling feet to get by, was that
17 much ice that just being able to -- I mean, I knew if I tried to
18 move any quicker, I was going to fall.

19 Q. Did you see any others slip and slide when you were --

20 A. I didn't --

21 Q. -- on the roadway?

22 A. I don't recall seeing anybody particular -- like actually
23 seeing them fall. I've heard of one officer in particular, one of
24 our officers that was out there, he came up to me not long after I
25 was there and told me that he had -- he informed me that he had

1 slipped and fell and kind of banged up his shoulder, and then he
2 ended up leaving the scene later to go get it checked out, because
3 it was bothering him.

4 Q. And what was his name?

5 A. Officer Kent Mouton (ph.).

6 Q. Okay. Did you observe any pretreatment, salt on the roadway
7 as you rolled up to the scene or when you departed your vehicle?

8 A. I don't recall seeing any. Now, whether or not it was there,
9 I don't know. But no, I mean, I can't say definitively that I
10 stepped out of the car and saw that there was any sort of
11 treatment on the ice.

12 MR. WALSH: Okay. I have no further questions.

13 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Any questions?

14 MR. ACCETTA: Huh-uh.

15 MR. BRAGG: All right. I have no further questions. The
16 time is 9:47. We will conclude the interview. Thank you for your
17 participation.

18 (Whereupon, at 9:47 a.m., the interview was concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE

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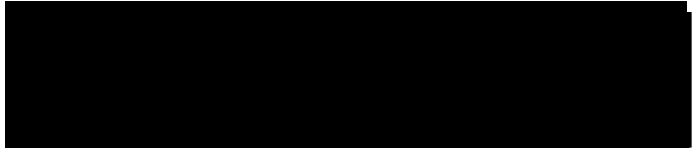
IN THE MATTER OF: MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH
 IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS,
 ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021
 Interview of Tyler Glapa

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH005

PLACE: Fort Worth, Texas

DATE: March 31, 2021

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to the best of my skill and ability.



Autumn Weslow
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH *

IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, *

Accident No.: HWY21FH005

ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021 *

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Interview of: SHAWN GREENE, Officer
Fort Worth Police Department

Fort Worth Fire Department
Fort Worth, Texas

Wednesday,
March 31, 2021

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN WALSH, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT ACCETTA, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

ERIC GREGSON, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of Shawn Greene:

By Mr. Bragg

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By Mr. Walsh

9

I N T E R V I E W

(9:20 a.m.)

1
2
3 MR. BRAGG: Today is Wednesday, March 31st, 2021. It's
4 9:20 a.m., and we are at the Fort Worth Fire Department
5 administration services building in Fort Worth, Texas. My name is
6 Kenny Bragg. I'm a senior investigator with the NTSB's Office of
7 Highway Safety.

8 MR. WALSH: Dan Walsh, senior highway accident investigator.

9 MR. ACCETTA: Robert Accetta, investigator in charge.

10 MR. GREGSON: Eric Gregson, highway accident investigator.

INTERVIEW OF SHAWN GREENE

11
12 BY MR. BRAGG:

13 Q. Sir, will you please state and spell your first and last
14 name?

15 A. Officer Shawn Greene, S-h-a-w-n, G-r-e-e-n-e.

16 Q. And what's your current employment and position?

17 A. Work with the City of Fort Worth Police Department, Northwest
18 Patrol Division.

19 Q. And how long have you been with the city?

20 A. Close to 17 years.

21 Q. Were you working on the morning of February 11, 2021?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And did you have an occasion in which you responded to a
24 crash on Interstate 35 toll lanes?

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. Go ahead and explain to us how you became involved in that
2 crash.

3 A. I was one of three officers that were initially dispatched to
4 the call, and I believe I was -- we all pretty much made the scene
5 about the same time.

6 Q. Okay. Where were you at when you were dispatched?

7 A. We were at our sector.

8 Q. Was -- does that mean your station or --

9 A. Yeah, our station, 4651 North Main, which is where we work
10 out of.

11 Q. And how far is that from the crash, approximately?

12 A. It's several miles. It's on another highway. Going full
13 speed on the highway, it'd probably take 10 minutes.

14 Q. Okay. And, when you responded, you responded lights and
15 siren?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So what were you -- what were the road conditions like on
18 your way to the crash?

