

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO & AUDIO RECORDING OF MAURICE LAGRONE:

BH: We're with Illinois State Police and Maurice Lagrone driver of a vehicle during an incident that occurred Tuesday evening about 7:45. Also with me today is Detective Rick Hawn from the DeWitt County Sheriff's Office and Inspector Tony Hosey, Illinois State Police Task Force 6. The purpose of the video and audio recording today is to document an actual walk through of the scene with the recall of the events as they happened by Maurice.

BH: Maurice, do we have your consent to both audio and video tape your statements as...

ML: Yes, sir.

TP: Also, present doing the video taping is Special Agent Troy Phillips, Illinois State Police and once again the date is September 5, 2003; time 1:02 p.m.

BH: Okay, Maurice, let's start at the initial entry down here to the access area by the boat ramp. You're coming down the road here is that correct?

ML: (Nods head)

BH: OK. When you came down the road what do you recall seeing down here in the area?

ML: Nothing at all, sir.

BH: How about any other vehicles?

ML: Nothing at all sir.

BH: Do you recall seeing a white car down here on the turnaround?

ML: No, I don't sir.

Ok, when you drove down here did you drive immediately down to the boat ramp or did you stop somewhere before parking there on the ramp?

ML: Uh, I drove to the ramp, to the boat ramp.

BH: I want you to walk over and show us the approximate position of the vehicle and how close to the water and also we're going to go over where the occupants in the vehicle were seated, OK? Maurice, what I'd like for you to show us, put yourself back in the driver's seat of the car, as you pull in I'd like for you to show me about where you were when sitting in the car and determine the approximate position of the car when it was parked.

ML: I, myself was sitting like this.

BH: So, if you're sitting here this is the front of the vehicle?

ML: Yeah

BH: Would have been here? Would have been farther back?

ML: Uh, farther back

Would it have been any closer to the water than we are right here?

ML: I'd say, give or take a couple of inches

BH: A couple of inches? Somewhere around here would approximately be the front of the car?

ML: Yes sir.

BH: OK. And Maurice, you're driving the vehicle, correct?

ML: Yes sir.

BH: And where is Amanda sitting at?

ML: Passenger seat.

BH: OK. How about the kids?

ML: Austin was behind me,

BH: OK

ML: Christopher was to his right.

BH: Would Christopher have been in the center seat of the car?

ML: Yes

BH: Ok. How about Kyleigh?

ML: Kyleigh was to the right

BH: Kyleigh was to the right, so Kyleigh was seated behind Amanda, Austin directly behind you and Christopher in the middle.

ML: Correct

BH: Ok. About how long, excuse me let's back up just a step. You parked here, tell me what happened.

ML: We got out of the car, uh, we played over here for a minute, this ramp here, we played for a minute

BH: Could you speak up just a little bit, Maurice?

ML: We played on this ramp here for a minute, uh, then we proceeded to come over here, play on the rocks by the water.

BH: About what time was this, that you first got here?

ML: I'm not sure, sir.

Was it still light out?

ML: Yes, sir.

RH: If I can back you up for just a minute, when you got out of the car what was that process? I mean did you guys help the kids out of the car; did they get out of that car?

ML: We helped baby Kyleigh out of the car

RH: Ok. And the other two boys got themselves out of the car?

ML: Yes sir. We played with the rocks for a minute. Christopher had threw his hat in the water...

BH: Where did he throw his hat in the water can you show us?

ML: It was like right there.

BH: Did he throw it or did he drop it?

He kind of tossed it cause when we were playing over here his hat had fell in the water and I went out and got it, I went and got it for him. He was kind of amazed about it so he threw it out there and started floating a bit faster and ended up over there and it was too far for us to get it so we said forget it.

BH: It was too far out for you to get it?

ML: Yeah.

BH: Did you or anyone else make an attempt to get that hat?

ML: Amanda did. Amanda made an attempt to get it.

BH: Amanda did? Ok, what did Amanda do to try to get the hat?

