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TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF GARY RIDGEWAY

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE JEROLD WHITE

CASE NUMBER – 08-069208

JULY 24, 2008

JW – DETECTIVE JEROLD WHITE

GR – MR. GARY RIDGEWAY

JW: Alright, I'm Detective White with the uh, Orange County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Unit. Today is uh, July 24 2008. And it's 9:57 a.m. And we're [REDACTD] Johnson's Wrecker. And I am with Gary, what' your last name?

GR: Ridgeway.

JW: Ridgeway? R-I-D-G-E?

GR: R-I-D-G-E-W-A-Y.

JW: Alrighty. And what's your date of birth?

GR: [REDACTED]

JW: [REDACTED]

GR: [REDACTED]

JW: [REDACTED]

GR: [REDACTED]

JW: Alright. And where are you currently employed at?

GR: Uh, Johnson's Wrecker Service.

JW: Alrighty. Which uh, there's like three offices, right, three or four offices. Which office are you out of?

GR: Uh,[REDACTED]

JW: Okay. Uhm, did you come into contact with a uhm, with a , a white Pontiac a few,
a week or so ago?

GR: Oh, it was a , more than a week. It, well was it about a least a month ago.

JW: Okay. Uhm, I have uh, I guess you, your guy's uh, tow papaerwork here.

GR: Uh-hum. (affirmative)

JW: Uhm, let me give you a show of it and uhm, just let me know if you recognize.

GR: Yeah (affirmative), that's uh, June 30th. Yeah (affirmative), a dispatch for private
property removal.

JW: Okay

GR: and uhm, from uh, Amscot.

JW: Okay. Uhm, tell me how that works out. Do you get, do you get called exactly
from, from Amscot or do they call the yard and the yard call you? Tell me how
you get dispatched.

GR: Uhm, I assume they call our yard. I get dispatched from our dispatch office, the
uh, west office.

JW: Oh, the on out on uh...

GR: Yeah (affimative)

JW: Wilmer?

GR: Right.

JW: Okay.

GR: On Wilmer, the dispatch. I was called. Uh, whoever's up next in the rotation
we're called and then we go to where we're dispatched to, which was Amscot at
this point in time.

JW: Okay.

GR: They reported they had a car on the side. I had the private property removal sheet filled out. They signed off on it. The car itself was parked next to the dumpster.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

GR: Near there, nosed in.

JW: Right.

GR: Being a front wheel drive car I checked to see if it was unlocked because sometimes you can put them in neutral and move them, but it was locked.

JW: Right.

GR: So I hooked up to the rear and the sling dollies, which is basically the small wheels with the rack so you don't have to pull on the drive axle. And I just put the dollies in the front, on the front wheels, because I hooked up from the rear. And I towed it in. And that's it. I didn't notice anything different or anything about the car. The only thing I did, I did notice that stood out in my mind was a child seat in the backseat.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

GR: And I thought it was irresponsible as hell to be leaving a car like that if you have a child that young.

JW: Right.

GW: And that's the only thing. I didn't notice anything different.

JW: Uh, did you notice a odor coming from the car or anything?

GW: No.

JW: Alright.

GW: I will, however, I will say this. I just started back here, I think it was on the back side of a cold, and...

JW: Oh, so you couldn't smell anything?

GW: E...even if I, if it was something I probably wouldn't have noticed it.

JW: Okay. Alright, so tell me this. Uhm, so you drive over to Amscot. When you get there you fill out this form, in the parking lot? Because you need the v.i.n. (vehicle identification number) and all the rest of that stuff?

GW: Yeah (affirmative), well I walk in and find out where the, which car it is and then I walk over to it and then yeah (affirmative), I fill out the information on the car. Then I go back in and, have her sign off on it. The manager of the location.

JW: So the manager says, that's the car. I want it gone?

GW: Right.

JW: Alright, so you get it back here to, to uh, [REDACTED] or just Narcoossee? Alright, so you get back [REDACTED]

GW: (Inaudible)

JW: [REDACTED] What do you do?

GW: Oh, I drop it in the yard where we have a li...a, pretty much private property tow. Uh, I put that, yeah (affirmative), around by the UCF lot. We got different sections of the lot. So the private property two removals, or I put it there, and drop it, and come back in and turn the paperwork in. Usually we have to call it in talked to Simon it's just a form we will out and faxed it and then it was out of my hands.

JW: Okay. If this was night time would you have called the Sheriff's Office, or report your tow, or do you still fax it?

GW: Uh, I went, I went and talked to dispatch on that.

JW: Okay.

GW: So I don't know about that. And, and it wasn't night.

JW: So being that it's daytime you just bring your paperwork in the, to uh, to the office, either Simon or the lady up front?

GW: Right.

JW: And you say, the tow's done. The car's out in the lot? Here, you go. And you, uh, you're up in line for next?

GW: Right.

JW: Or you go back into the line?

GW: Yeah (affirmative), after just completion of my uh, the tow for me.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative)

GW: And then turn in my paperwork and I keep my paperwork and, then I'm next on rotation.

JW: Alright. How long do you think that whole process took?

GW: Uh, it'd take about an hour to an hour and a half. Yeah(affirmative), those are times right there.

JW: Okay. Okay, so you get dispatched at, at 8:50 a.m.?

GW: And, and at, yup (affirmative), 0850. I'm there at 0906. I'm leaving there at 0916. It took ten minutes to hook it up and go. And then I'm done with, at ten o'clock.

JW: So a little over an hour. Maybe an hour and ten minutes?

GW: Exactly.

JW: Traffic. You probably could have got that done forty-five minutes what, if, it there was better traffic out?

GW: Yeah, (affirmative), well a lot of times here it is like it takes a little longer here because you're dropping dollies and hooking the truck back up. I don't know if I got fuel or not. Sometimes...

JW: Put the truck back the way it...

GW: Right

JW: Okay

GW: (Unintelligible) like there's other, just little extenuating circumstances.

JW: Did you notice any uh, damage to, to the car when you get it? Do you do like a, a check...

GW: Yeah (affirmative)

JW: ...and walk around?

GW: Well uh, when we turn it in uh, whatever, here's a copy. Well there it is. Now I would have marked it.

JW: Okay. Okay. Uhm, has anything since. you know I know uhm, Johnson's you and people at the office have kind of been following the case on the news that you seen on TV. Has anything uh, refreshed you memory, you know, seeing it on TV, uhm, from your tow? Has anything else stuck out in you head?

GW: No.

JW: Alright. And do you have any other information you think we need to know about?

GW: No, no.

JW: Alright. Raise your right hand? Do you swear the information you provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge?

GW: I do.

JW: Alright. Well it's still July 24, 2008. It is 10:03 a.m. and that'll conclude that
 interview.

End of recorded statement.

This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.

CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF