TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF DEPUTY KETHLIN CUTCHER

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL YURI MELICH

CASE NUMBER – 08-74777

DECEMBER 19, 2008

YM – CORPORAL YURI MELICH

JA – SERGEANT JOHN ALLEN

KC – DEPUTY KETHLIN CUTCHER

JA: (Coughs.)

YM: The date right now is December 19, 2008. And the time right now is 0935 hours. I'm Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Also present is Sergeant John Allen. And also present is, please state your name?

KC: Kethlin Cutcher.

YM: Alright Kethlin, you understand this is being recorded?

KC: Yes, I do.

YM: Any objection to that?

KC: Nope (negative).

YM: Okay. Kethlin, we had uhm, asked you to come down today because we want some clarification on exactly, well if you could tell us, where uh, you had met the caller on the call that you came back here for on the 13th of August.

KC: Uh-hum (affirmative).

YM: And you walked out there with Sergeant Allen and uh, just tell me about where you think it happened and what you remember.

KC: Uhm, I know that it was from where we have the command post to the curb. So it was in a straight line.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KC: Uhm, a wooden area that have the big trees. It wasn't in the one that you can really go inside. So it was big trees. It was a grass area first, like in the, not real grass, but it was like (unintelligible).

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KC: Grass first, then we start having the trees and all the branches on the floor, on the ground. And then it had like a little hole.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KC: Uhm, kind of like a step down.

YM: Right.

KC: And then it was the bushes.

YM: Okay.

KC: And you can see that like it's a little, it's not a entrance, but you can see that, you know, you can go in.

YM: And like a little path?

KC: A little path, yes. Thank you.

YM: Was it something that he had to move all the stuff out, or could he just easily walk in and out?

KC: First when you go down you don't have to move anything around. But when you go a little bit in, yeah (affirmative), they had a bigger branch, bigger b…uh, branches.

YM: Okay. So he had to move stuff out of his way to get in and out? Do you remember? If you don't that's fine.

KC: When…no, I don't remember. When he, when he was coming out already he was in the area that you don't have to. Was a lot of branches on the floor; maybe four feet uh….

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KC: …no, this much.

YM: About three feet high?

KC: Three feet high. And then uhm, where he was coming out. So I don't know if he had to do anything when he went in.

YM: Okay.

KC: But he was coming out of the bushes when I got here.

YM: Oh, okay. So when you first arrived he was actually coming out?

KC: Yes, he was.

YM: Okay. And it….

KC: That's when I ask him.

YM: And it was a trail he was coming out of?

KC: No, it wasn't a, I don't know if it was a trail. The only thing, see, I paying attention, because he was already coming out of the bushes, the only attention I, I took was from where he was.

YM: Okay.

KC: That's why I remember the grass, the little step down.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KC: And then I know there was a little entry, but I don't know if it had a trail afterwards.

YM: Okay. John?

JA: Okay. Alright, uhm, and, and about how far back off the road was uh, Deputy Cain when you pulled up? Uh, I think outside when we, when we were walking down, before we went on tape you were, uh, you were trying to show me. We were walking one time….

KC: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JA: …just seeing if you couldn't remember where you guys were. And you indicated to me that he was a considerable distance back in the, when you first pulled up he was, he wasn't right by the road. He was off the road….

KC: No, he was….

JA: …for a distance.

KC: Yeah (affirmative), he was on the bushes already, after the grass area, after the little step down. He was already inside.

JA: He was in the bushes?

KC: Yes, he was….

JA: Okay.

KC: …in the bushes when I was coming out.

JA: Alright.

KC: He was coming out of the bushes.

JA: Alright, so uh, so you can say that, you can say that he wasn't just, he didn't just stand by the road. He actually, although prior to your arrival, he actually did go back into the bushes because you saw him coming out?

KC: Yes, he did.

JA: Okay.

YM: Did he tell you about what he found or if you saw anything?

KC: Yeah (affirmative), I ask him, "So what's going on?" Because he got here before me and he was already coming out of the scene….

JA: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KC: …where he was supposed to be. And he say, "Oh, no, it's nothing. It was just trash. It was a bunch of bags with trash."

JA: Okay.

KC: So, but that was….

JA: What did the, what did the, what did the caller, what did he say when uh, Deputy Cain said that it was a bag of trash?

KC: I don't remember. I just recall that he, he was upset and he, at least he look at me and told me again, "But she say she was close. She was very close."

JA: Alright.

KC: So, I, I don't know.

JA: Did he seem upset with y'all, or did he just seem upset generally?

KC: No. I think he was just, he was upset that we didn't find what he want us to find and that's how it sounded….

JA: Right. Right.

KC: …and his, his face expression.

JA: Alright. Okay. Did anybody ever take the guy back in there and say, show us the bag you're talking about? Do you remember?

KC: Not when I was present.

JA: Okay.

KC: I don't know if the, I don't know if someone did….

JA: Prior.

KC: ….when I wasn't here.

JA: Okay. Alrighty. Okay. Uhm, and, and well just for the record, when we walked down, do you believe that, and you're pretty sure it was uh, on this side of the, uh, the, the curb down there?

KC: Yes.

JA: But uh, you're not, you can't say for sure exactly where you, where, well where uh, Deputy Cain….

KC: It is, I'm sure it is from here to, yeah (affirmative), because the big trees, they just go so far.

JA: Right.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JA: Okay.

KC: So it has to be from here, where the big trees end.

JA: Okay.

KC: I don't know how many feet is from here. Uh….

JA: Okay.

KC: ….and like I say before….

YM: That's okay.

KC: …I'm really bad….

JA: Alright.

KC: …with measurements.

JA: That's fine. That's alright.

YM: And here, here is our, just because we're recording, here's our command post. It's parked right up against…..

JA: (Coughs.)

YM: …next to the uh, wooden fence.

KC: Yeah (affirmative), so it is from the wooden fence until where the end of the big trees go. So that's before the curve. I'm a….

YM: Okay.

KC: …hundred percent sure.

YM: Okay.

JA: Alright.

KC: Because we never made it to the curve.

YM: Okay.

JA: Alright.

YM: Do you remember a light post being nearby, or?

KC: No. The only thing I remember is that when after we talked to the caller we walked to the other side because….

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

KC: …before I thought was a uhm, I had an impression it was a pond. But walking now I can see that it is a fence, but it's not a pond. It's kind of like a, just a, a uh, vacant lot or something.

YM: Uh-hum (affirmative).

JA: Okay.

KC: But I remember that we went the other side. We walk and look around a little bit, just to making sure there was nothing there too, and then we left.

JA: Okay.

KC: So.

JA: Alright.

KC: But I'm a, a hundred percent sure that it is between the fence and where the big trees finish.

YM: Okay.

JA: Okay.

KC: Because I remember seeing the big trees.

JA: Alright.

YM: Fair enough.

JA: We sure appreciate you coming down. Can you raise your right hand? You swear and affirm that the statement is true, uh, that you made is true and correct?

KC: Yes, I do sir.

JA: Okay.

YM: Thank you very much.

KC: You're welcome.

End of recorded statement.

This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.

CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF