

*Follow-up I/V Michael Hamilton by Det. Diskin C23:

On 10/20/09 I conducted a follow-up interview with Michael Hamilton on the telephone. The interview was recorded and the following is a transcript of that interview:

Interviewer: Yeah, I was wondering if you guys have the application that James Ray filled out to I guess rent Angel Valley.

Respondent: No, because what happened, he never really filled out an application. Back in 2003, there was a phone call made and we have none of those records, we have records from 2005 on but nothing from 2003 or 2004. And then what happened every year after that we had e-mails that would correspond with here's what he wants and here's what we are doing and here's what we are going to charge, etc., etc.

Interviewer: Okay. So are there any documents or anything or any of those e-mails saved or anything that we could show that he rented out Angel Valley?

Respondent: Yes, we have that. Now what we are doing at 2 o'clock today, we are meeting with our attorney and afterwards there is definitely something that we want to get together with you that there were it's not that you may have not heard it for one of the people or staff that was by the lodge at the time, heard something that wants to get it off of her chest than what she heard.

Interviewer: That will be great. Yeah, if your attorney can deal with me and we can set up an interview with her. Is it somebody that we've talked to yet?

Respondent: I am not sure. I believe you did but what happened is afterward, the evening that it all happened and you've interviewed with everybody, so many people especially this person was in almost the state of shock and there was such a underlying, something is happening. It's almost like there was a call it a blackout for a moment in time that she did not even remember and then afterwards she is like I need to share this. And we talked about it yesterday, we are going to talk about it today with our attorney and then actually have you come out where we could actually sit down. But no body interviewed my wife and I.

Interviewer: Yeah, we still need to do that. I think somebody talked to you guys a little bit, I am not sure how thoroughly you guys were interviewed but I know that we had planned to talk to you guys again as we've been through (Inaudible 2:24) talking to hundreds of people, we're running out of time.

Respondent: Well for us, we understood that and we are not going anywhere and our story is not any different today than it was then. It just becomes a little bit more let's say complete now that I have this one person that works here that says I need to share this because she's really carrying tremendous weight on her on what she heard and what

happened and what could have been done to avoid it. When are you available to actually come out and do an interview?

Interviewer: I could do it, let me see my schedule, tomorrow we have meeting, Thursday and Friday I could probably do it.

Respondent: Okay. After I am done with my interview with our attorney today, let me call you back and then find out which is the day that works best.

Interviewer: Okay. And when we interview the witnesses, we want to make sure that we have a placed interview on, it's just me and the witness. If I interview her in front of you guys --

Respondent: No. You have to interview each person independent and we can make that happen. Yeah, that won't be a problem.

Interviewer: Great perfect. And anybody else you can think of? I didn't realize that there are more people out there we haven't talked to yet, like this employee. We talked to the Mercers and they gave really good information.

Respondent: Well and this person was actually, they were helping the Mercers so this way you will hear a third person confirm what the Mercers were saying.

Interviewer: Okay, great. That's perfect.

Respondent: And my wife was there basically when people started coming out of the lodge but she wasn't there before that. She had part up there and I only went down when the helicopter came in.

Interviewer: Okay great. If you could just wrap up any documents that you have that shows that James Ray rented that, anything like that, e-mails, that sort of thing, any correspondence she can come up with, that would be great.

Respondent: How is it going so far?

Interviewer: It's been busy. You know we are trying to figure out what happened still. But again we are talking to a lot of people and a lot of people are really upset and concerned with how things were run inside the lodge. But that doesn't necessarily mean anything, we are trying to determine if anything was actually criminal.

Respondent: Yeah, exactly. We are getting phone calls from media and different people all the time and what do we say to them.

Interviewer: Yeah, we have had a lot of people call us and say hey the media is calling me, what should I say. And we can't tell people not to talk to the media but the only

thing we are telling people is that if you do end up talking to media, just tell them the truth.

Respondent: Exactly, and be ready to live with whatever you say.

Interviewer: Right. I wouldn't if it was me but --

Respondent: We have made a general statement or I should say my wife did that we put together and sent out like a little press release you know just acknowledging pain and tragedy and sending wishes, but telling anybody here's what happened, it's just a dangerous territory for us.

Interviewer: Yeah. Talk to your attorney about that because your attorney is going to be able to tell you the benefits of talking to media or the consequences.

Respondent: Yes, exactly. And that's why we haven't done anything, we have not called you yet because that was after we were done today, we were going to give a call and say hey we would like to give our statement of what happened, what else do you need for us to help.

Interviewer: Yeah, just give me a call after you talk to your attorney.

Respondent: Based on your current schedule, what would be a good time to plan for on Thursday?

Interviewer: I am going to say probably 1 or 2 in the afternoon probably, that would work better.

Respondent: We'll probably have to do Friday. We have a large group checking in. So let's do Friday, what about Friday?

Interviewer: Friday will work.

Respondent: What time?

Interviewer: Probably anytime after 10.

Respondent: Can we make it 10 o'clock Friday morning? Let's make it 1 o'clock Friday afternoon.

Interviewer: Okay, let me put that on my calendar tentatively.

Respondent: I will call and confirm but that's verbal, let's shoot for that now.

Interviewer: All right. I have got that on my calendar.

Respondent: Okay, so 1 o'clock on Friday.

Interviewer: Right, perfect. Okay Ralph, I appreciate it, great, thanks.

Respondent: Okay, bye.

Interviewer: Bye.

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