19 A. They were pretty patchy. It was cold. I don't think at that
20 point it had really rained or sleeted or snowed very much, so --
21 but we knew there was going to be patches along the way, so we
22 weren't blowing and going with lights and sirens too hard. So it
23 wasn't really until we got on 35 and hit traffic, and towards the
24 end of that traffic, it started to get a little more patchy, a
25 little bit more ice on the road.

- 1 Q. So, prior to -- coming to work, you drove to work?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. In your personal vehicle?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Did you travel on I-35 to get to work?
- 6 A. I did.
- 7 Q. Did you drive through the same area that --
- 8 A. No, I came from the north.
- 9 Q. Came from the north. And what were the road conditions like
- 10 on your way to work?
- 11 A. They seemed okay. I drove slow that morning just because I
- 12 was a little iffy about if it was going to be icy, so I didn't --
- 13 but I didn't really notice any ice.
- 14 Q. Was it actively raining or sleeting or anything that --
- 15 A. Not that I remember at that time, no.
- 16 Q. And which way did you access I-35?
- 17 A. Going to the accident?
- 18 Q. Yes.
- 19 A. We got on 820, going east on 820, and exited 35 going south.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. We were get -- initially getting reports of an accident on
- 22 the tollway, and then we were getting reports of accidents on the
- 23 regular lanes, so we just kind of made a best guess and stayed on
- 24 the regular lanes.
- 25 Q. When you got on I-35, what was -- what were the traffic

1 conditions like?

2 A. At that time, and morning traffic is just starting to build
3 up, so we hit a little bit of traffic. There was -- the closer we
4 got, the heavier the traffic got, and then we got to a point where
5 traffic was basically almost still. It was probably close to
6 around 28th Street when that happened.

7 Q. Okay. And, once you reached the traffic congestion area, how
8 fast were you traveling?

9 A. Maybe 40. I don't even -- maybe that. I don't -- we weren't
10 going fast at all.

11 Q. Okay. So, up until that point, what was the roadway like?
12 Was it slippery?

13 A. I don't remember it being slippery. I don't remember.

14 Q. So at what point do you remember it being -- becoming
15 slippery?

16 A. We -- so when we hit that traffic congestion, we kind of get
17 in between the lanes and was forcing people to the side. Once we
18 go towards the end of it, when -- where the accidents on the
19 regular lanes were, that's when we noticed, or at least I noticed,
20 my car was sliding a little bit more in that area. But up until
21 then, I don't remember -- nothing really stood out to me as being
22 real -- like the car sliding at all.

23 Q. Okay. So, at some point, you got out of the car?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And what were your observations of the roadway when you got

1 out?

2 A. At that time, there was -- we had -- I had noticed the
3 tollway, a large accident. I just saw the very beginning of it.
4 I couldn't -- where we were or where I was, I was on the shoulder
5 of regular lanes, so I couldn't see far down. It was dark and I
6 wasn't -- I had an accident to my right in the regular lanes, so I
7 got out and was dealing with that, and everybody was kind of
8 standing still. Every time somebody tried to move, they'd slide,
9 so they stopped. So I dealt with them, figured out if anybody was
10 -- had an accident. One person had an accident, but they had
11 already exchanged info, so I said they were good to go.

12 And then at some point, after a few minutes, another officer
13 came up to me, and he said, did you see how big this is? And I
14 said, no. And he said, this goes way, way, way down. And then
15 that's when I kind of walked out and could see how far down it
16 went.

17 Q. Okay. Did you ever have an occasion to speak to any of the
18 highway workers?

19 A. The highway workers?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. I -- no.

22 Q. Did you see any highway work trucks, like any sand treatment,
23 road treatment trucks or anything?

24 A. Not until way later, I don't remember seeing any.

25 Q. What do you mean by way later?

1 A. There was some sand trucks that came out -- I was out there
2 till, I don't know, 10, 10:30. I think there was some that showed
3 up maybe around then. I don't remember.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. It was way later.

6 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Dan (indiscernible).

7 MR. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Bragg.

8 BY MR. WALSH:

9 Q. So, when you rolled up on the crash scene, just to be clear,
10 were you in the toll lanes or the general use lanes?

11 A. General, regular lanes.

12 Q. General, regular lanes?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. In the northbound or southbound direction?

