

1 **TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY KETHLIN CUTCHER**
2 **INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

3 **CASE NUMBER – 08-74777**

4 **DECEMBER 18, 2008**

5 **YM – CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

6 **JA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN**

7 **KC – DEPUTY KETHLIN CUTCHER**

8 **JA:** (Coughs.)

9 **YM:** And the date right now is December 18, 2008. And the time right now is 0008
10 hours. I'm Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Also
11 present is Sergeant John Allen with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. And also
12 present is Kethlin?

13 **KC:** Kethlin.

14 **YM:** Kethlin. I knew I was going to get it, Kethlin Cutcher. And uh, Kethlin, you're
15 aware this is being recorded?

16 **KC:** Yes, I am.

17 **YM:** Any objection to that?

18 **KC:** No.

19 **YM:** Okay. We asked you to come down. Well you were actually working tonight.
20 We had a, a couple of questions about a call you responded to here on August
21 13th. And I want to show you a call log. This is a, a call log from August 13th.
22 It's uhm, call number 082261944. It was initiated at 1514 hours on the 13th of
23 August. Dispatched at 1522. On scene at 1537. Closed at 1602. It says
24 Suburban and Hope Spring Drive. Uhm, do you, by looking at this do you
25 remember the call?

1 **KC:** Yes, I do.

2 **YM:** Okay, even before I showed you this, and I asked you if you've been to a call in
3 the area, you said you remembered uh, being here in, uh, in the area for a
4 particular call.

5 **KC:** Yes, I do.

6 **YM:** Okay. Uh, tell me about the call, who you were with, and kind of walk me
7 through from the time that you know, you, you got dispatched, to the time you
8 left.

9 **KC:** Okay. Dispatch dispatched me to a uhm, suspicious bag, or a plastic bag on the
10 swamp area, close to the Suburban, at Suburban Road. Uhm, I came here, but
11 Deputy Richard Cain was already there. Uhm, I, I park my car very close to
12 where he was. So that means in the south side of the road, close to where they
13 have the swamp and the grass area. Uhm, I step out of my car. I came and talk
14 to the caller. Well I remember it being a white male. I don't remember age. And
15 I ask him what was going on. And he stated that yeah (affirmative), she, she told
16 them that she's very close, very close.

17 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

18 **KC:** And I just thought that was kind of weird, but I didn't ask anything else. Uhm, he
19 looked like he was concerned. So I, when I look to the swamp area I saw Deputy
20 Cain coming out. I asked him what was going on. And he stated that, "Oh, it, it's
21 nothing. It was just a bag of trash." Uhm, I did never went inside of the wooden
22 area where he was. I was able to see some plastic bags around. Black, plastic
23 bags around. Maybe, I don't know, that twenty-five feet or...

24 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

25

1 **KC:** I'm not really good with measurements. But I could see at eye level what was
2 really inside of the, the uh, wooden area. Uhm, at that time it was wet. I don't
3 remember seeing a lot of water. I remember it was wet. Uhm, and uhm, I don't
4 remember more than that. I remember the deputy came out and just told me,
5 "Well it was just garbage." Uhm, I didn't smell anything from where I was, and
6 uh, I never went inside, so.

7 **YM:** So the guy, uh, did the guy you met say anything about uh, a smell, a bad smell
8 coming from the area or....

9 **KC:** Not to me. He might, maybe he did in the call, but not to me. The only words he
10 tell, he told me was, "She told me she was very close. She was really close."

11 **JA:** Was he referring to uh, uhm, uh, uhm, tapes he heard on television, or now
12 where did he hear the, he, it was very close?

13 **KC:** When he told me that I believe, I never ask him what was it, but I believe he was
14 talking about the little girl that was missing. So, but that's what I thought about it.

15 **JA:** Did he, did he say he was a psychic or something, or did he say that....

16 **KC:** No.

17 **JA:** ...he heard....

18 **KC:** He, he just say it, she told them. I never ask him....

19 **JA:** She told them?

20 **KC:**where.

21 **JA:** Okay.

22 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative). But he say she told them she was very close. She told
23 them...

24 **JA:** Okay.

25 **KC:** ...she, she was very close. I never asked if he heard anywhere.

1 **JA:** Okay. So he could have been talking about something he heard on the news or
2 something like that?

3 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative), he could.

4 **JA:** Yeah (affirmative), alright. Okay.

5 **KC:** And I, that's what I believe at the time. That's why I didn't want to go in depth on
6 it.

7 **JA:** Right.

8 **KC:** And he, I didn't have the feeling that he wanted to talk about it. Because the only
9 words that he told me several times, maybe three, four times, "She told, she told
10 them she was very close. She was very close."

11 **JA:** Alright.

12 **KC:** So....

13 **JA:** Did he say that he had looked in the bag, or did he say anything like that?

14 **KC:** Not to me.

15 **JA:** Okay. Did he ever say anything to indicate that he had actually seen anything
16 uh, uh, a...about what he said that he'd heard?

