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TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF SIMON BURCH

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE WHITE

CASE NUMBER – 08-069208

JULY 24, 2008

GW – DETECTIVE GERALD WHITE

UF – UNKNOWN FEMALE

SB – MR. SIMON BURCH

SB: Where do you want me start?

GW: Uhm, let me uh, set this up first. I'm Detective White with the Sheriff's Office uh, Domestic Violence Unit. Today is uhm, July 24, 2008, and it's 9:20 a.m. And we're at uh, [REDACTED] And I'm with Mr. Simon Burch. Uhm, Mr. Burch, What's a good address for you?

SB: [REDACTED]

GW: Alrighty. Uhm, [REDACTED]

SB: [REDACTED]

GW: And uh, what's a good phone for you?

SB: [REDACTED]

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

SB: [REDACTED]

GW: Okay. Uhm, are you an employee of uhm, Johnson's Wrecker?

SB: Yes sir. I'm the Operations Manager for our east side location.

GW: Okay. And on uhm, can you tell me how you came about uhm, meeting uhm, George Anthony and uh, possibly Cynthia Anthony?

SB: Yes sir. They came uh, to our location to pick up uh, a car that belonged to them on July the 15th. Uhm, the car, we had towed the car for a private property removal from the Amscot that's uh, I believe it was 75, is [REDACTED]. We were contacted by Amscot to uh, pick up the vehicle because it was illegally parked. Uhm, we have tow away signs located at the Amscot in accord...in uh, accordance with Florida Statutes. And when we went to pick up the vehicle we had a, a private property tow sheet filled

in and signed by the uh, employee at Amscot who called the tow in. Uhm, the original tow was done on June the 29th, June the 30th. We received the vehicle here. And it's been, sat in our impound yard until July the 15th when the Anthony's came to retrieve it.

GW: Okay, who, who towed it?

SB: It was towed by employee Gary Ridgeway, uhm, who's an employee here at Johnson's Wrecker Service.

GW: Okay. Uhm, did you, did you uh, have, did you, did you come into contact with uh, the Anthony's when they came over?

SB: Yes sir, I did.

GW: Uh, how did that go?

SB: Uhm, as normal, when most people come to pick up their vehicles from this location uhm, they're not in the best of moods.

GW: (Laughing.) They're not happy that their car is here?

SB: Uhm, their car's been impounded. It's normally going to cost them a couple of hundred bucks, if not more, to get it back, especially one that's been here for two weeks as this one had. Uhm, and so they're not normally, people are not normally in the best of moods. The Anthony's were no exception to that. Uhm, Mrs. Anthony was the one if I remember right, was the one that came to the window first and approached uhm, the girl here that works in the office, Nicole (spelling), who uh, she gave her the information that she needed to retrieve the vehicle, the cost and everything. Uh, Mrs. Anthony was uhm, certainly not in the best of moods.

GW: Okay.

SB: Uhm, which is understandable. Obviously at this point in time we had no idea who she, she was just a customer. We had no idea it was anything else that could have been, you know, influencing her, her attitude I guess.

GW: Fair enough.

SB: So uh, uhm, she wanted to know why the bill was so expensive and why it took eleven days to notify her that we had the car.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: And I explained to her that per Florida Statutes uhm, on the fourth day that the vehicle is here we're required by law to send out a certified letter to the registered owner of the vehicle. Uhm, we have the information of who the vehicle belongs to and, and uh, our computer system uhm, automatically generates those letters and they're sent out you know, with our mail, certified mail, as this one was. And however four days from the date the vehicle came in would have been on July the Fourth.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, it puts a day in it there. And I explained to her that you know, the, the Post Office is out of our control. Looking at the calendar we figured out that due to the July the Fourth holiday, and then the weekend, the upcoming weekend uhm, was the reason that the letter took so long to get to her.

GW: Okay.

SB: We mailed it out as requested. And once I'd explained that to her she understood. I mean she was like, "Okay, I, I, I understand and I appreciate it." She was still agitated def... very definitely.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, and there was some definite uhm, bickering I would call it between the two of them.