15 A. Southbound.

16 Q. Southbound, okay. When you got out of your vehicle in the
17 general southbound lane, did you slip or slide?

18 A. There was -- it was somewhat slippery. I didn't slide or
19 anything because it's -- I just did small steps, but it was
20 slippery.

21 Q. It was slippery?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Did you see anyone else fall or slip and slide?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You did not?

1 A. No, I didn't see anybody outside their car at that time. It
2 was -- I was staying more on the shoulder because there was -- I
3 didn't know if traffic was going to stay stopped in the regular
4 lanes, so I stayed away from the regular lanes. I didn't want
5 anybody coming up, so I stayed on the shoulder. The shoulder was
6 pretty slippery. And at some point, FD started throwing kitty
7 litter, bags of kitty litter, so I grabbed those and was ripping
8 those and just was putting them all up, and we stayed on that
9 pretty much the whole time. But it was slippery up until then.

10 Q. Okay. Did you see any pretreatment or brine solution rolling
11 up to the crash scene?

12 A. I don't remember seeing anything like that, no.

13 MR. WALSH: Okay. I have no further questions.

14 MR. ACCETTA: Just -- this is Robert. Just for
15 clarification, when you said you were on the shoulder, were you on
16 the median or outside?

17 MR. GREENE: The inside shoulder, left shoulder.

18 MR. ACCETTA: Left shoulder?

19 MR. GREENE: Yeah.

20 MR. ACCETTA: Okay. I don't have anything else.

21 MR. BRAGG: One other question. When you first reported to
22 your shift that morning, had you received any travel advisory from
23 communications, just about roadway conditions in general, or --

24 MR. GREENE: From our communications?

25 MR. BRAGG: Yeah.

1 MR. GREENE: I don't remember. I don't remember that.

2 MR. BRAGG: Okay. That's all I have.

3 MR. ACCETTA: Is that something that would be routine or --

4 MR. GREENE: I mean, if the dispatcher feels the need to say
5 it, probably. I mean, it -- you know, it's -- I don't -- not
6 really, you know. They don't really tell us. Usually in roll
7 call, they'll say, it's icy out there, take it slow. You know,
8 it's just -- but pretty much with us, common knowledge, it's cold,
9 possibly icy, take it easy.

10 MR. ACCETTA: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. BRAGG: Okay. The time is 9:29 a.m. We will conclude
12 the interview. Thank you for your participation.

13 (Whereupon, at 9:29 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

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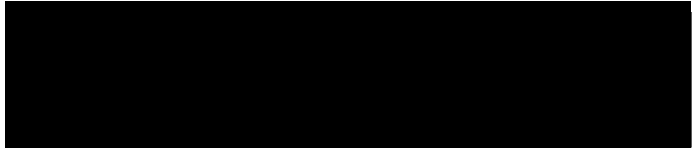
IN THE MATTER OF: MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH
 IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS,
 ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021
 Interview of Shawn Greene

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH005

PLACE: Fort Worth, Texas

DATE: March 31, 2021

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.



Autumn Weslow
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH *

IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, *

Accident No.: HWY21FH005

ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021 *

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Interview of: MARCUS MENDOZA, Officer
Fort Worth Police Department

Fort Worth Fire Department
Fort Worth, Texas

Wednesday,
March 31, 2021

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN WALSH, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT ACCETTA, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

ERIC GREGSON, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

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Interview of Marcus Mendoza:

By Mr. Bragg

4

By Mr. Walsh

7

I N T E R V I E W

(9:31 a.m.)

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2
3 MR. BRAGG: Today is Wednesday, March 31st, 2021. It's about
4 9:31 a.m., and we're at the Fort Worth Fire Department
5 administration building in Fort Worth, Texas. This interview is
6 in regards to a multiple vehicle crash which occurred on February
7 11, 2021, in Fort Worth, Texas. My name is Kenny Bragg. I'm a
8 senior investigator with the Office of Highway Safety for the
9 NTSB. Seated to my left --

10 MR. WALSH: Dan Walsh, senior highway accident investigator.

11 MR. ACCETTA: Robert Accetta, investigator in charge.

12 MR. GREGSON: Eric Gregson, highway accident investigator.

INTERVIEW OF MARCUS MENDOZA

13
14 BY MR. BRAGG:

15 Q. Sir, can I ask you to state and spell your first and last
16 name please?

17 A. Marcus Mendoza, M-a-r-c-u-s, M-e-n-d-o-z-a.

18 Q. And, sir, what's your current employment and your position?

19 A. Police officer for the City of Fort Worth.

20 Q. How long have you worked for the City of Fort Worth?

21 A. Close to 17 years.

22 Q. Okay. Were you working on the morning of February 11th,
23 2021?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And did you have an occasion in which you responded to a

1 multiple vehicle crash in the toll lanes of I-35?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Go ahead and explain to us how you became involved in that.