17 **KC:** Not to me.

18 **JA:** Alright, so he didn't say that he opened....

19 **KC:** Huh-huh (negative).

20 **JA:** ...the bag, or anything like that?

21 **KC:** Huh-huh (negative).

22 **JA:** Okay.

23 **YM:** You said uh, something about there being some water nearby. Do you
24 remember, think back. Do you remember if the bag was in water? Uh, was it...

25 **KC:** I don't remember.

1 **YM:** ...was it kind of back a ways? If there's water around it? Anything like that?

2 **KC:** Nope (negative). From where I was from the street to where I saw you know,

3 bags and stuff, was, wasn't, I couldn't see if there was a lot of water under or....

4 **YM:** Or around it?

5 **KC:**anything like that. There was a lot of trash around it there what I remember.

6 **JA:** You said there was a lot of trash (inaudible).

7 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative), you could see a lot of like white, plastic bags, and cups and

8 things like that around it. So that....

9 **JA:** Did it look like, did it look like a place that kids hung out, or did it look like a, a

10 dump trash there or....

11 **KC:** No, not, it looked like a place where people dump trash.

12 **JA:** Okay.

13 **KC:** That's how it looked like.

14 **JA:** Alright.

15 **KC:** Because the, the woods weren't too high. There was a lot of tall trees.

16 **JA:** Okay.

17 **KC:** And it got a lot of branches on the floor. So it was kind of hard for me to walk

18 around where you go.

19 **JA:** Branches on the floor? Like what type?

20 **KC:** On the ground. Like a piece of, piece of trees, or piece of branches.

21 **JA:** Alright.

22 **KC:** So you know it's not a place that where you could just go and walk. You have

23 to...

24 **JA:** It's fairly thick?

25

1 **KC:** Yes. It was thick and you, you, you couldn't, you know you have to move things
2 to walk around.

3 **JA:** Do you remember what kind of trees were in there? Do you remember what, uh,
4 were they Cypress trees, Pine trees, Oak trees, or....

5 **KC:** Uhm, I don't know how to tell you.

6 **JA:** Okay. Alright.

7 **KC:** I know, I know it was tall, skinny trees....

8 **JA:** Tall (inaudible).

9 **KC:** ...that I saw.

10 **YM:** You, you mentioned something when I, when I sat you down and you said, "I just
11 remembered this."

12 **KC:** Yes. I was talking home today with my husband about it. And I was like, "I
13 remember that I responded to a call there for a suspicious bag and was just
14 trash." That kind of bothered me. So when I came to work today I sent my
15 sergeant a message saying that I want to talk to him about something and I
16 would like to, because I'm new....

17 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

18 **KC:** ...I want to ask him do uh, you know, if I need to do something about it, or. I
19 know that took a little bit longer for me to kind of sink in, but because I wasn't the
20 prime... even though I was dispatched to the call I wasn't a primary in the call
21 because I was not the one who close the call. I was not the one who went inside
22 on the bushes to see the bag. So maybe that's why it took me a little longer to
23 sink in.

24 **JA:** Right.

25

1 **KC:** And I wasn't really, even though I work this area, I work the west side more than
2 here. So I wasn't really a hundred percent sure where it was that....

3 **YM:** In, in, in the past couple of months since this whole Anthony thing has happened,
4 how many times have you been on Suburban Drive for a call?

5 **KC:** None.

6 **YM:** So....

7 **JA:** Have you answered any other calls where people wanted to turn in bones or
8 clothes....

9 **KC:** No.

10 **JA:** ...or....

11 **KC:** I never responded to calls like that.

12 **JA:** And you hadn't, you have any of those calls?

13 **KC:** Nope (negative). I....

14 **JA:** Because I know some of your, I mean other deputies out here may have
15 (inaudible).

16 **KC:** Not that I remember.

17 **JA:** Okay.

18 **KC:** I can't say a hundred percent. But I...

19 **JA:** Okay.

20 **KC:** ...I don't remember uhm, responding to any calls....

21 **JA:** Alright.

22 **KC:** ...that people found stuff. The only times I came to the Hope Springs, or around,
23 was maybe to relieve someone....

24 **JA:** Okay.

25

1 **KC:** ...from something, or bring water, or something like that. But I was never
2 detailed in here or responding to calls.

3 **JA:** What did the other deputy say when he came out of the woods?

4 **KC:** It's just trash. It was nothing there.

5 **JA:** Okay. Did he indicate to you how he knew that it was trash, or did he say that....

6 **KC:** Nope (negative). I never asked.

7 **JA:** ...he looked, opened...he just said it was trash and you guys...

8 **KC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

9 **JA:** ...were out? Okay.

10 **KC:** Yes sir.

11 **YM:** Have you, have you, have you talked to him any more about....

12 **KC:** No.

13 **YM:** ...this call at all since tonight, or before tonight? From that day to tonight have
14 you talked to him about this call?