GW: Between her and Mr. Anthony?

SB: Between her and Mr., uh, Mr. Anthony, yeah (affirmative). Uhm, and, and purely in reference to the car and nothing else. You know, the, uhm, it went back and forth for a couple of minutes. Uh, but at that point they, uh, she asked me if I could give her a discount and I said, "I'm sorry ma'am I'm not at liberty to do that. You know it's, unfortunately this is a business. It's not a particularly pleasant job sometimes, but it is a business that you know, that you're in a business to make money and we don't give discounts."

GW: Right. (Chuckles.)

SB: (Laughs.) Uhm, at that point they paid the bill and uh...

GW: They paid in cash?

SB: Yeah (affirmative). Yeah (affirmative), they paid in cash because that's our, those are our required form of payment for impounded vehicles. We don't accept anything else.

GW: Okay.

SB: Uhm, and uh, at that point she uh, I said, "Okay, I'll," uhm, "do you have," I asked them if they had the keys and he said, "Yes, I have the keys." And I said, "Okay, no problem. I'll uh, I'll come around and, and get you." Uhm, the car had been here for two weeks. Uhm, I, as my, one of my jobs here is uh, you know I maintain the yard and make sure all the vehicles are, are correct and were parked where they're supposed to be. We have a procedure to go through. And I had been around that car a couple of times while it was here.

GW: Okay.

SB: A car sits here for two weeks I start paying a little bit of attention to it. I'm curious as to maybe why it was here for two weeks. You know, is it a piece of junk"? You know, pull the sheet. Why was it towed? I knew this was a removal. Uhm, I had noticed uhm, a smell emanating around the car uhm, on

one occasion. I didn't really think anything of it. We get cars in here with garbage in them, fish in them, all, all the time.

GW: Right.

SB: All the time. It, it's, it's fairly common uhm, to have...

GW: So you get stuff out of (unintelligible) coming home from the store and you got milk and...

SB: Exactly.

GW: ...eggs and things in your car.

SB: Exactly.

GW: And you're...

SB: Exactly.

GW: You go to jail...

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: ...and your car sits...

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: ...in the lot for a while...

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: ...and...

SB: Yup (affirmative).

GW: ...it tends to...

SB: Exactly.

GW: ...create an (inaudible) odor?

SB: The worst ones are the ones that leave the restaurants at night with that piece of steak in the doggie bag, or the piece of fish in the doggie bag and they put it under the seat and they get a DUI or whatever, and then four days later they come and pick up their car and it's rancid.

GW: Right.

SB: Yeah (affirmative). So I didn't think anything of it. Uhm, when I took Mr. George back uh, to get the vehicle, uhm, he opened the car of the driver's side door. I walked around to the driver's side with him

and he put the key in and opened the driver's side door. And when he did the, the, the smell was pungent. I mean it was, it knocked me back. It knocked me back. Whilst we were going out to the car uhm, he was conversing with me and saying, "Hey, I'm sorry," blah, blah, blah. "You know I, I'm sorry. I apologize. We'll probably get divorced over this." The daughter is telling us crap, a bunch of lies. And I really didn't pay a great deal of attention to it.

GW: Right, because it's the same banter you get...

SB: The same banter I...

GW: ...most of the time.

SB: ...get day in, day out, you know. Uhm, but I sympathized with him. I said, "I'm sorry of your situation." I'm, you know, I assumed that it was just a domestic issue that they were having. And again, I didn't really you know, and he said uh, "I just, I just need to see my granddaughter. You know my grand, you know she won't let us to see our granddaughter," blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, and this, that and the other thing. And again, I said, "I'm sorry for your situation sir. You know I'm sorry your car got impounded but this is what it is." You know, and, and. An then when he opened the car door and that stench come out, by, like my heart dropped because he was, all of a sudden he was, he'd been telling me about his granddaughter missing.

GW: Right.

SB: There was a car seat in the car. I knew there was a car seat in the car. It'd been there since it came in because uh, you know I'd looked through the window of the car and there was a car seat.

GW: Was it the full size seat or like a booster seat?

SB: No, it was a full size seat.

