

Idaho state police Investigation Sheriff Bob Norris interview

Case #2132-16

February 3, 2021 at 15:09 hours

Transcript

0:00

all right this is corporal Michelle

0:01

Beach and detective Leslie Layman case

0:04

number 21

0:06

3216 uh it's February 3rd at 159 hours

0:12

all right so I I honestly just have very

0:15

few short questions obviously we're

0:17

talking about uh Deputy he's a deputy

0:20

right he's not detective okay so first

0:23

off can you tell me when he called you

0:25

yes so it was December 23rd a little bit

0:29

after five

0:30

um I had my two daughters my and I think

0:35

this is it's important for context of

0:38

right you know so I have my two

0:40

daughters my son and my wife we were in

0:41

the car and he calls me and uh you know

0:45

it's two days before Christmas and I

0:47

pick up the phone and he goes man he

0:50

goes dude I just I just total my car and

0:54

I was like oh you me tell me you lived

0:56

here all your life in this California

0:58

that just comes up here a few years ago

1:00

can drive and so it's kind of a jovial

1:02

you know I was kind of um harassing him

1:06

that he can't drive sure it was kind of

1:08

like I can't believe you know you did

1:10

this and boom boom boom and I said hey

1:12

honey uh Jason he crashed his car and he

1:16

doesn't know how to drive and she may

1:18

have had some comments and and then uh

1:22

the conversation progressed and it got

1:26

to the point where I said

1:27

well something triggered based on some

1:31

conversation or statement that he said

1:34

that it may have happened more recent

1:35

than just like a few hours ago right so

1:38

I said well when did this happen he goes

1:40

well it's it's just happened just just

1:42

now I go what are you talking about

1:44

right now he goes yeah he goes it just

1:46

happened right now I go bro I go you

1:48

need to get off the phone and if you're

1:51

hurt or anybody else is hurt you need to

1:53

make sure that medical attention is

1:56

coming to your location I go number two

1:59

and then he said well nobody's hurt

2:00

nobody's hurt I said well number two you

2:02

need to call dispatch because if

2:03

somebody's rolling code 3 to your

2:05

location and hurts themselves um that's

2:09

not that's not good right you know so I

2:12

said you need to get out phone and and

2:14

do those things and so boom he hangs up

2:19

we were going axe throwing

2:22

so we we had kind of and I don't really

2:24

know specifically you know but I know

2:26

that the first phone call was on the way

2:29

okay there and then it may have been in

2:30

the parking lot where we finished and

2:33

then we went my family went and I went

2:35

in to do the axe throwing right and then

2:38

a few minutes later he calls me

2:42

again and uh he called you twice yeah

2:45

okay this time it gets a little

2:48

more inquisitive where I'm now I'm

2:51

feel feeling a little bit more

2:52

uncomfortable what how long was the

2:55

between the first one the second

2:56

probably five six minutes okay so not

2:59

long yeah yeah um so now at this point

3:03

in

3:04

time the the questioning you know he

3:06

goes yeah he goes I I'm I'm really in

3:08

some grease here and I'm not I'm kind of

3:11

summarizing because as far as what exact

3:15

terms he

3:16

used first I mean this happened like two

3:18

months ago yeah well and then we're in a

3:20

loud car you know and then we go into

3:23

this ax throwing and things are you know

3:26

hitting the the boards I don't know if

3:28

you've ever been there but things are

3:29

hitting

3:30

and it's not very quiet in there you

3:32

know so I'm I'm thinking okay but but I

3:35

can tell his line of questioning he's wa

3:36

what should I do

3:39

um

3:40

um you know I I don't think anybody saw

3:43

me driving and I said I go Jason I go

3:49

regardless of what happens to you

3:51

criminally whether somebody puts you

3:53

behind the wheel or not you're you're

3:55

going to be held accountable

3:57

administratively for this event and then

4:00

well I you know I and he the question

4:03

was just a little bit different and um

4:07

so I and and some of the questions were

4:10

okay what did you hit you know you know

4:13

what did you hit what you didn't hit and

4:15

he kept making reference he was less

4:16

than two blocks from

4:18

home and I'm and I'm and I don't know

4:20

you know he just says well I'm less than

4:22

two blocks from home I'm less than two

4:23

blocks from home and then I'm getting to

4:26

the point in the conversation that he's

4:29

probably been drinking mhm um and uh I

4:34

don't know what he hit and what he

4:35

didn't hit and at some point in time I

4:37

said Jason I go you're asking me these

4:39

questions but I'm not there I wasn't out

4:43

drinking with you I wasn't with you when

4:45

this happened I don't know these things

4:47

I go you're going to have to make that

4:49

evaluation assessment on yourself mhm I

4:52

said if you've called dispatch and they

4:55

said it's an hour ETA before somebody

4:56

gets there then go home if you're less

4:59

than two blocks away and tell them this

5:01

is your address if they're 5 minutes

5:03

away from from your location I would say

5:07

stay there but but I have no way to

5:09

gauge these things sure you know I mean

5:12

I uh I'm you know throwing axes picking

5:15

up the phone you know and uh but I'm and

5:18

I said I'm not in the best position to

5:21

be able to tell you what to do you're a

5:23

deputy sheriff you know the

5:26

responsibilities um and then you know

5:29

then I just uh you know we hung up and

5:32

then he called again I didn't answer the

5:33

phone the next time um and then I heard

5:37

that either ISP or one of our sergeants

5:41

was on scene so then I knew that you

5:43

know it was being handled or resolved

5:46

okay and and that was kind of you know