15 **KC:** Not that I remember. We were in training together for a week and we were really
16 busy. I don't remember really, like I say, today was the day that it sink in on me.
17 You know what, I think it is in the same place that I was. And because I never
18 drove back here, I wasn't sure that where things were found in now was the
19 same place....

20 **JA:** Yeah (affirmative).

21 **KC:** ...that it was before.

22 **JA:** Alright.

23 **YM:** Did you look up uh, look it up on a map or something later on?

24 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative). I looked at the O.C. viewer....

25 **YM:** Okay.

1 **KC:** ...to see where it was at.

2 **YM:** When was that?

3 **KC:** Uhm....

4 **YM:** Was that today?

5 **KC:** It was, I think it was tonight. It was before, it was after I came to work.

6 **YM:** Okay. So you're at work aft...after you had, about the same time....

7 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative), after I sent....

8 **YM:** ...you talked to your sergeant?

9 **KC:** Yes.

10 **YM:** Okay.

11 **KC:** After I sent my sergeant a message I was just thinking about it is the same area?

12 Just to make it sure and I look in O.C. viewer and I kind of find out it was similar.

13 **JA:** Okay.

14 **YM:** Okay.

15 **JA:** Alright uh, we appreciate you coming over. Uhm....

16 **KC:** No problem.

17 **JA:**you know, we're just trying to sort through this and figure out, you know, what

18 happened that day.

19 **YM:** And we would ask that uh, don't talk to anyone about this. Only because

20 obviously we're here asking you for a reason.

21 **KC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

22 **YM:** So we don't want you to go and talking to anyone. You know, especially Richard

23 or....

24 **KC:** Yes sir.

25

1 **YM:** ...or, or anyone else. Only because we don't want to complicate things. So we
2 don't want other people to think that they're in trouble. We just need to find
3 out....

4 **KC:** Sure.

5 **YM:**what happened and exactly what we were hoping that just tell us the truth
6 (inaudible).

7 **KC:** And I remember that, one more thing that I remember. The caller, he wasn't, uh,
8 you were asking me if he was upset or something...

9 **JA:** Oh.

10 **KC:** ...a couple minutes ago. I don't think he was upset, but he, I remember he was
11 kind of sad that it was nothing. I think he was expecting to be something.

12 **JA:** He was hoping or....

13 **KC:** Uh, uh, he was hoping there was....

14 **JA:** ...expecting it would be....

15 **KC:** ...something in the bag, yes.

16 **YM:** I showed, I showed you a picture of, and I think I still have it here. I, I wanted to
17 see if you actually recognized him. And I'll, I'll just show it so, because we, we
18 mentioned it earlier.

19 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative), he does....

20 **YM:** Do you recognize....

21 **KC:** He does look familiar, but I don't remember if it is him. I remember it was a white
22 male for sure.

23 **YM:** Okay.

24 **KC:** But I, because he didn't really talk to me a lot.

25 **YM:** Okay.

1 **KC:** He was keep saying the same things. So I really thought was...

2 **YM:** Did he tell you where he worked, or do you remember anything about where he

3 worked or...

4 **KC:** No, I don't remember.

5 **YM:** You mentioned something earlier about thinking he worked for....

6 **KC:** I think, I believe I had it in my mind that he worked for the City, but I'm not a

7 hundred percent sure.

8 **YM:** Okay.

9 **JA:** Alright.

10 **YM:** Alright, uhm, anything else you remember? Anything we didn't ask about or....

11 **KC:** I don't remember no vehicles. Uhm....

12 **YM:** Okay.

13 **KC:** I remember just walking back to the pond that is in the other side of the street just

14 to take a look, making sure that he was riding, you know, what he was saying

15 was exactly what he was driving that he was.

16 **YM:** Was he still here when you did that?

17 **KC:** Yeah (affirmative). He, he, we, I think we, I'm not a hundred percent sure, but I

18 think we told him, okay, it was nothing. It was just a trash bag. You know, if you

19 need anything else you let us know. And then he kind of, I don't know if he

20 stayed there, walk away, but we walk away to the other side of the pond and....

21 **YM:** You're talking over, across the street.

22 **KC:** Across the street where it's fenced....

23 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

24 **KC:** ...fenced in.

25 **YM:** Okay.

1 **KC:** And we just look around. We didn't see anything else suspicious, and we left. I
2 left at least.

3 **YM:** Okay.

4 **KC:** Okay.

5 **JA:** I don't have anything else.

6 **KC:** Everything, it's, it's not a hundred percent sure because it was a long time ago,
7 but that's what I remember.

8 **JA:** Alright.


9 **YM:** Would you do me a favor? Raise your right hand. Do you swear and affirm
10 everything you just told me is the truth/

11 **JA:** Yes, I do sir.

12 **YM:** Excellent. Thank you.

13 **End of recorded statement.**

14 **This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.**

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18 **CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

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