GW: Okay.

SB: Yeah (affirmative). It was probably a full size car seat. Yeah (affirmative). I don't remember if there was anything in the car seat, but it was definitely in the, it was in the back, where you would have a car seat if you uh, if you were, uh, you, behind the passenger seat. Most people...

GW: So you could see it...

SB: So you can...

GW: ...in the mirror?

SB: Yeah (affirmative), they can see, look in the mirror or over your shoulder and see it. So uh, and I said, "Well here, let me, give me the keys and we'll open the trunk up and there's, there's probably something really garbage in here or whatever." So at that point he's like, "Yeah (affirmative)." And uh, we open the trunk up and there was flies and stuff and a real bad smell like oh, my God. And, and in the back of my head I'm going that isn't rotten garbage. You know I know what rotten garbage smells like.

That doesn't smell like rotten garbage to me. Uhm, we do have, well actually we did have a car in the yard at the same time that this car was here down the other end of our yard that uh, a guy had committed suicide in.

GW: Oh.

SB: Uhm, and stayed in the car after he committed suicide for five days.

GW: Oh, my.

SB: A very similar odor.

GW: Okay.

SB: And that's when I went ah. And I took the garbage bag and I said, "Look," and it was very light. I re...I remember reaching in and I, and I grabbed it and pulled it back. And uhm, I said, "Let's just make sure it's garbage in here." And we opened the top of the bag up. He stood right next to me and I opened the top of the bag up and we looked inside. And (unintelligible) it was, there was many papers and stuff on top. Uhm, I think the bag, I, I think I remember seeing a pizza box, but I'm not sure.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: That may be because I've heard it on the television. I can't, I wouldn't swear that I saw a pizza box in there. But in my mind I'm thinking maybe I did.

GW: Alright.

SB: Again, at this point I'm still really not paying a tremendous amount of attention to it because I'm, it doesn't occur to me there might be something else going on here.

GW: Right.

SB: And you know, so now we look in and, and I'm, I said, and it, it really didn't weigh very much. It was a very light bag. And I said, "Well here, I'll get rid of this for you." And uh, I took the bag and I walked across the front of the car. I mean I have a fence between the car where the car is and where our dumpster is, and I threw it over the fence...

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: ...with my left hand. But I'm right handed, so it was just an easy, just a quick job.

GW: Right.

SB: And then, and anyway, I went back to the car with him and the car wouldn't start. And I looked, he was sitting in the car and I looked in the car and the gas gauge was on empty. I said, "Oh, it's out of gas." And he said, "Okay." He said, "Well, I brought gas with me." Okay. That's kind of unusual.

GW: So it seemed like he already knew it was out of gas?

SB: That was what I thought too because it's kind of unusual that you would carry gas around with you, but some people do.

GW: Yeah (affirmative)...

SB: Hey, if you...

GW: ...it's four dollars a gallon now and...

SB: Well yeah (affirmative), but plus the uh, the car was abandoned. Maybe, maybe it was abandoned because it was out of gas. I remember saying to him, I said, "You know we tow for all the Amscots." We have a contract with Amscot and we do all the removals for all the Amscots. We have signs at them all. That's a lot. And we do very, very, very few removals. This is the first one for this yard I believe.

GW: Right.

SB: And I said to him, I said, "You know that tells me that they are probably pretty lenient. That car was not just there a couple hours." I said, "For, for as few of calls as we do uh, for them, for the amount of places that they have, I would have to say that they're pretty lenient with, with people leaving cars there." It's Amscot.

GW: Right.

SB: People who go to Amscot don't have a lot of money. You're there for a reason.

GW: Right.

SB: You know you're ei...uh, you're either getting a money order, or you, you, you're...

GW: You need cash, yeah (affirmative).

SB: ...cashing, you need cash, you know. And it was odd to me, it seemed really odd to me that it was parked at Amscot, in a parking stall, but it was out of gas. I just didn't, I just, uh, I went, "That's weird."

GW: Right.