ML: She was going to walk in cause it was pretty close at the time and she was going to walk in and get the hat but it started getting out further and further.

RH: How was it going out?

1 No this was

RH: Over here?

ML: It ended up over there.

RH: Over by that dead tree over there? That far over?

ML: up there... (Pointing)

TP: Can you give an estimate of about how many feet that is?

ML: Sir? I'd say eight feet or nine feet?

TP: So, about 8 to 9 feet off the shore line here?

ML: Yeah

TP: O.K.

BH: Where did Amanda walk into the water to get the hat?

ML: Right here

BH: She came down the ramp?

ML: Yeah, but that's when the hat was (inaudible)

BH: What was she wearing when she uh, went into the water?

ML: She took all her clothes off cause she didn't want to get here clothes wet.

BH: Did she have her shoes on?

No sir.

BH: How far out in the water did she walk?

ML: Oh, she walked a little bit above her ankles, right here.

BH: She's got all her clothes off and that's all the farther she went in just above her ankles?

ML: Yes sir. Like I said it was going out, it was just a hat; we could have bought him another one.

BH: Was she planning on swimming out there, was that why she took off her clothes?

ML: Yeah, it was a bit closer...right

RH: But she went in for a walk out there

ML: or walk out there, get the hat, came in the same way.

BH: Did you do anything else to get the hat out of the water?

ML: Not really, like I said we had bought him another hat, you know

UK: What was the significance of that hat?

ML: His father had got it for him at a baseball game so that was very significant to him, but he wasn't broken up about it. We had talked about getting him another hat in St. Louis cause I gotten a hat down there, he liked my hat, told him next time we were down there, we'd get him another hat. He was upset but wasn't broken up over it; he didn't start crying or anything.

BH: What happened after that Maurice?

ML: Uh,

BH: Where were the other kids at when this was going on? Do you remember where Kyleigh was?

Yes, Kyleigh was with me, I had her hand all the time. Austin was in the car. He was ready to go, he was tired.

BH: This was one of the last things you did before you got back in the car to leave was to try to get the hat?

ML: Uh, one of the last things. After we done that the kids had to go to the bathroom. The baby girl stayed with me, Amanda took the boys to the restroom. After that point we proceeded to get in the car.

RH: Walk us through that process of getting into the car.

ML: When she got back she took the little girl and she strapped her in. The boys got in by themselves. I had gotten in and I believe Amanda was the last one to get in

RH: O.K., the boys, did they get in on the driver's side, passenger side, which?

ML: I'm not sure; Christopher gets in on either side and most of the time where ever Austin's car seat is that's the side he gets in on.

RH: He gets in because it's easier to get past his car seat than Kyleigh's car seat

ML: Right, mostly on the other side, every once in while they would be switched the car seat, if I vacuum, but for the most part he gets in on the left hand side

RH: So he gets in and out on the driver's side, Austin gets in and out on the driver's side cause that's normally where he was seated?

ML: Right, every once in a while Chris will come on the opposite side

RH: And they do this traditionally on their own, getting in and out?

ML: Yes

RH: Where's Amanda seated after she gets inside the vehicle?

ML: Passenger side

I Passenger side and then you're?

ML: Driver's side

BH: You're seated in the driver's side?

ML: Right

BH: Alright, Maurice, let's step over again about where you were sitting in the car in relationship with the vehicle approximately as close as we can to last Tuesday evening. Getting ready to leave.

ML: (Burps). Excuse me; I was sitting right about there

BH: Right about there, the kids are - once again, seated in the vehicle where?

ML: Austin behind me, Chris is in the middle

BH: Ok.

ML: Kyleigh is behind the passenger seat

BH: Are the kids secured in seat belts?

ML: Austin is secured in his seat belt. I'm sure he was. Um, I'm not sure if Chris strapped his seat belt on.

BH: Ok.

ML: And uh, I'm not sure if Amanda strapped the back of Kyleigh's seat belt but as far as the top of the car seat that comes over it locks between the legs that was locked.