4 A. Loaded up for work, and we got dispatched to a priority one
5 accident on the freeway and then -- on the toll lanes, and I
6 arrived and observed multiple vehicles.

7 Q. So where were you at when you were dispatched to the crash?

8 A. I believe outside our police station.

9 Q. Okay. And how far is that from the actual crash,
10 approximately?

11 A. Oh, I'd say -- I took the highway through. It was probably,
12 you know, 5 minutes or so maybe.

13 Q. Okay. And you said you responded priority one; does that
14 mean lights and siren?

15 A. I believe so. I can't remember if I actually had my lights
16 and sirens on.

17 Q. What were the road conditions like driving into work?

18 A. I live in Mid-Cities, middle of Fort Worth and Dallas, and
19 the roads to work were fairly dry. I mean, I was doing -- I was
20 driving slower than average, but the roads were dry from my house
21 to work.

22 Q. And how about when you were driving from the police station
23 to the crash scene? What were the roads like?

24 A. I would say I was driving cautiously, and there was probably
25 some slick spots, but I wouldn't say it was un-drivable. There

1 was multiple cars on Loop 820, which I was -- the route that I
2 took to 35.

3 Q. And how fast were you able to drive?

4 A. That I don't remember. It was -- I would say it was under
5 the speed limit, but I can't remember.

6 Q. So you would it's in the 30 mile-per-hour range or a little
7 bit faster, a little bit slower?

8 A. Maybe a little bit faster than that, 40 -- 35, 40.

9 Q. And where did you access the interstate at?

10 A. I took from North Main Street, I asked Loop 820, went east to
11 southbound 35.

12 Q. And were you on the main lanes or the toll?

13 A. The main lanes.

14 Q. And how fast were you able to travel when you first got on to
15 I-35?

16 A. I was going slower than average just because of being
17 dispatched to the accident, I didn't want to pull up to the
18 accident (indiscernible), so I was --

19 Q. Yeah.

20 A. -- driving slow.

21 Q. And what were the conditions like?

22 A. When I arrived?

23 Q. When you first got --

24 A. When I first got on, they -- on the main lanes, there was
25 cars scattered throughout the lanes. Of course, the tollway,

1 there was the pileup. And the road, when I stepped out of my
2 vehicle, it was completely slick, like it was ice. I mean, cars
3 were barely able to move, and I had to balance myself.

4 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Dan, go ahead.

5 MR. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Bragg.

6 BY MR. WALSH:

7 Q. When you were on I-35, did you see any NTE trucks sanding the
8 toll lanes or the general use lanes?

9 A. The NTE sand trucks were called I'd say maybe, I don't know,
10 an hour or so after the fact, and that was due to we were trying
11 to get the cars -- the main lanes cleared, and then also walking
12 conditions for all the responding fire truck, every -- firemen and
13 other officers that were showing up out there.

14 Q. So you did not see any NTE sand trucks prior to the crash?

15 A. Not that I recall.

16 Q. Just to confirm, when you rolled up to the crash scene, you
17 were in the southbound general use lanes --

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. -- correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Okay. Did you see any pretreatment of the southbound general
22 use lanes when you were driving up to the crash scene?

23 A. I did not.

24 Q. Okay. No pretreatment, no salt, no --

25 A. No, no, no.

1 Q. -- anything?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Okay. You indicated earlier that when you got out of your
4 vehicle, you slipped and slide.

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Did you see any other individuals slipping and sliding?

7 A. Yes, there was multiple firemen out there sliding around, and
8 then actually, one of the firemen started pulling sand bags, and
9 he gave me a sandbag, and he told me, you need to make a walkway
10 so we don't slip attending to the victims.

11 Q. Okay. Approximately how many people did you see slip and
12 slide?

13 A. Oh, I have no idea. There was so many fire trucks out there.
14 I don't know, 25, 30 people within the area. I can't remember the
15 exact -- it was a lot of people out there.

