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TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF NICOLE LETT

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE WHITE

CASE NUMBER – 08-069208

JULY 24, 2008

JW – DETECTIVE JEROLD WHITE

UF – UNKNOWN FEMALE

NL – MS. NICOLE LETT

JW: Okay, today is date is July 24, 2008, and it's 11:40 a.m. And I'm Detective White with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Domestic Violence Unit. And I'm [REDACTED] And I'm with?

NL: Nicole Fournier, well actually Nicole Lett now. Sorry.

JW: Alrighty.

NL: (Laughs.)

JW: Uh, which one's on your i.d. card?

NL: Well it just changed this morning, so Lett.

JW: Okay, uhm...

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: Alright, so spell your first name for me.

NL: It's, and spell it? N-I-C-O-L-E.

JW: And uh, spell your last name.

NL: L-E-T-T.

JW: Alright. Like Leon?

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: Okay.

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: Uh, what's a, what's a good address for you?

NL: [REDACTED].

JW: Alright. And what's a good phone number for you?

NL: [REDACTED].

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

NL: [REDACTED].

JW: Alrighty. Uhm, are you employed with Johnson's Wrecker?

NL: Yes.

JW: And on uhm, well say either July 30th or uhm, somewhere in uhm, I'm sorry, either June 30th or uh, in July of uh, 2008, up until present, you're employed by Johnson's Wrecker?

NL: Yes.

JW: And aside from [REDACTED] where else do you work?

NL: I work at the east side location off of Narcoossee Road.

JW: Okay. Is that, would that be the [REDACTED].

NL: Yes.

JW: ...Road address?

NL: Yes.

JW: Okay. Uhm, do you recall dealing with a uhm, a white Pontiac and a family coming to pick it up?

NL: Yes.

JW: Tell me what you remember.

NL: I just remember they, the father, the guy, grandfather, whoever he is, coming up...

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

NL: ... to get the vehicle out. He didn't have cash or the registration, so he had to leave and go get his wife. And then they both came up to get the vehicle. In return the asked questions and then paid everything and then went to the vehicle and...

JW: Okay.

NL: (Inaudible).

JW: So uhm, when they came to the window...

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: Uhm, who came to the window first?

NL: He did first.

JW: Okay, and what did he say?

NL: He, well he pretty much gave me the, the type of vehicle it was and asked about where we found the vehicle at. And we told, we told him where we found it. And then in return he said that he hasn't, he thought the car was up in Jacksonville, Gainesville, somewhere up north. I don't remember exactly where, but somewhere up there, so.

JW: Did he uhm...

NL: Uhm.

JW: Did she show you identification?

NL: Yes.

JW: Do you remember what form of identification he showed you?

NL: It was a Florida i.d. (identification).

JW: Okay. Uhm, did he have any proof of ownership of the car?

NL: Yes.

JW: What, what did he...

NL: Registration.

JW: He had the registration?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: Okay. So he's at the window. He's, he's got his i.d. He's got some registration paperwork. He says, "I want my car." And you say?

NL: Well what type of vehicle it is and, "Do you have registration and a picture i.d. on you?"

JW: Okay. So he provides that stuff.

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: Do you tell him how much it is?

NL: Yeah (affirmative), I tell him...

JW: Alright, so you say it's however much money?

NL: Well yeah (affirmative).

JW: And he says what? You, and you tell him that you need cash? What do you say?

NL: I tell him, you need cash only. He didn't know. So he's like, "Well I'll be back with my wife with the cash and to pick up the vehicle."

JW: Okay.

NL: so then he left.

JW: How long was he gone for?

NL: I want to...

JW: Approximately.

NL: ...say, well let's see. He did it all in one day. I want to say probably about a couple of hours.

JW: Okay. So he comes back?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: Alright, who comes to the window when he comes back?

NL: They both did, him and his wife.

JW: Alright, so give me the gist of the conversation when he returns.

NL: When they return the ask about, they tell me the vehicle, uhm, want, told me that they wanted to re... take the vehicle out. In return, the wife started asking about our process with the admin., the certified letter.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

NL: Uhm, so I kind of explained to her how we work the certified letter that goes out. Because she thought the vehicle was up north, well upper Panhandle of Florida.