BH: OK she was secured in her seat but you don't know if that seat was secured to the seat belt of the car.

ML: Right, the back of it was secured...

You're seated in the car; you're getting ready to leave. What's the conversation in the car, what's the mood, anything said prior to leaving at all?

ML: Told her it would be fucked....whew....

BH: It's ok.

ML: I told her it would be fucked up, for the car to slip in the water, I told her it would be fucked up, were something like that to happen...

BH: You told her if the car to slip in the water?

ML: That something would have happened...

BH: What did Amanda say to that Maurice?

I'm not sure exactly

BH: Did you make any plans of what you need to do to be able to get the car safely out of here?

ML: Yes sir, Yes sir.

BH: Now, this is a very important part. You're getting ready to leave, are you somewhat nervous because you're afraid the car could go into the water, is that why you said that?

ML: No, I wasn't nervous because I parked on ramps so many times before, they have a ramp in St. Louis off of Hall Street, it's a lot more steep and a lot more difficult than this, we have parked there many of times no incident like this has ever occurred that I know of and of the many times I've been there no incident like this has occurred so you know, I wasn't nervous about anything. If I was, I wouldn't have parked here.

BH: Ok. Tell us what happened Maurice.

ML: Proceeded to start the car up, I put the car in reverse, my foot was on the brake, I look behind me to be sure there weren't any cars behind me as I was to back out, I quickly stepped on the accelerator with a lot of power

Did you say anything to kids at that point?

ML: Not that I remember, sir.

RH: Go ahead

ML: I hit the accelerator real hard, the car went back a couple of inches and the wheels just start spinning...

BH: Maurice, I want to point out something real quick - you're standing on the same ramp today, you notice that the condition of the ramp is very dry, is it not?

ML: Yes sir

BH: Is it slippery at all, Maurice?

ML: No sir, it isn't.

BH: Ok. And this car is a front wheel drive vehicle, is that correct?

ML: I'm not sure of all the technicalities, actually

BH: You step on the gas, are the front wheels the ones that spin?

ML: I'm not sure, I'm not sure if the rear tires spin...

BH: It is a front wheel drive vehicle, Maurice. What I'd like to point out, on this ramp if this is the position of your vehicle, would I be standing approximately at the center of the front of the car?

ML: Yes sir

BH: Ok. So if I'm standing at the center at the front of the car, the tires of the car would approximately be in this area, is that correct?

ML: You need to be closer to the side, you would be approximately right here

More over this way?

ML: Yes sir

BH: So the tires approximately would be below my hands in this area, is that correct? Ok. I want you to look down at the pavement here. You know when a tire is spinning what's it going to do.

ML: When a tire is spinning, it's going to leave a mark or something...

BH: Tread mark or something? Maurice, do you see a tread mark, I'm going to step up so the camera can get a view of this, do you see any tread marks on the pavement here?

ML: (inaudible)

BH: I would just like to document there is no evidence to support any tires spinning out here. That's why I brought that up, ok? Because we have a conflict of statements here as I pointed out earlier we need to get the correct one, the way things actually happened, ok. Even down at the water, do you see the moss growing down ?

ML: Yes, sir.

BH: Have you ever walked on that?

ML: No, sir.

BH: It's very slippery ok, but this pavement up here is designed to prevent vehicles from going into the water, to get extra traction. Now, I want to start again, when you first put the car into gear. Which gear was the car in, was it in reverse or was it in drive?

ML: It was in reverse.

BH: It was in reverse, ok. You said you parked on this ramp in St. Louis on prior occasions and never had a problem but when the car is in reverse based on your experience, on parking on ramps before is the car able to roll forward even though the car is in reverse?

ML: Yes, it is

BH: It is, ok. And when you initially put the car in reverse are you absolutely certain that your foot is on the brake?

ML: Positive

BH: Ok. Did the car roll forward when you initially put the car in reverse?

ML: For a split second it started to that's why I accelerated and jumped back toward me, it was like it gave and the momentum kept the car going forward.