SB: You run out of gas on the side of the road. You don't run out of gas sitting in a parking stall.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, but again, I just, I didn't think anything of it. And when I told him this, when I said, I said uh, you know, the uh, about the Amscots being lenient and what-have-you he said, he said, "Yeah (affirmative), I called them and they said it had been there for three days." Well I hadn't told him it was at an Amscot. I don't know how he knew it was at an Amscot.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: I don't know that our letter says it's at an Amscot. I think it just gives an address, but I might be wrong.

GW: Right.

SB: But he told me when he called them it had been there, they told him it had been there for three days.

GW: Okay.

SB: So anyway, we, he, we, I took him back to his car, walked him back there, and again, he was still talking about his daughter telling lies and blah, blah, blah, and I kept sympathizing with him. And then he got his gas can and we walked back to the car a second time. And it was a small, round, very battered gas can. An old, metal one.

GW: Right.

SB: All the paint was chipped off of it. It was you know, kind of like my dad had for the lawnmower. Kind of, you know (unintelligible)...

GW: It looked like it's had some good use with it?

SB: It's been around. Yeah (affirmative), it's been around, you know. And the guy was super nice. I mean he was super. He, he, you know, he was just very, he was distraught. He, he apologized about his wife's behavior again. I said, "I totally understand dude." I said, "You know it's, we get it all the time. It's no big deal. Anyway, he put the gas in the car and it fired right up." And uh, I escorted him out of the yard and uh, he drove his car out and uh, uh, yeah (affirmative) he went, as he came by I saw him again as he came by me he, again he said, "You know, thank you. I'm sorry." I said, "Yeah (affirmative), no problem. No problem. Have a good day now." And uh, they conversed out here for a couple minutes, got in the car and drove away. And I went and picked up the garbage bag now...

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: ...and brought the garbage bag back and threw it in the dumpster. Uhm...

GW: So tell me this. Well what time of day was it when they came? Was it night time, daytime?

SB: It's, it should say. Well it was in the middle of the day. It was in the middle of the day. It will say, uh, right here, [REDACTED]

GW: Okay.

SB: That's the time of release. So yeah (affirmative), in the middle of the day (unintelligible).

GW: Okay. Uhm, when you guys get to the car and, and you open it up and the smell comes out, does he say anything?

SB: (Sighs.) I think he reacted, but it uh, he didn't, he didn't say anything that stuck in my mind.

GW: Okay. Did you say anything.

SB: "Poof, that's rotten."

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: I was kind of half expecting it to smell bad because I had already observed an odor around it...

GW: Right.

SB: ...the couple of days earlier when I'd been out in the yard doing my rounds and checking on it. Uhm, but until we opened the car it didn't have that...

GW: It wasn't...

SB: ...deceased smell.

GW: It wasn't that bad?

SB: It wasn't like that car that was down here that the guy offed (sic) himself in that smelled very similar.

GW: Okay. Now tell me this. On a scale of one to ten, ten being the worst thing you've ever smelled in your life, where would you put the smell that came out of that car?

SB: About a seven.

GW: Okay.

SB: But I've seen a lot of cars with dead people in it too. I've, you know I've been around it. I've been in this job for twenty some years so I've been around it quite a bit.

GW: Right. Now, uhm, in relation to the car with the guy that committed suicide, do you, do you remember how he committed suicide?

SB: No. I, I, he just, he was he was found dead in the car. It was at a Wal-Mart. It was a, it was probably not long ago.

GW: Okay.

SB: Uhm, probably the beginning of the year.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: We've had the car here for quite a while. It's gone now. We got a certificate of destruction and got rid of it. Uhm...

GW: And that one smelled pretty bad?

SB: It was awful, oh, it I had to move it out of the yard. It would, we had it up here in the barn in here and uh, you could smell it in here. They did the investigation on it and I took it out of the building and I took it out of the yard, out of our impound area and put it in our outside impound area...

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: ...away from everything. Uhm, and then it got, the smell got better with time. I left the doors open on a few, for a few days uhm...

GW: Let it air out?

SB: Let the air (unintelligible) uh, and then closed the doors. And it got to the point where you couldn't smell the, like unless you were right up against it you couldn't smell it anymore uhm, until you opened the car.