5:48

the gist of it right so he called you a

5:50

third time he didn't pick up the third

5:51

time yeah okay uh do you know what

5:55

number he called from do do your

5:56

deputies have work

5:58

phones oh yeah yeah okay did he call you

6:00

from a work phone or did he call you

6:02

from a personal phone and did he call

6:04

you personal he called my work okay but

6:08

uh let me I'm assuming it's his

6:22

personal I mean he C

6:29

sure if that's personal you know what I

6:31

mean I guess I could it's hard no it's

6:33

okay it's hard to tell you know on our

6:35

phones I can understand that uh did he

6:38

text you anything or did he just call no

6:41

no texting okay is it normal for him to

6:43

call you oh yeah yeah I mean well I

6:46

wouldn't say

6:48

well I don't know how your I don't know

6:50

how your it's not normal but uh

7:01

we're kind of doing modeling in here so

7:03

that's

7:07

why are you looking for the phone number

7:09

list

7:18

yeah and did he know that you were off

7:21

that day well I don't know if I'm ever

7:23

off but I mean that's fair but certainly

7:27

uh I am not in his chain of command for

7:31

any type of

7:33

notifications and nor was I with him at

7:36

any point in time did they what kind of

7:39

you know led me to believe that the

7:40

questions were just a little bit I

7:44

interpreted

7:47

that

7:48

he and I were drinking that day together

7:52

or something you know oh that's the way

7:53

he was talking yeah and I go how am I

7:55

why are you asking me for a advice on

7:58

and asking me questions I go I'm not

8:00

with you nor was I with you I don't know

8:03

what the circumstances of that incident

8:04

are I go I don't know if you in my head

8:07

I'm interpreting these things if you hit

8:10

what did you hit did you hit a person

8:11

not realize you hit a person um what was

8:14

your initial point of impact or was it

8:17

just a slide off and but I wasn't in a

8:20

position to get that evaluation right he

8:23

on the scene is the best person to do

8:24

that and do you know how long he's been

8:26

working with you guys oh about 25 years

8:28

sounds about right

8:30

okay yeah he's not a um he's not new a

8:34

you know 2-year employee that's for

8:49

sure that is his personal sale okay

8:54

thank

8:55

you um so was there so you said that his

9:00

line of was it his line of questioning

9:02

or was it how he was speaking that made

9:03

you believe that there was alcohol

9:05

involved in this um well he he said he

9:08

had two beers and of course

9:12

mhm right we've been doing J I mean is

9:15

that that's like the the school

9:17

everybody goes to

9:23

yeah you know he had two beers and he's

9:26

he's less than two blocks from his house

9:30

you know did he say he was in the

9:32

vehicle when he called you or did he say

9:33

exactly where he was when he called you

9:36

you know he may have but I okay yeah I'm

9:41

not uh either you know based on what was

9:44

going on around me or did I I did I ask

9:46

probably not I probably didn't even ask

9:48

because I kind of assumed during the

9:49

first phone call the vast majority was

9:52

the first phone call it was that it

9:54

happened earlier that day he you know

9:56

and dude I just total my truck you know

9:59

and and then you know that's how I went

10:01

on to that conversation but yeah I don't

10:03

think I asked okay okay that's fair and

10:06

did he did he sound like he was

10:08

intoxicated when you talked to him you

10:12

know I I believe that I could detect

10:17

some some slurred speech okay

10:21

um but like I said that first initial

10:23

phone call you know it was It was kind

10:26

of I was going to be on the phone for a

10:28

couple minutes I had other things I had

10:29

to to do and I really didn't give it

10:32

that assessment until I asked him hey

10:35

when did this happen all it's happening

10:36

right now get off the get off the phone

10:38

make sure anybody needs medical

10:40

attention and two call dispatch because

10:42

we don't want somebody getting HT okay

10:44

rolling to your code three okay at any

10:47

point during any of the conversation

10:49

with

10:50

him did you tell him well you did tell

10:53

him hey if you're going to go home then

10:54

call dispatch call dispatch say hey this

10:56

is where you're going to be but I don't

10:58

know you know what the ET of of anybody

11:00

else you know if it's going to be an

11:01

hour and you're pretty sure you didn't

11:04

hit anybody then yeah go ahead and tell

11:06

them you know but if they're going to be

11:08

there in 5 minutes then just stay there

11:10

and it was cold out that night too and

11:12

I'm not but I'm not you know I'm not the

11:13

one to to evaluate that for you know

11:16

it's like and finally that's how you

11:17

know I said hey it doesn't matter what

11:19

happens to you criminally you're still

11:21

going to be held

11:22

accountable administratively and I'm not

11:26

the best person to give you advice on

11:28

what to do because I'm not there nor was

11:31

I with you at any time during that day

11:34

correct all right um I I guess I those

11:38

are pretty much the things I need to

11:39

clarify that you told him you know call

11:41

dispatch um and if he were to go home

11:45

again he needed to call dispatch and let

11:47

them be aware of that uh and an

11:49

assessment that he would have to make

11:51

you know if it's hey you know what we're

11:52

swamped it's going to be an hour okay

11:54

yeah yeah it's a super minor crash but

11:56

if they're going to be there for 5

11:57

minutes in etn 5 then than just wait yes

12:00

that would be something he would have to

12:01

evaluate cuz right I totally agree with

12:04

that any questions you can think of

12:05

Leslie nothing all right that's all I

12:08

got all right thank you