BH: How far forward did the car roll? If you put it in reverse, how many feet are we talking about? I'm standing at the front of the car I want you to guide me, I'm going to step back until I would be approximately at the front of the car down the ramp as far as it rolled and

ML: That, it...like half a step.

ML: Maybe like this?

ML: A few more inches less

BH: Two inches less, maybe here?

ML: Yes, sir.

BH: So the front of the car slips forward and the front of the car is approximately where I'm standing here, is that what you're saying?

ML: Yes sir.

BH: Ok. What happens next?

ML: I accelerated and brought it back a couple of inches then the tires started to spin, the car went forward (as)

BH: Are you absolutely certain that those tires were spinning, Maurice? We discussed this...

ML: Yes sir, I heard the tires were spinning, I heard it.

BH: So the tires were spinning and the car is still going forward. The transmission is in which gear?

ML: Car is in reverse still

BH: Car is in reverse still. As the car is going forward into the water did you attempt to put your foot on the brake?

ML: Yes sir, I did.

BH: Did you ever...

ML: Around that point down there...

L I'm going to back up, tell me about when you applied the brakes to the vehicle, tell me when to stop.

ML: right there

BH: Right about here is where you applied the brakes of the vehicle? Were the brakes able to hold the vehicle? Were they able to stop it?

ML: Some, but today is a totally different day from that day. That day was a gloomy day, it was misty, had been raining prior to that for a couple of days.

BH: What happens next Maurice? Is your foot still on the gas?

ML: No it's on the brake pedal now.

BH: Ok. Now you've got your foot on the brake, ok, do you take your foot off the brake?

ML: No sir.

BH: Your foot stays on the brake

ML: I took my foot off the brake, I would say once we got to that green area

BH: So somewhere in this area somewhere where the moss is here?

ML: Yes sir

BH: At that point your foot comes off the brake? Is your foot are you on the accelerator or off the accelerator at this point?

ML: Off the accelerator

BH: Off the accelerator and off the brake

ML: Yeah

BH: So the car is rolling freely at this point?

ML: Yeah

BH: And did you attempt to brake any again?

ML: I knew it wasn't no use in braking cause the car was going at an accelerated rate

BH: O.k., Maurice, could you demonstrate for me about how fast you think that vehicle was going. If you could maybe if you could back up a few steps just make sure you don't go in the water here but could you walk or jog whatever the case may be at the same speed that you think that vehicle was entering the water. I want you to be able to approximate it for me. The vehicle's entering the water at about that speed?

ML: (Walking) My foot is on the accelerator that whole time (inaudible)

BH: Did the vehicle enter the water about that same speed or did it increase or decrease its speed?

ML: It increased.

F It increased its speed? And it's rolling freely, you said your foot is not on the brake and you're not on the accelerator, is that correct?

ML: Yes, sir.

BH: All right, Maurice, the vehicle is going into the water, what takes place inside the car?

ML: I automatically go for the window

BH: Do you yell anything to let Amanda or the kids know what's going on or are they aware of what's going on, do you recall what was said?

ML Yeah, she was aware of what was going on.

BH: Do you recall if Amanda said anything?

I believe she said the car is going in the water something to that effect, I'm not sure exactly

BH: And what are the kids doing, Maurice are they saying anything?

ML: Not that I recall, sir.

RH: Back up just a minute, you said you went for the window,

ML: Yes sir.

RH: Can you explain that to me?

ML: I went to roll down the window because I knew if the car was submerged the chances of me getting out the door to help get them out would have been slim. So I figured with that window rolled down you know, I would have had a better chance to save the kids.

So you rolled down the, are these power windows?

ML: Yes

RH: Manual windows, power windows - so you rolled down which window?

ML: The driver's window so I can get out

RH: So you rolled the driver's window so you can get out

ML: Right, so I can get out and get to the door

BH: Maurice, were you able to lower the driver's window?