16 MR. WALSH: Okay. I have no further questions.

17 MR. BRAGG: Okay. The time is 9:37 a.m. We'll conclude the
18 interview. Thank you for your participation.

19 (Whereupon, at 9:37 a.m., the interview was concluded.)
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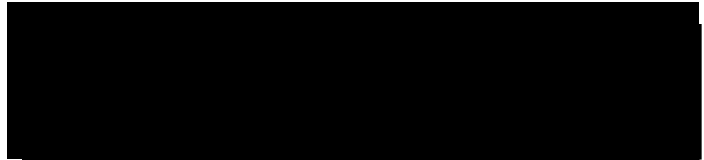
IN THE MATTER OF: MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH
 IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS,
 ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021
 Interview of Marcus Mendoza

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH005

PLACE: Fort Worth, Texas

DATE: March 31, 2021

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complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Autumn Weslow
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

* * * * *

Investigation of: *

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MULTI-VEHICLE CRASH *

IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, *

Accident No.: HWY21FH005

ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021 *

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Interview of: TAMARA VALLE, Officer

Fort Worth Police Department

Fort Worth Fire Department

Fort Worth, Texas

Wednesday,

March 31, 2021

APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

DAN WALSH, Senior Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

ROBERT ACCETTA, Investigator in Charge
National Transportation Safety Board

ERIC GREGSON, Highway Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

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Interview of Tamara Valle:

By Mr. Bragg

4

By Mr. Walsh

11

I N T E R V I E W

1
2 MR. BRAGG: Okay, today is Wednesday, March 30th, 2021 -- I'm
3 sorry, March 31st, 2021, and we're at the Fort Worth Fire
4 Department administration building in Fort Worth, Texas. This
5 interview is in connection with a multiple vehicle crash on
6 February 11, 2021, in Fort Worth, Texas. My name is Kenny Bragg.
7 I'm a senior investigator with the Office of Highway Safety for
8 the NTSB. To my left, we have --

9 MR. WALSH: Dan Walsh, senior highway accident investigator.

10 MR. ACCETTA: Robert Accetta, investigator in charge.

11 MR. GREGSON: Eric Gregson, highway accident investigator.

INTERVIEW OF TAMARA VALLE

12
13 BY MR. BRAGG:

14 Q. And, ma'am, will you please state and spell your first and
15 last name?

16 A. Sure, it's Tamara Valle, T-a-m-a-r-a, last name is V-a-l-l-e.

17 Q. And where are you currently employed and what's your
18 position?

19 A. I'm a police officer with the City of Fort Worth. I'm
20 working Northwest Patrol as patrol officer on first shift.

21 Q. And how long have you been employed at that agency?

22 A. Almost 19 years.

23 Q. Nineteen years. And were you working on February 11th, 2021?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And did you have cause to respond to a multiple vehicle crash

1 in Fort Worth, Texas --

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. -- that day? Go ahead and explain to us how you became
4 involved in (indiscernible).

5 A. I guess I logged on probably about 6 o'clock in the morning,
6 maybe a little bit before that. I want to say almost immediately,
7 we were dispatched to an accident, and all accidents on the
8 freeway are priority one, so it came out as priority one accident.
9 Myself and Officer Greene were dispatched first, so immediately we
10 headed that direction, to the freeway.

11 Q. Okay. And where were you when you got dispatched?

12 A. I was at the police sector.

13 Q. At the police sector?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you drove into work that morning?

16 A. In my own personal car?

17 Q. Yeah, your personal car.

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. And do you -- how far are you from the Fort Worth area.

20 A. Actually not very far. Maybe 2 miles. It takes me about 5
21 minutes to get there.

22 Q. And so what were your observations of the roadways on the way
23 into work?

24 A. At that time, I did notice a little bit of a sheen on the
25 roads. It wasn't completely covered, but you could tell there

1 were spots, maybe where the traffic was going through, that it was
2 -- it had already been evaporated, but you could see it was a
3 little bit slick.

4 Q. And was there any precipitation going on?

5 A. Not at that time.

6 Q. Not at that time. And on the way to work, you said you
7 responded priority one, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Is that lights and siren?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And what was your approximate speed?

12 A. I did not -- okay. I did not respond lights and sirens all
13 the way until I got onto the tollway. When I got onto the
14 tollway, traffic was completely stopped, so I had to use the
15 lights and sirens to get through traffic at that point.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. And I believe that's what happened that morning. I don't
18 remember running lights and sirens from the sector to the freeway
19 until I got on the tollway.