GW: Okay.

SB: And when you opened the car then it was pretty bad. But...

GW: Comparison. The car where the guy was found in it after what, five days?

SB: Yeah(affirmative).

GW: Versus uhm, the Anthony's car...

SB: Uhm, the, the, the other one was way worse.

GW: Okay.

SB: The one with the, the, the, the guy that was in it for five days was way worse.

GW: Was way worse?

SB: Way worse, yeah (affirmative).

GW: How similar were the smells?

SB: Man, if I was, when I opened the, the Anthony's car up that was when it was a similar kind of odor.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: Similar. You know I'm, I mean I, I'm, I'm no nose test...

GW: (Laughs.)

SB: ...you know (laughs). But it was definitely, it was definitely, it was riper than ripe food.

GW: Okay.

SB: You know, it, it, it's to me (unintelligible).

GW: Now you stood next to dumpsters before?

SB: Yes.

GW: You know you're, you, you throw trash in dumpsters.

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: How close was to a dumpster smell was...

SB: Uhm...

GW: ...the Anthony's car?

SB: ...not, not really, not really a similar smell. Uh, and, but again, you know maggots and what-have-you, I guess I assume that every garbage smells differently.

GW: Right.

SB: I've had rotten fish here in cars under the seats. I've had steaks left under the seats and they smell totally different. A piece of rotten steak that's all maggot infested smells way different than a piece of rotten fish.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, I do remember saying to uh, uhm, one of my employees when I came back (unintelligible) girl I said, "You know he was telling me on the Mr., the, the guy was telling on the way over there about his granddaughter missing and I opened the car door and there was a stench." And I said, and I said, "And it's just like a flash went through my mind and I went oh, my God, you know, she's in the trunk kind of thing."

GW: Right.

SB: But it didn't, I, I really genuinely, it was, it was just like one of those things, it's a natural reaction. You got to think now, you know, if someone says well my granddaughter's missing and then you open the car up and it smells really bad, you know. But I didn't, uh, they left and I didn't think anymore of it. I picked the garbage up and threw it in the dumpster. I didn't think anymore of it.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: And uh, and then later on that evening our company, because we tow for Orange County Sheriff's, was called by Orange County Sheriff's to come and pick up the Anthony's car and take it to Crime Scene.

GW: And you were like, wait a minute...

SB: Well I didn't know.

GW: ...we just had the car.

SB: I didn't know. I, right, I didn't know at the time but my uhm, (sighs), my driver uh, that went to pick it up called me and said, "Hey that car that we released today uhm, that, that you were telling Nicole about with the smell in it, uhm, was that a white Pontiac?:" And I said, "Yeah (affirmative), why?" And he said, "Well I'm picking it up right now." (Sound of cellular phone beeping.) Excuse me a second.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: (Speaking into cellular phone to an unknown person.) Standby. Uhm, let me call you back in a minute. Let me. (Resumes speaking with Detective White.) Uhm, and then I said, "Why?" and he said, "Well I'm picking it up and taking it to uh, the Crime Lab.' And I went, "Oh, that's kind of weird."

GW: So what do you start thinking?

SB: Nothing at that point still. Uh, it didn't, nothing at that point.

GW: Just that it was just kind of weird?

SB: Yeah (affirmative), I thought it was weird. Uhm, but I I'm like, you know, (unintelligible), I'm like, "Well that's weird." Because they were talking the whole time that their granddaughter was missing, or they haven't seen her. Sure there's a lot of people that say they're missing. You know I mean missing means maybe that the, maybe, maybe you pissed your kid off and she doesn't want you to see the, you know what I'm saying?

GW: Right.

SB: It wasn't until the morning, the following morning when I got up and uh, I was, I got up at six-ish and put, and turned the news on and there it is all over the news. And there's the Anthony's that came to pick up the car, on the couch being interviewed.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: I'm like, crap. Oh, crap.

GW: Yeah (affirmative).

SB: Garbage bag. Dumpster. Smelling Car. And now all of a sudden everything just goes in my brain like oh, my God what's, you know?