ML: Somewhat and I remember at a point, uh, the window wasn't working so that's why I had to resort to trying to get the door open

BH: Can you show me about how far you think the window rolled down?

ML: I'd say one fourth

BH: Can you show me with your hands how far?

ML: I'd say something like that

BH: Maurice, can you explain to me why the driver's window of the vehicle was up? In the up position?

ML: No sir. I can't, sir.

BH: So you're making an attempt to get the window down because you said that if the car was submerged chances of getting out were slim...And that's why you tried to get the window down?

ML: Yes sir

BH: Are there any other windows down on the vehicle?

ML: I'm not sure, sir.

RH: How far, what was the water level, where would you approximate the water level to be on your own leg when you're rolling down that window? I mean is the water already coming into that vehicle?

ML: Yes sir.

RH: About how high do you think it was, you're sitting in the seated position? Was it to the middle of your leg, was it to your knee, was it already to the seat level?

ML: I would say it was at my knees

BH: Maurice, can you step down a little closer to the water and what I would like for you to show is, the car is entering the water at this point and I would like for you to show us approximately or estimate how many feet out it was that or how far out the car was when you attempted to exit the car when you did exit the car.

ML: Uh, I'm going to have to say the car was right out there...

BH: Do you have any estimate, how far do you think that would be?

BH: So, the front of the car would have been 3 to 4 feet out?

ML: (Nods head)

BH: So the car is barely entered the water when you're opening the door, is that correct?

ML: I know the front part of the car is in the water

BH: Are you opening the door or the window?

ML: I'm opening the door at this, well, yea, I'm opening the door at this time

BH: The car is about 3 to 4 feet in, you are opening the door to the car, what happens, are you able to get the door open?

ML: After 4 or 5 tries, yes sir.

BH: Is the car still moving forward?

ML: Yes sir.

BH: As you open the door? O.K., what's Amanda doing at this point?

ML: I'm not sure sir.

BH: How about the kids

ML: I'm not positive sir, I was just trying to figure out the best way to deal with this situation as possible, you know, cause like, I said, I was panicking, I was terrified, you know, and I was just using my instincts and I was, that's all I could concentrate on and think of at that time. The best way to try and get those kids out of the water and back to safety.

So primarily you need to get, you're trying to get yourself out first correct?

ML: Right, I can't do anything from the inside; we're all on the inside

BH: So, you've got the car door opened, you're able to get out of the car, is that correct?

ML: Yes sir.

BH: And this would have been, you started opening the door at 3 to 4 feet in and you had some difficulty opening the door. Where do you think you were able to exit that vehicle and get out that door after the door was opened?

ML: I'd have to say, it was out there at the time.

BH: Now you'd estimate how many feet?

The car was under the water, uh

BH: Would it have been

ML: Where I'm standing

BH: From me to you?

ML: Farther, I would probably say from here to right there

BH: Right there? The front of the car was this far under water when you're able to exit. Is the car still moving or has the car stopped?

ML: No, it's still moving. But at the time when I was able to exit, the time I'm able to exit the car and my foot was stuck in the door. By that time the car had stopped.

BH: When you were able to exit the car, the car had stopped moving

ML: Yea, by that time it had stopped moving.

BH: At what point does Amanda get out of the car?

ML: When my foot was stuck in the door.

BH: And how does she get out of the car?

ML: I'm not sure, I just know she came up on my side, I would say approximately 2 feet from where I was.

BH: If you're just out of the car would she have been on this side of you or would she have been on this side you when she came out?

ML: She was right catty-cornered.

BH: So would you have been facing this way?

ML: Yea, I was facing this way

BH: You're facing this way?

ML: Yeah, she was right catti-cornered.

TP: You're facing towards shore?

ML: Yes, sir.

BH: Can you show me, if I'm Amanda, and turn around to the direction you were facing you think when you came out of the car, can you show me about where you first saw Amanda pop up out of the water. Was she standing here, tell me where I need to move.

ML: Bout right there

TP: To your left?