20 Q. Okay. And where did you get on the tollway at?

21 A. The only way from that point to get on is at -- you have to
22 take the loop eastbound and take it back 35 southbound, and then
23 once you get southbound on 35, there's the entrance.

24 Q. And so did you -- when you got on 35, did you immediately
25 notice a difference in the roadway condition?

1 A. No, not immediately.

2 Q. So at what point did you notice a difference?

3 A. I noticed -- of course, I was going slowly, but once I got on
4 the tollway and I was going through traffic, I didn't notice
5 anything particularly different until maybe -- and I'm not good
6 judging feet, but almost a point where I guess I -- I don't want
7 to say hit on scene, but where we got to the first portion of the
8 accident. And you know what, I was in the main lanes that day. I
9 take that back. I was in the main lanes. I was dispatched to the
10 main lanes.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. So when I got on, I had to merge over, and then it slowed
13 down, and then it goes back into two lanes only, so I had to get
14 back through going two lanes, and I did not notice the change in
15 the road condition until almost on scene, and then it became very
16 slippery.

17 Q. Okay. And so did your vehicle begin to slide at some point?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And how fast were you going at that time?

20 A. Not fast at all. I want to say maybe 25, 30.

21 Q. Okay. And, when you arrived on scene, I assume at some point
22 you got out of your car?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And what did you notice about the roadway when you got out?

25 A. I didn't immediately get out. I was one of the later ones.

1 The other two officers passed me. I started -- actually started
2 sliding. I was -- in the beginning, getting there, I was in the
3 front, and so I had the lights and sirens going, and the cars were
4 parting down the middle because there was nowhere else to go, so
5 they were behind me. So they eventually caught up because of the
6 space, so when they caught up to me, I got to a certain point
7 where I actually did start sliding trying to get around a car, so
8 I kind of stopped and I, you know, went very slowly. They were
9 able to get around me on the inside shoulder and get in front, so
10 I stayed in the back blocking traffic for probably a good 20
11 minutes -- 15, 20 minutes before I actually got out.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. When I did get out, it was very slippery, and immediately
14 getting out of the car, it was slippery, and then once you started
15 to walk a little farther down -- there was two portions of the
16 accident. Towards the -- I guess the beginning half that was
17 further to the south, that's where it was very slippery.

18 Q. Okay. At any point, did you see any maintenance trucks, any
19 road trucks?

20 A. Road trucks?

21 Q. Yeah, like road treatment trucks.

22 A. Yes, I did see one, and he was -- I think he originally came
23 up behind me. I think it was an arrow truck. It appeared to be
24 an arrow truck. That's what I thought it was, an arrow truck.

25 And he was behind -- was he behind me or in front of me? I

1 might've passed him at one point, but I can't remember if it was
2 -- when it was. But I saw the arrow truck, and it appeared to be
3 one of those I guess truck that, you know, spreads the sand.

4 Q. Okay. How big was the truck? Pickup truck or bigger?

5 A. No, it was bigger. It was more like one of those -- I forget
6 what they're called with the arrow trucks, but it has the crash --

7 Q. Crash attenuator?

8 A. Yes, yeah. It was about the size of one of those.

9 Q. Okay. And how long had you been on scene when you saw that
10 truck?

11 A. This is what I can't remember. I can't remember if it was
12 there when I got there or if it was there shortly after I got
13 there.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. I'm unsure.

16 Q. And did you have conversation with the driver?

17 A. Yes, because eventually -- he was behind me, and like I said,
18 I can't remember if I passed him or if he came up behind me, but I
19 didn't want -- okay, the reason I stayed back there so long is I
20 wanted the traffic to get over to the right so they could exit off
21 of Northside Drive, because I could tell it was all blocked; they
22 weren't going anywhere. So I tried to get traffic to exit there.
23 When the arrow truck showed up, I thought, okay, the arrow truck
24 is back here now; now I can move up further, and I can go -- I had
25 the sheet; I had to work the accident, so I wanted to go out and

1 see the accident. So I couldn't tell if he -- who he was behind
2 me at first, so I must -- he must not have passed me. But anyway,
3 when he got out, we did have a conversation.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. He was walking back and forth a few times.

