

HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE

612 INDIAN ST 13
ST. PAUL NE 68873

Incident No.: HC21040038 Primary
Incident Description: 90Z1 - AIRCRAFT

Status:
Dispatcher: Burkett, Starcie N
Officer: Smith, Ryan
Records:
Addendum
Copies To:

Supervisor:
Entered By:

News Media Note:

Date:

Subject CALLER

Name: 911-Male	DOB: [REDACTED]	Height:	
Phone: [REDACTED]	Race:	Weight	
	Sex:	Hair:	
	Ethnic:	Eyes:	
		Skin:	
OLN:		Face:	
		Age:	

Subject DRIVER

Name: Becker, James R	DOB: [REDACTED]	Height:	
Phone: [REDACTED]	Race:	Weight	
[REDACTED]	Sex:	Hair:	
ST PAUL, NE 68873	Ethnic:	Eyes:	
		Skin:	
OLN: [REDACTED]		Face:	
		Age: 49	

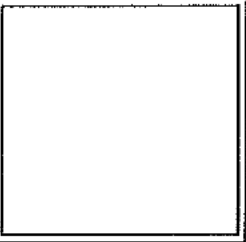
Subject JUVENILE INVOLVED, PASSENGER

Name: Becker, Maya F	DOB: [REDACTED]	Height: 508	
Phone: [REDACTED]	Race: W	Weight: 135	
[REDACTED]	Sex: F	Hair: BRO	
ST PAUL, NE 68873	Ethnic: U	Eyes:	
		Skin:	
OLN: [REDACTED]		Face:	
		Age: 16	

HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE

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Subject WITNESS

Name: Becker, Matthew Everett	DOB: [REDACTED]	Height: 509	
Phone: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ST PAUL, NE 68873	Race: W	Weight: 190	
OLN: [REDACTED]	Sex: M	Hair: BRO	
	Ethnic: U	Eyes: GRN	
		Skin:	
		Face:	
		Age: 47	

INCIDENT REPORT

HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

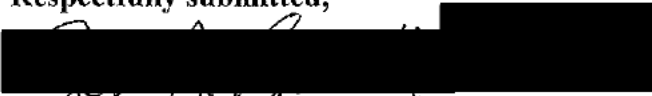


On April 4, 2021 at 1943, I, Deputy, Ryan Smith, was on duty and in uniform when I noticed several fire trucks drive by my location. I was not dispatched so I radioed dispatch and didn't get any response. I proceeded to field near the residence of 717 13th Avenue and observed what appeared to be an aircraft crash. The aircraft appeared to be traveling northbound, as the aircraft was north of a small impact point in the ground. The frame appeared to be broken, the left tire was broken off, and the propeller appeared damaged. I photographed the scene, see attached photos. The pilot of the aircraft was James R. Becker and the passenger was Maya F. Becker. J. Becker and M. Becker were taken to the hospital with apparent injuries. There were several witnesses on scene, but in the chaos of the moment most left without being identified. I was able to briefly watch the video of witness Matthew E. Becker, who is the brother of J. Becker. I observed the aircraft making a very slow decent and then moved side to side suddenly and then just dropped from about 20 feet and impacted the ground violently. It appeared that wind forced the aircraft directly downward. It should be noted that there was a severe Thunderstorm Warning for nearby Hall County about 15 minutes prior to this accident and the winds were very high. As I was getting ready to leave an man who identified himself as a brother in law came up to me and said, "The family were all just yelling at one another and the mother said this should of never of happened as he (J. Becker) was not licensed to fly the aircraft." At this time

I then contacted the Federal Aviation Administration and spoke with Russell Carlson who is a Frontline Manager with the Lincoln Flight Standards Office. He said his agency is the proper agency for investigating aircraft accidents. He also informed me that J. Becker needed to have a Sport Pilot Certificate to legally operate a two seat powered parachute. I asked him if I needed to cite J. Becker for that violation and he advised that his office would do that, but that he would like me to investigate if Alcohol or Drugs were a factor in the crash.

I then went to the hospital and asked the Emergency Room Doctor Erica Eberle if alcohol of drugs were a factor and her response was this, "I didn't do an ETOH draw as he doesn't drink and I wouldn't tell you the results even if I did one." I was kind of shocked by the response and forwarded this to the Sheriff Tom Busch and Chief Deputy Mike Hoff. I don't think it was her intention to obstruct my investigation, but I cannot rule that out either. At this point I cannot rule out whether or not alcohol was a factor in the crash.

On April 5th, 2021, I was contacted by Jerome H. Sveeggen and Tim Kray who are Aviation Safety Inspectors from the Lincoln Office. They asked for a brief summary of what I observed and for my report. They also informed me that J. Becker does not have a proper license to operate a powered parachute and again reiterated they handle that aspect of the investigation for enforcement purposes. End of Report.

Respectfully submitted,


Deputy Ryan Smith, 
HOWARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
612 INDIAN STREET
ST. PAUL, NE 68873
PHONE 

Approved by: _____

Copy to County Arty: _____