ML: Right

BH: So Amanda pops out of the water right here and you see her coming out of the water

ML: From this point she proceeded up the bank to the pay phone. At this time my feet are still stuck in the car and by the grace of God my foot just happened to be freed.

BH: Maurice, what was your foot stuck on?

ML: In between the car and the car door.

BH: Amanda gets out and comes to the shore; does Amanda make an attempt to get the car doors open? Make any attempt to rescue the kids at this point?

ML: Yes, she made an attempt to rescue Kyleigh, yes she did.

BH: Before or after getting out of the car?

ML: Uh, I'm just going by what she told me

I No, no, I want

ML: Well, I don't remember

BH: Ok, if you don't remember that as opposed to what she told you. So you see Amanda, she pops out of the water 2 or 3 feet from you and you said she makes for the shore, is that correct?

ML: I think so.

BH: O.K, where are you at this point?

ML: I'm still in the water... (Inaudible)

BH: And you said at some point you were able to free your foot that was stuck in the door

ML: Yes sir

BH: Once you get your foot freed, what did you do?

ML: Went directly to the back door

BH: Ok.

ML: It wouldn't open

BH: The back door wouldn't open?

ML: No sir.

BH: Can you tell me about what you tried to do to open the door, were you able to find the handle?

Yes sir.

BH: Did you pull the handle?

ML: Yes, sir, over and over again.

RH: Did it release?

ML: Did the door release?

RH: Yeah

ML: No

RH: So like the handle was broken, I mean, whenever you pull up the handle you could feel the catch letting go. Did you feel the catch letting go?

ML: Did I feel the catch, uh, I don't remember sir.

About how long do you think you attempted to get that door open, Maurice?

ML: I'd say approximately, it seemed like a long time. I did that for thirty or forty-five seconds and then I yelled to her, I can't get the door open.

BH: Where is Amanda at?

ML: By this time she's uh, where the green line is

BH: Ok. The moss there on the pavement you talking about across, Amanda's there? Ok. Let's back up a step, when Amanda came out of the water, did she run straight for the phone,

ML: Yes sir

BH: Did she stop at any point to turn around to see if you needed help?

I wasn't worried about that, not that I recollect.

RH: When you were working on the door, getting it open, how deep was the water on you, was it up to your

w. i mean, you're standing here you're facing the car you're working on this door trying to get it to come open, how deep was the water?.

ML: Right here

RH: Around chest height

ML: Uh huh.

TP: Could you see the kids at that point?

ML: Yes sir

TP: Where were the kids at?

M: Towards the back of the window

RH: Was the car sitting level in the water

ML: No sir

UK: The front was down and the back was up?

ML: Yes sir.

BH: Maurice, what are the kids doing at this point? You're trying to get the door open, what are the kids doing?

ML: Trying to, uh, get air as much as possible but the water was still rising.

BH: And where are they at are they submerged or are they floating on top?

ML: No, they were not.

They weren't submerged at this point?

ML: No

BH: So they're heads are above the water?

ML: Yes sir.

BH: All 3 of them?

ML: No sir.

BH: Whose head wasn't above the water?

ML: Kyleigh

BH: Kyleigh's?

ML: Yes sir.

RH: Was she still in her seat, Maurice?

ML: I believe so

BH: Are the kids screaming to you Maurice, are they, what are the kids doing?

ML: They were just look at me

BH: You said you recall they were trying to get air, how do you; explain what were they doing trying to get air.

ML: Back of the window, uh, you know, as if they were standing on the seats, you know. Looking, you know, up to the window.

RH: So Austin had got himself out of his seat?

ML: I guess so, sir, I'm not sure.

RH: And Christopher was facing backwards and Austin was, if Austin was facing backwards he obviously got himself out of his seat, right?

ML: No, their back was still, you know, their face was facing this way.

RH: They're still sitting in their seats?

ML: No, they got up but their backs were facing the seat...

RH: Oh, Ok, Ok, I see, but Austin is up out of his seat with his back against the seat still facing forward?