6 Q. And what did you guys talk about?

7 A. Basically, when I got out, you know, I was like, oh, this is
8 very slick, I think I said, and he said, yeah, and he was kind of
9 pacing. I said, is that your track back there? And he said, yes.
10 And then somehow we got onto the conversation of I guess why he
11 was there, and he said, we didn't treat this area last night
12 because it wasn't -- there wasn't any precipitation, or it wasn't
13 raining, I think is what he said. Something to that effect.

14 Q. Okay. And so I assume, when he said last night, he was
15 talking to the overnight hours from the previous day, because it
16 was 6 o'clock in the morning, so --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. So he was talking about overnight hours I guess.

19 A. Honestly, I don't know exactly what he was talking about.

20 Q. Okay. And so did he begin treating the roadway sometime,
21 or --

22 A. I don't recall him treating the road. I remember the fire
23 guys had their kitty litter, and they were treating the portion
24 that was in front of me. I don't recall him treating anything.

25 Q. And about how long were you on scene? Do you remember?

1 A. All together?

2 Q. Yeah.

3 A. I was there all day. Probably 9 hours, 10 hours.

4 Q. Okay. Anything else that you can think of that stands out as
5 something maybe we should know?

6 A. Considering the road conditions, the only other thing I do
7 remember looking at, and I don't know exactly where it came from,
8 but I do remember seeing chunks of ice on the freeway, on the toll
9 lanes. Not on the main lanes, but on the toll lanes. And they
10 were thick chunks of ice, and I don't know where they came from or
11 how they got there, but it appeared that maybe like the ground was
12 scraped and then there's chunks of ice. It was something like
13 that.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. But I do remember seeing chunks of ice and thinking that was
16 thick ice.

17 Q. Now, when you began your shift, what -- did the police
18 communications issue an advisory about road conditions or weather
19 or anything that you recall?

20 A. I don't think that early, because I'd just got in my car and
21 almost immediately was dispatched. I don't remember seeing
22 anything that point.

23 MR. BRAGG: Okay. I don't have anything further.

24 MR. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Bragg.

25 BY MR. WALSH:

1 Q. As you rolled up on the scene, were -- just to be clear, were
2 you in the toll lanes or the general use lanes?

3 A. I was in the main lanes.

4 Q. You were in the main lanes?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Northbound or southbound?

7 A. Southbound.

8 Q. Southbound?

9 A. Um-hum.

10 Q. Okay. And did you see any pretreatment on the general use
11 lanes as you rolled up, any pretreatment at all?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. When you got outside of your vehicle, did you
14 experience slippery conditions? Did you slip or did you slide --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- on the ice? You did?

17 A. I did. And like I said, once you walked a little further
18 southbound, that's when it got thicker, and it was even
19 slipperier.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. And I don't know if -- we had another officer that actually
22 did slip and hurt his shoulder on the ice, and he was dispatched
23 to the toll lanes, but he jumped the concrete median to help in
24 the main lanes, and he ended up hurting his shoulder, and he was
25 taken to the hospital from that scene.

1 Q. Do you remember that person?

2 A. Um-hum, Mouton (ph.).

3 Q. Mouton, okay. Did you see any other individuals while you
4 were there slip and slide?

5 A. Oh, absolutely.

6 Q. Can you give approximate number or --

7 A. Fifteen, twenty.

8 Q. Fifteen people?

9 A. Oh, yeah.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Because, you know, once people started coming out from the
12 toll lanes of the crash, they would get over, and it was super
13 slippery.

14 MR. WALSH: Okay. I have no further questions.

15 MR. ACCETTA: No.

16 MR. BRAGG: The time is 9:17 a.m. We'll conclude the
17 interview. Thank you for your participation.

18 (Whereupon, at 9:17 a.m., the interview was concluded.)

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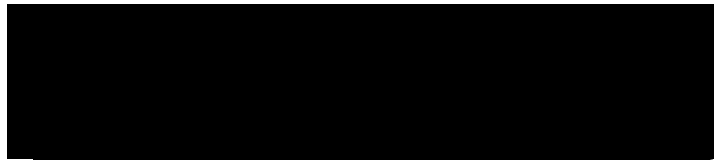
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 IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS,
 ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021
 Interview of Tamara Valle

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY21FH005

PLACE: Fort Worth, Texas

DATE: March 31, 2021

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Transcriber