JW: Right.

NL: So I explained to her that by law we have to mail this letter out for people that don't know that the vehicle is here and in turn that exactly what happened. They didn't know. So they started like griping about having to pay it. So then I had my supervisor come over and explain it to them too. And in turn then...

JW: Now who's your supervisor?

NL: Simon Burch I think his last name is.

JW: Okay.

NL: So in return had to...

UF: (Inaudible.)

NL: Thank you. So I had to turn around and explain it to her well in return they kind of calmed down. Well she calmed down and understood the situation. And then we finished the whole process of releasing the vehicle.

JW: Okay. How much more contact did you have with them after uhm, the uh, the...

NL: The release?

JW: ...the woman uhm, went off to talk to Simon?

NL: Oh, well I was right there when they were talking. But after all that, after I got the cash and gave them the receipt, that's all the, really that much contact that I had with them besides of what I heard as they were walking back and I, I stepped outside in the back door...

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

NL: As they were going, while he was going to the vehicle.

JW: You step outside to smoke, or just...

NL: Yes.

JW: ...hanging out back or...

NL: No. Sitting outside to smoke (laughs).

JW: So you step outside to smoke? What do you hear when they're walking by?

NL: It all depends. Uhm, just them talking to the person that's taking them back about why the vehicle was towed, or what they don't know about the vehicle, or just asking general questions.

JW: How much paperwork did you do?

NL: Uhm, I pretty much just filled out the front and took copies of i.d.'s, registrations.

JW: Okay.

NL: Filled out the back invoice that's their receipt.

JW: Let me show you some paperwork...

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: And let me know if you prepared any of the paperwork. Uhm, did you prepare the, uh, prepare any of these two sheets?

NL: Yeah (affirmative). I filled out their information right there and the amounts and then the owner and the date and time.

JW: Okay, and what form is this?

NL: That is our impound sheet, (sighs).

JW: Okay, so you filled out the, the, the uhm, the person you're releasing it to...

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: ...or the registered owner?

NL: The reg... whoever I, well, well, the registered owner and whoever I'm releasing it to if it's going to be somebody different than the registered owner.

JW: Okay. So this is your form right here?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: Okay. How about this...

NL: Yes.

JW: ...uhm, you didn't do this form?

NL: No. I think that comes from the place that we picked up the vehicle from.

JW: Okay. How about this form here?

NL: That form right there I pretty much filled out his name, the date, and then the prices on the invoice.

JW: Okay. How about this form right here?

NL: That right there I just run, I ran through Tag Talk.

JW: Okay, so you just...

NL: To make sure that was the registered owner and everything, yeah (affirmative).

JW: Alright, so you print this out?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: So there's nothing to really create? You just...

NL: Yeah (affirmative), we just....

JW: You print it out from a database?

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: Okay. And how about this page right here?

NL: That right there, I believe that's what the driver has to do to get a case number through Orange County Sheriff's Office so that....

JW: For his tow?

NL: Well yeah (affirmative).

JW: Okay, so you don't....

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: ... do anything with this sheet?

NL: No. No.

JW: Okay, and how about this information on the back?

NL: That's the information, well I got the title from him. I didn't realize that. I got the title from him. So that's the information that I got from him and took a copy of showing proof of ownership.

JW: Okay, so you burned this copy here?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: You, you didn't do anything with this form?

NL: No.

JW: You print this one out?

NL: Right.

JW: Uh, you fill in the personal information?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: And then you fill out the personal information?

NL: Right.

JW: Okay. So I'll tell you what. Do me this favor.

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: Let me have you uhm, and the date and initial each for that you use, that you filled out on.

NL: Today's date?

JW: Yes, today's date...

NL: Okay.

JW: ... and your initials.

NL: (Inaudible).

JW: Okay. Oh, there's one more.

NL: Is there another one?

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative). Uhm, that one you printed?

NL: That one, yeah (affirmative).

JW: Okay. Okay. How would you say that the uhm, the man and woman acted when they got the car?

NL: They acted pretty much like anybody who comes out and picks up the car. The only difference was they kind of, I think more like concerned of why their vehicle was down here....

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

NL: ... and not where their daughter told them that the vehicle was.

JW: Okay.