ML: He was at this time, maybe he was like standing in the seat.

Ok, Ok. But he's still facing forward

BH: So you try to get the door open, you can see Austin and you can see Christopher's heads trying to get air toward the back of the window, you can't see Kyleigh

ML: About this time, about this time I went under the water and went to the front door and tried to open the front door. The front door wouldn't open either.

BH: Now the front door of the vehicle, this is the door you came out, correct?

ML: Yeah

BH: You said you didn't know how Amanda got out of the car

ML: I don't know how she got out for certain

.: Do you know how the door got shut

ML: The driver's door?

BH: Yeah

ML: From the water, after my foot was freed

BH: Yeah, your foot you got your foot unstuck and after you tried the rear door you go back to the front door, this being the front driver's door?

ML: Yeah

BH: Ok, you try the front driver's door and it's closed?

ML: Yes, sir.

BH: So you can't get it open?

ML: No sir.

RH: There again, on the latch, could you feel the latch release?

ML: I'm not sure sir.

RH: Did the door move at all or was it just as tight as could be?

ML: Didn't move at all.

RH: Ok, not at all.

BH: Maurice, what did you do then? You tried the back door and you tried the front door, what happened then?

I look to her again, I can't get them, I can't get the doors open

BH: And where's she at, where is Amanda at?

ML: She's on the phone

BH: She's on the phone?

ML: Yeah, she's talking on the phone.

BH: She's talking on the phone so she's already talking to the 911 operator.

ML: Yes sir. I seen her, she was hysterical and I seen she was repeating herself so I felt that the lady wasn't getting the message and that she needed to get the message before she was able to do anything. So at this time, I approached the phone from the south.

BH: So, you came out of the water by the car and Amanda's on the phone, you can tell she's hysterical, she's talking to the people on the phone and you leave the water to go where. Where do you go from the water?

I go to the pay phone

BH: Do you stop at any point; do you stop to look at the car?

ML: No sir. I ran straight to the phone.

BH: Maurice, the 911 tape we played for you earlier there are clearly two voices at the beginning of that phone conversation. One is Amanda, she is completely hysterical, the other voice you in the background

ML: Well, I was hollering, you know. I got up to this point, the whole time I was hollering.

BH: Ok. From the time Amanda left the water until the time that you left the water how long do you think that was?

ML: I'm not sure exactly sir.

: Are we talking 5 seconds?

ML: I'm not sure

E Are we talking 5 minutes?

ML: I'm not sure, sir.

BH: But you already clearly see Amanda talking on the telephone. Do you know for sure that she's got the 911 call made?

ML: Yes, sir. Yes sir.

BH: All right, let's back up. So, you're in the water you said you tried the back door, you tried the front door, both doors are closed, correct, on the drivers side?

ML: Yes sir.

TP: What about the passenger side?

I didn't try the passenger side, I figured if the left side, being that the whole car was submerged you know, water spread evenly across it, I figured if the left side was like that the right side would be the same.

TP: Now, when the car went into the water were there any windows down on the car at all?

ML: Uh, I know my window was down somewhat

TP: What about the passenger front window?

ML: I'm not sure about the rest of the windows.

RH: OK, when you walked away from the car to the shore to go to the phone what was the water level inside the car.

ML: Almost completely submerged sir.

ML: When you walked away it was completely submerged.

ML: Yes sir.

RH: And you couldn't see the kids any more at that point?

ML: No sir

TH: How, when you came out of the water, I'm looking at the distance from here to there so you say you bust out running to the phone. How long do you think it took you to get to the phone?

ML: About 15 seconds

BH: 15 seconds from the water to the phone?

RH: How long have we gone?

TP: I'd say about 20 minutes

ML: I'd say I was probably 2 or 3 feet from the phone that's when I started yelling and screaming, hollering and after I done that I grabbed the phone

BH: The type of tape in this whole conversation is you've heard that on the tape, what happened immediately after that?

ML: Uh

BH: Did you try to make any other phone calls?

ML: She said she was going to try and call her mother

BH: Amanda said she tried; did she try to call her mom?

ML: She made an attempt to call her mother

BH: What would the reason for that be?

ML: I'm not sure so I can't explain her thinking

RH: OK, that's fair. What did you while she was doing that?

ML: You mean me and her?

RH: (inaudible)

ML: I seen a boat coming and I got and he started to go to the right this way so I ran up (inaudible) say out here some where so I started waving them down and parked somewhere out here, I would say over that beach 15 feet off the dock and I we seen a car I asked him, sir, can you please help us and uh, we found this pay phone and called the authorities and told them they were half way here.

BH: Just so we get this straight. You say you were the one that ran down to the ramp

ML: We both ran

ML: You and Amanda both were on the ramp

ML: She tried to get in contact with her mother and I guess, I don't know, she couldn't reach her so

RH: So that was over there on the ramp or was it the ramp going out to the dock or was it the ramp right here (inaudible) yeah, where is that you signaled, talked to him, And he called on his cell phone and he said he already saw the car and he knew

ML: After we explained it to him, got his attention and said, sir, will you please help us.

RH: How did you explain it to him?

ML: I'm not sure sir. Remember I told him, I'm not sure of my exact words, I'm not sure, I ask him, I said sir can you please help us please our kids are in the car, please help us...

RH: You pointed that the kids are stuck in the car - what was his reaction to that?

ML: He said, Oh my God. He picked up his phone

RH: When the authorities got here what did you guys do then? You and Amanda?

BH: Back up a step here, the man in the boat makes a call?

ML: Huh

BH: The man in the boat makes a call? From the time you see him make the call to the time you see your first police car, how long do you think that was?

ML: I would say, 2 or 3 minutes.

BH: When you first saw that police car, Maurice, can you show me where you were standing at?

ML: I believe we had went back to the pay phone

BH: Ok. We can walk up there, why don't we walk up there; I want you to show me about where you were standing when you first saw that police car.

RH: How come you came back up here?

ML: She was supposed to make a phone call or something like that, I'm not sure exactly.

RH: So Amanda came up here with you, you both came up here and that's when the squad car pulled in?

ML: Yeah, right over there.

BH: It is possible you were further away, is it possible that you were clear over there?

ML: I'm not sure, I'm not sure. I know when most of the authorities got here we were by the dumpster cause I was consoling her, you know, talking to her, you know, asking her to let them do their job, you know, they didn't need any obstruction at the time.

BH: Maurice, this is very important cause we want to make sure we have this documented as accurately as possible. Is there any thing with your statement that you've given us today as we've done a walk through of the scene that was incorrect or inconsistent that you would like to change? Anything wrong that you need to change and make right?

1 Anything I need to change to make it right? No, sir.

BH: The position of the vehicle? I'd like for you to show me again the front of the car where you were, where the car initially started from and you got ready to leave and go back up there

TP: Running out of battery

BH: We'll go up and walk that through but let's wrap up the video. We're going to go back up yet and get a final determination of the position of the car as it started to roll. Is there anything else you need to add or need to change about what you told us today?

ML: No sir.

TP: This was a voluntary statement on your part correct, Maurice?

ML: Yes, sir.

BH: Have we made any promises to you?

ML: Huh?

BH: We haven't made any promises to you?

ML: As far as what?

BH: As far as anything in exchange for coming down here today for this?

ML: That would be No.

TP: Have we threatened you at all today?

ML: No.

BH: Maurice, do you have any questions of us?

M. No, sir.

BH: This concludes the walk through the scene. It is approximately 1:46 p.m.

*****END OF TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO & AUDIO TAPE OF MAURICE LAGRONE*****

On 10/02/03, I S/A Troy R. Phillips #5173 reviewed the video and audio tapes and compared them to the transcription. I made corrections as necessary, and believe this is an accurate reflection of the taped statement. After the video and audio taping was completed on 09/05/03, LAGRONE was transported back to his father's residence in Bloomington.