GW: So now the computer in your brain is running?

SB: Yeah (affirmative), now I put, now I put it all together. Until that point it was just a few pieces that there were floating around. Now it's like oh, shit. So I cannot, I was, I haven't even gotten dressed. I was in my pj's and I threw my flip-flops on and I ran out of the house and came out to the dumpster.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: And I didn't remember what day the car was picked up. This was Thursday morning. And I didn't remember if the car was picked up Monday or Tuesday. Our garbage day used to be Tuesday and then they moved it to Monday. I opened the dumpster up. There was some, there's quite a lot of garbage in there as we normally accumulate up. Almost a week's worth and I went, "Oh, good the garbage hasn't been picked up." So I start going through the dumpster. I couldn't find the bag.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: I couldn't find the bag. I'm like the garbage must have been picked up and then we just refilled it and I didn't know that we got that much garbage in a couple days.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, at that point I called the Sheriff's Department and I told them. And I said, "Listen, I, I, * I called and talked to Dispatch and I, because they know who I am you know because we'll, we talk to Dispatch all the time with our business here. And uh, and eventually she had a, a couple of different call me. Uhm, Detective Melich...

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: ...called me and like somebody else called me. And I told him the story about the father picking up the car and blah, blah, blah, and I said, "But I can't find the garbage bag. Excuse me. I said. "I don't think the garbage has been emptied but I can't find the bag."

GW: Right.

SB: And...

GW: But you didn't climb in?

SB: Oh...

GW: You just, you were looking from the outside?

SB: No, I climbed, I climbed, I went right in. I was like, like let, like I was in the bottom like this picking, going through it all.

GW: Oh, my goodness.

SB: Oh, I wanted to find the bag.

GW: Right.

SB: Because I think that could have been important. So at that point now I'm thinking well this is important now. You know this is obviously the, the it was obviously the, the it was obviously more than just my daughter's not showing me, not bringing my granddaughter around.

GW: Right.

SB: If they feel compelled enough to call the police department now there's obviously something more to it.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, so anyway I, so I told uhm, Detective Melich on the phone the whole thing. Uhm, maybe not as much detail as I just gave you. And I said, "But I can't find the garbage bag." And he said, "That's okay," and said, "I have it." And, "What do you mean you have it?" And he said, "I have the garbage bag." I said, "How do you know about the garbage bag and how did you get it back?" He said, "We came to your yard last night and your night driver's let us in and we took the garbage bag out of your dumpster and took it away." And I said, "Okay." And he said, and then he told me that they'd interviewed Mr. George and he had told him, Mr. Anthony, sorry, George Anthony. And he had told Detective Melich the whole thing about the garbage bag and pretty much all I did was corroborate his story of what he was...

GW: So, so how'd you feel as you're standing there in filth, knowing that the bag was already gone? Did you feel better that, that the bag was, had been recovered?

SB: Uh, uh yeah (affirmative). Oh, I was glad, I was glad that somebody was already on it and you know that, and that you know, obviously it was being handled.

GW: How long of a shower did you take afterwards?

SB: (Laughs.)

GW: (Laughs.)

SB: Yeah (affirmative) (laughing).

GW: (Laughing.) That might have been a sit down bath one, huh?

SB: Yeah (affirmative). Yeah (affirmative), fortunately we don't do, we don't generate a tremendous amount of really bad garbage here, but yeah (affirmative), it's a...

GW: What, what was different about the bag that, that stood out in your head...

SB: Uh...

GW: ...that you thought you'd be able to find that one bag?

SB: Oh, because it was a white, it was a white garbage bag and uh, it had yellow uhm, handles on it I believe. If I remember right it had yellow handles on it.

GW: The little draw, the drawstring?

SB: Yeah (affirmative). Yeah (affirmative). And my garbage bags that we have here we use black ones and all ones with red handles in it. And I just, I remember the bag, okay?

GW: So it, that...

SB: (Unintelligible)...

GW: ...that bag stuck out in your head?

SB: Yeah (affirmative), it, it would have done. I'd have seen, I'd have recognized it in the, in the dumpster, which was mostly black garbage bags.