NL: Or where they assumed the vehicle was pretty much.

JW: Okay. Uhm, would you say that uhm, they kind of had a uh, were they, were they aggressive with you? Were they upset? How did they, you know I understand, you and I both understand when people come, the get their car towed...

NL: Yeah (affirmative), okay.

JW: ...how they're going to behave.

NL: Yeah (affirmative), (laughs).

JW: But you know, let's just say I'm somebody that has no idea about how people act when they come to get their car.

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: How would you say they acted?

NL: I personally think they acted, they were kind of upset about the lien letter that we send out. And they kind of, kind of loud with that. Not, a normal voice, but a little bit higher. But for the most part they were like I think more grateful that the vehicle was here and they got the vehicle back.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

NL: But then they were more con... they acted more concerned of why the vehicle was here. Like...

JW: Okay.

NL: ... worried I would say.

JW: Okay. Uhm, I'm looking at the forms here...

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: ... and I see that the total for them to get their car back is \$466.78?

NL: Yes.

JW: How did they take knowing that they were going to have to pay that much to get the car out?

NL: Uhm, when the husband came up originally and I told them the amount he was like, "Okay, that's fine. Let me, I don't have cash on me." So then he had to leave. When the wife came back up, she didn't really gripe about the, about the fee. She more griped about the admin. Fee because she was having to pay thirty-five dollars for the certified letter. So it goes back to that admin. Letter that so, it gets filled, uhm, mailed out.

JW: Okay. So uhm, basically the car gets towed in?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: Once it gets towed in uhm, after how many days do you send out the letter?

NL: After I think it's like normally four days.

JW: Okay, so after four days

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: ... then the registered owner letter?

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: Hey, we got your car.

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: You need to come get it?

NL: Yeah (affirmative). It all depends on how long the mail takes to actually get to them, but we mail it out on the 4th day.

JW: Okay. Now, in the letter, the letter basically says what, uhm, you either come get your car or?

NL: It pretty much states the amount of all the fees up to that day, up to the fourth day.

JW: The day that the letter is being mailed?

NL: And it states that that the vehicle is here and you have until a certain date to pick up the vehicle or it goes into auction.

JW: Okay.

NL: And we can auction it off, salvage it off, whatever it is.

JW: Okay. Had you ever met these people before?

NL: No. No.

JW: Uhm, uh, had you ever seen the car before?

NL: No.

JW: Did you actually see, touch, or feel the car, look at it?

NL: I didn't until after they came to pick it up and I went back out. Then I watched them drive the vehicle. Get in the vehicle and drive it out.

JW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

NL: So that was....

JW: So...

NL: ... the first time I've seen it.

JW: So you saw the car?

NL: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JW: How did you interact with the car? Did you ever get in the car?

NL: No.

JW: Did you ever touch the car?

NL: No.

JW: Is it your job to be touching cars?

NL: It isn't mine, no.

JW: Oh.

NL: Unless I'm asked to, then yeah (affirmative). But no.

JW: Okay. Have you ever towed a car?

NL: I haven't, no.

JW: Okay.

NL: (Laughs.)

JW: Okay, do you have any other information that you think we need to know about?

NL: The only information I know is that they kept on saying they haven't seen their daughter in about a month. And the fact that when I know that I didn't see it except for Simon coming back up and mentioning that he, when he opened the door flies came flying out and there was a bag of trash in the trunk, which in return he threw away in the dumpster.

JW: Okay.

NL: So that's all the information I know after they left the window.

JW: Okay. So Simon told you after they....

NL: Yes.

JW: ... they got in the car...

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: and was gone?

NL: Yeah (affirmative).

JW: Okay.

NL: So I mean I don't know but that's just, yeah (affirmative).

JW: Okay.

NL: But they did say that they haven't seen their granddaughter in a month and they thought the car was up north, or the Panhandle of Florida, or whatever you call it.

JW: Okay.

NL: So.

JW: Okay, raise your right hand. Do you swear....

NL: (Chuckles.)

JW: ... that the information you provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge?

NL: I do.

JW: Okay. Alright, well it's still July 24, 2008. It's 11:51 a.m. and that'll conclude this interview.

End of recorded statement.

This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.

CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF