

Gordon, Stephen Unable to Redact

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Tuesday, April 12, 2016. The time, 8.05 a.m. Howdy, what's up, Mrs. Christie? Uh, this is Trooper Hardy with State Pro, how are you doing this morning? I'm doing well, how are you? Alright, uh, Detective Sims, I think it is I was supposed to ask for this morning. Alright, give me just a second.

Okay. Investigations, this is Heather. Uh, Detective Sims, are you in by any chance? He is in a meeting right now, can I try to help you with something? Can I take a message? Yeah, I was supposed to call him, we were supposed to do a phone interview with a guy this morning from the crash yesterday.

Okay, hold on just a second, who is this? This is Hardy, Trooper Hardy. Alright, hold on just a second, okay? Hey, we've got him in here, he's fixing to pick up, okay? Okay. Alright, just a second.

Alright. This is Dick Gordon. Mr. Gordon.

Yes, sir. This is Chuck Hardy with State Pro, how are you doing? I'm doing fine, sir. I'm doing fine.

Do you have your driver's license on you, Mike? Yes, I sure do. Alright, could you give me your full name as it shows on the license? This is Steven, S-T-E-P-H-E-N, Clyde Gordon, G-O-R-D-O-N. C-L-A-P? Yes.

And your date of birth, please? 3-14-69. And your Georgia driver's license number? 0-5-4-8-3-1-5-4-6. Alright.

And a telephone number you can be reached at? 9-1-2-7-1-3-6-9-2-1. And, let's see, you're at the Piedmont Police Department? I am. Alright.

I'm just going to read this to you. This is on my little sheet that I have to read out. My name is Chuck Hardy with Georgia State Patrol.

This statement that we are prepared to take is to be recorded for the purpose of voice identification. I will ask that all others present identify themselves at this time and state your affiliation. So, just give me your name and what we're talking about.

Steve Gordon, discussing an accident on April 11th in Bodea, Georgia. Anybody else in the room with you there? Lieutenant Jimmy Sims. Alright, if I could get him to tell me that.

Okay, you need him? Alright. Lieutenant Sims. I just needed to make sure when I was reviewing all of the coordinates that you were on the line too.

I'm not on the line, but I'm in the room. Okay, that's fine. That'll work.

Alright. Thank you. Alright.

I'm back, Steve Gordon. Alright. Basically, let's talk about where you were at yesterday and what you saw.

Okay. Where you were coming from and going to, that kind of thing. Alright.

You tell me how you want to have a statement written as far as what I witnessed and where I was coming from. I'd like to read it off of that. That would be the easiest for me to do.

And then I'm going to ask you some questions off of that too. That's fine. Alright.

You ready to go? Uh-huh. Alright. On April 11th of 2016, between 7.38 and 7.40 a.m., I was traveling westbound on U.S. Highway 292 just west of Simcoe Road.

There was a white Ford Fusion trailing me and had been since Claxton, Georgia. My speed of travel was between 50 to 57 miles per hour. In front of me was what appeared to be a Ford midsize sedan.

The sedan appeared to be five to six car lengths ahead. When the sedan reached about the midpoint of the Thigpen property, I noticed debris flying over the vehicle and the vehicle applying the brakes and its front end dipping. I then applied my brakes.

I first thought the vehicle had hit a small lawnmower trailer. In seconds, I realized it was a bicycle. I noticed the rear wheel of the bike still attached to the frame flying through the air.

It was bent inwards from a collision. The sedan came to a stop on the right-hand shoulder of the road. I was stopping and noticed on the right-hand shoulder of the road a male in his 40s, unconscious.

The male appeared to have on glasses, hat, jean jacket, and backpack. I came to a stop on the right-hand side shoulder of the road just in front of the sedan. I immediately pushed the red OnStar button for an emergency.

The advisor came on and I explained the emergency. I was transferred to Ashley, who contacted 911 and began to ask questions to assist the first responders. OnStar asked me to stay in the vehicle and on the line until first responders were on the scene.

I noticed the sedan's front bumper was damaged and missing the corner. The right front roof was damaged and the windshield appeared broken. The driver of the sedan appeared to be in his 30s and was wearing khakis and a dark polo-type shirt.

After several minutes, the first ambulance arrived and pulled behind the sedan and in front of the white Fusion. Through my rearview mirror, I saw the first responders place the male on the

stretcher and into the ambulance. A Vidalia police officer and a second ambulance approached from the eastbound lane.

The first and second ambulance left the scene. The police officer began to take photos. The sedan driver and the trailing Ford Fusion driver were on the shoulder of the road speaking.

I re-entered 292 West and continued to work. The first ambulance pulled in front of me. They had walked back to where the guy was at.

Several vehicles on the eastbound lane had pulled to the shoulder of the road and walked over to the incident. Did any of those men recognize my name? I did not. Let me ask you this.

When you were following the sedan, you said he was four or five car lengths ahead? At least five or six car lengths ahead. I was just west of where Simcoe... I'm real familiar with the property because we're in a building stage right now, so I've got a lot of knowledge on the property. So I was just west of Simcoe Road there, and he was up toward the big oak tree directly across from our property when I noticed all those debris.

Did you notice that he crossed the fog line at any time prior to that? I could not. It appeared that when the debris was coming over the vehicle, the vehicle was to the right-hand side of the road of the travel lane. I cannot say that he was in the shoulder of the road, but I know it was toward the right side of the road.

Not off onto the grass, but still on the pavement? Yes. Okay. Did you happen to see the bicycle prior to the incident? Did you ever see anybody riding it? I did not.

I could not see the bicycle before the debris started to come over the car. Once you described the guy pretty good, did you recognize the driver, know him? I did. I would probably know his silhouette, and I believe he's short, possibly red hair.

But I don't know that from looking through the rearview mirror, I could look at him in a line-up and say, yeah, that's the guy. I can tell you what his description and what he looks like. You've known him to travel.

You said you're pretty familiar with that road? Yes, I travel it daily. Do you notice people on their bicycles on a regular basis there? You know, not normally in that area. I am real cautious with that.

On 292 up toward the salvage yard, there's three Hispanics, and they ride their bike every day. But I have not noticed bicyclists in that stretch of the road over the year and a half I've been commuting that road. Okay.

Has anybody else contacted you about this? No one has contacted me personally. My principal at my company stated that an attorney was looking for me yesterday and suggested I didn't realize how severe this was until Paul contacted me yesterday. And so they said to come in and

talk to you guys.

Okay. All right. Well, I guess you said you had a written statement that's there at the police department? I do, yeah.

Okay. All right. Is there anything else you could think of that you might not have wrote down or I hadn't asked? No, sir.

Okay. But you think you were going about what speed? 50 to 57. You know, it pops back up to 55 just as you come into Vidalia.

The Fusion and I, we had to stop there at the Parkers. There's a Parkers gas station. We had to come to a complete stop and then start getting back up to speed.

And so I would say 50 to 57 in that range. And as I said, with being those car lengths back, the Fusion and I both had ample time to, you know, stop. And we weren't, like, right on the bumper of the guy.

Yeah. So. Okay.

All right. Well, I guess I can't think of anything else I need to ask you, but I got your phone number. You might hear from me again if that's okay.

Okay. That sounds like a plan. All right.

Well, I appreciate you talking to me. I need to talk to Kate today for just a second. Sure.

Hang on. Yeah. Jimmy, can you call him back? He's actually got something going on right this second.

Yeah, I'll call him back. All right. I'll let him know.

Good deal. Thank you. Bye-bye.

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