GW: Right.

SB: I would have spotted it, and then the flies would have probably given it away too.

GW: Well that too?

SB: Yeah (affirmative). So I figured I had a pretty good shot of finding it, you know?

GW: Okay. So uh, so while the car's here, and let me just summarize. Make sure...

SB: Uh-hum (affirmative).

GW: ...I got it right. Uhm, the car gets towed in and it's in the lot from uh, from the Amscot.

SB: Uh-hum (affirmative).

GW: And uh, being the, the uh, facilities manager, you're out and about all day...

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: ...walking.

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: And every time you walk by the car you can smell something coming from the car?

SB: Uh, I only really went by it once like close up and like peered through the window and looked inside the car.

GW: Because it's been here for a while and...

SB: It's...

GW: ...cars aren't...

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: ...normally here for that long?

SB: Uh, yeah (affirmative), we get, we have such a high turnover of vehicle because we do all the DUIs for this sector for Orange County, all the drug busts, everything, and...

GW: Then people really come back and get their cars?

SB: Oh, yeah (affirmative). Oh, yeah (affirmative). Yeah (affirmative), we do, we do a lot of releases, yeah (affirmative).

GW: So when you see a car that doesn't look like it's been crashed up too bad or anything else...

SB: Yeah (affirmative), it was in pretty good shape. You know and at that point, well and see what we take, uh, we take ownership of the vehicles through our legal li...our lien process after the vehicle has been here for thirty-seven days...

GW: Right.

SB: ...we either get a certificate of destruction on it or we'll, you know we'll take ownership of it, you know, and to recoup our, some of our losses.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, it's, it's a, you know, we it's a leg...a legal process that we go through. And uh, cars that are in pretty good shape, that'll look pretty decent, I kind of keep my eye on just to see how long you know, you wouldn't believe the stuff that people have left. I mean, you know...

GW: Right.

SB: ...and, and that car, although it's a, an older Pontiac, it was in pretty good shape.

GW: Right.

SB: You know it's a sharp, you know, in decent shape. So I thought that was, so at that point after about, probably after about a week or so that it was here, I couldn't tell you exactly what, how long, but it would have been about a week or so.

GW: So you walk up, look in the window, well why is this car still here?

SB: Yeah (affirmative), I'm thinking, I'm looking at it, thinking uh, yeah (affirmative), maybe, maybe, maybe there's something wrong with it. Maybe the motor blew up.

GW: Right.

SB: You know maybe they got their money or...

GW: But it's no different than if it had been a, a brand new black Mercedes Benz that's been here a week just...

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: You, you started thinking what's wrong with this picture?

SB: Not really what's wrong with the picture. No, because especially with a private property removal the...

GW: It's not like it was towed by the police and...

SB: Right.

GW: ...this person's in jail?

SB: Yeah (affirmative).

GW: It's...

SB: A private property removal, (sighs), the, a lot of the times they don't get picked up because they've normally abandoned them because there's something wrong with them.

GW: There's a reason why it was left there?

SB: There's a reason why. You know the car could look really nice on the outside and it could have a blown motor.

GW: Right.

SB: They could have, they could have coasted into the Amscot. I'm familiar with where that Amscot is. I don't know the layout of it particularly well, but I know where it is. Uh, and they could have pulled in off of 50. They could have blown the engine up. Somebody could have pushed her in there, towed it in there on a rope.

GW: Right.

SB: Hey, can I leave my car here? I got to go get a tow truck, and then not come back for it.

GW: Never come back?

SB: Yes. It happens all the time.

GW: Right.

SB: So I, I didn't think anything other than, I didn't think anything was suspicious when the car was here at all.

GW: Okay.

SB: Not even with a smell in it, uh, just observing it in the yard. It was literally about five seconds when he opened the car door up after he'd been telling that his daughter was lying and his granddaughter was

missing and blah, blah, blah, and her car seat was in the car, and he opened the door when that was there I went, "Oh, shit."

GW: Yeah (affirmative)

SB: And uh, that was the first time that I really thought anything could have hooky.

GW: And when the door opens up you, you remember saying...

SB: Oh, yeah (affirmative). Yeah (affirmative), I knew it was, it was, yeah (affirmative), I knew...

GW: You, you said, "That's pretty rotten?"

SB: Yeah (affirmative), "That's pretty rotten," something like that. Something on those lines, yeah (affirmative), uh...

GW: And he said, did he say anything in reply?

SB: (Sound of cellular phone beeping.) Uh...

UF: (Inaudible).

SB: Not, not that I remember specifically, no. (Speaking into cellular phone to unknown female.) Hey, I'm in a meeting right now. Uh, can I call you back in a minute? (Speaking to Detective White.) Sorry.

GW: Okay.

UF: I've been calling (inaudible).

SB: (Speaking again into cellular phone to unknown female.) Let me call you back in a minute hon. (Resumes speaking with Detective White.)

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

SB: I really don't. I thought about this after I talked to Detective Melich on the phone. I really don't. I mean you, you've got the car. You got the garbage bag.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: Everything in the car is as it was when it was here unless they took something out after. Because you remember they drove it home.

GW: Right.

SB: Yeah (affirmative), he, they drove it out of here. Seeing them on the news and seeing, and, and, and watching their reaction on TV, I don't know if you're following it. Oh, you know we all have uh, you know.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: Because we're somewhat connected to it. Uhm, they don't seem any different than they did when they were here.

GW: Okay.

SB: Uhm, she was definitely, and I don't know want to use the word aggressive is wrong, she was definitely the more vocal of the two of them.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, now knowing what she's been going through for the last month I totally understand why she was off, you know, why she was a little agitated when she came.

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: You know not only has she got to go through all this crap, she said something about uh, she said something about Jacksonville, I remember one con...one thing she said was, "We thought the car was in Jacksonville," or something like that. I wouldn't swear to that. I wouldn't, but it was, she said something to that effect that either they were in Jacksonville or they thought the car was in Jacksonville or something on those lines. Again, I don't pay a lot of attention to it. We hear it day in/day out.

GW: Right.

SB: Uhm, but now, you know now seeing, seeing them as much as I have on, you know, on the, on, on the media, they're as they were when they were here. He's much more the, he was much more the quieter one of the two uhm, (inaudible).

GW: Kind of in the background?

SB: Y...yes, but not, I wouldn't say kind of like sheltered in the background. Not kind of like timidly in the background. Just a, a, a quieter personality I think.

GW: Okay.

SB: But he was, he was, he was charming. He was very apologetic. He was very upset. You know you could tell in his demeanor that he was upset...

GW: Uh-hum (affirmative).

SB: ...uhm, that his daughter had been lying to him and blah, blah, blah and, and uh, you could tell they'd been rowing. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony they've been rowing, bickering, whatever. You could just tell. You, you, but uh, again, their car got impounded and they uh, you know they, they've got a two, three hundred dollar bill, whatever it is to pay and I'd have been pissed off too, you know, so.

GW: Well I, I don't know why you wouldn't be.

SB: So other than that I don't, I really don't have, and I've thought about it and thought about it and thought about it to see if there's anything I can come up with extra, but I wish, I mean, hindsight oh, you wish you'd pay more attention to something, but why would you?

GW: Well...

SB: I get...

GW: Uh...

SB: ...a hundred, a hundred and something cars a month through here. Why would I pay any more attention?

GW: Obviously you, you know, believe it or not you've paid a ton attention. You've, you know the, the mind is an important thing and a lot of times we, we don't give the mind the credit that it deserves. But I mean look at the information that you processed, you know that you didn't know you were processing.

SB: Well unfortunately we live in a society like that, don't we?

GW: Yeah (affirmative).

SB: Uhm, and Orlando is.

GW: It's getting rough.

SB: Yes.

GW: Alright.

SB: Yeah (affirmative), it is.

GW: Raise your right hand for me. Do you swear that the information you provided is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge?

SB: I do.

GW: Alrighty. Okay, well it is still uh, July 24, 2008. It's 9:48 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