

Wisconsin Case Management
ACISS Case Master Report DCIR13642

Date Initiated 02/19/2004

Primary Information

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Agency: | WI Department of Justice |
| Division: | Div. of Criminal Investigation (DCI) |
| Sensitive Cases: | Div. of Criminal Investigation (DCI) |
| Lead LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Div. of Criminal Investigation (DCI)) |
| Type Of Case: | Violent Crimes |
| Case Sub Type: | VC-Death Investigation |
| Case Description: | RICHARD D. HOCHSTETTLER HIT&RUN DEATH INVESTIGAT |

Case Status

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Case Status: | Closed |
| Case Status Date: | 09/22/2004 |
| Disposition Code: | Assistance Completed |
| Disposition Date: | 09/22/2004 |
| Dissemination: | Restricted |

Wisconsin Case Management
ACISS Initiating Case Report DCIR13642

Report Date: 02/19/2004

Primary Information

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Description: | RICHARD D. HOCHSTETTLER HIT&RUN DEATH INVESTIGAT |
| Reporting LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 04/12/2004 |
| Approved By: | User, Aciss System (Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI) |

Related Subjects

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Race</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>Relationship</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| HOCHSTETTLER, RICHARD D | Person | Male | White | | Related |

Related Documents

| |
|------------------|
| <u>Document</u> |
| OPENING DOCUMENT |

Record Status Information

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Record Origination Operator: | User, Aciss System (WI Department of Justice / Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI) |
| Record Origination Date: | 03/09/2004 11:16 |
| Last Update Operator: | User, Conversion (Div. of Criminal Investigation (DCI) / Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI) |
| Last Update Date: | 04/12/2004 14:21 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|--|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | User, Aciss System (Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

Records

Agent
COMPLAINT FORM

Supervisor
DJ-DCI-1 (Rev. 01/92)

White:

Yellow:

Pink:

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| 1. Case Number SA-13642 | 2. Date 02/26/2004 | 3. Nature of Complaint SA-DEATH INVESTIGATION | |
| 4. Complaint Received (Date - Time) 02/20/2004, 8:00 a.m. | | 5. in person mail internet | 6. By (Special Agent) Eric J. Szatkowski |
| 7. Investigation Requested By/Information Received From (Include Title) Lt. James M. Lenk, Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department | | telephone email fax | 8. Sources of Complaint LAW ENFORCEMENT |
| 9. Address 1025 South 9th Street, Manitowoc, Wisconsin | | 10. Telephone 920-683-4200 | |
| 11. Case Title RICHARD D. HOCHSTETLER HIT AND RUN DEATH INVESTIGATION | | 12. DOB [REDACTED] | |
| 13. Address 4024 County Highway CR, Manitowoc, Wisconsin | | 14. Municipality/County of Violation Manitowoc / Manitowoc | |

15. Facts of Complaint

On 02/20/2004, DCI received a request from Lt. James M. Lenk of the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department for assistance in a five-year-old unsolved hit and run fatality. The assignment was forwarded by Director Carolyn S. Kelly to Special Agent Eric J. Szatkowski for investigation. S/A Szatkowski later arranged a meeting between himself, Lt. Lenk, and Deputy Inspector Michael J. Bushman.

On 02/26/2004, Deputy Inspector Bushman provided S/A Szatkowski with the following background on the case:

| | |
|--|---|
| 16. Zero File _____ Open Main Case _____ Assigned To: _____ | SIGNATURES - DATES |
| 17. Comments/Recommendations _____ _____ _____ | 18. Special Agent Eric J. Szatkowski |
| | 19. Bureau Director Carolyn S. Kelly |
| | 20. Administrator James R. Warren |

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Division of Criminal Investigation, Wisconsin Department of Justice. It is the property of this Division and is loaned to your agency. Its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

On 01/10/1999, at approximately 2:15 a.m., RICHARD D. HOCHSTETLER, W/M, DOB: [REDACTED], was struck and killed by a hit and run driver while walking home from a house party. HOCHSTETLER was hit on County Highway CR, about 50 yards away from his home. The incident took place during a snowstorm that included strong winds and blowing snow. While there were no witnesses to the accident, HOCHSTETLER's body was found a short time after impact by another driver who was heading home after a night out. The driver made a U-turn on CTH CR, returned to town, and called 911 from a gas station.

The first officer on the scene was Deputy Inspector Michael Bushman, who was filling up his squad car at a pump located within a mile of the accident. Deputy Inspector Bushman actually observed HOCHSTETLER's footprints in the snow heading southbound on the shoulder of CTH CR, and he said was going to check on the condition of the person to make sure they were okay considering the snowstorm.. Deputy Inspector Bushman decided to get gas first before following the footprints in the snow, and was informed shortly thereafter about the accident on his squad radio. Deputy Inspector Bushman then left the gas pumps and drove to the crime scene where HOCHSTETLER's body was discovered in the middle of the road.

Deputy Inspector Bushman stated that upon arriving at the scene, he observed the tire tracks of the striking vehicle. He stated that based on his review of the scene, he suspected that the driver of the striking vehicle fell asleep behind the wheel, and drifted onto the shoulder of the road. Deputy Inspector Bushman stated that he believes HOCHSTETLER was struck while walking on the shoulder of the road, and then dragged approximately 50 feet, until his body came to rest approximately 50 feet after the initial impact.

Deputy Inspector Bushman further stated that he made a decision to try to preserve tire impressions, and to secure the crime scene, rather than attempt to follow the tracks in the snow to try and locate the offending vehicle.

Deputy Inspector Bushman stated that evidence of the striking vehicle found at the scene was researched by the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory and the FBI Laboratory in Washington, D.C. Deputy Inspector Bushman stated that according to forensic analysis, the suspect vehicle is believed to be a 1985 through 1988 Chevrolet pick up truck, Blazer or Suburban.

Deputy Inspector Bushman further stated that approximately one week after the accident, his department was notified that another piece of the striking vehicle's grill was found at an intersection about a mile south and west of the impact area. Further investigation determined that the evidence was plowed with the snow onto the side of the road, and later discovered by Investigators.

Deputy Inspector Bushman stated that over the last five years, hundreds and thousands of leads have been followed up on, all resulting in dead ends. Deputy Inspector Bushman stated that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation provided the Sheriff's Department with a list of approximately 25,000 vehicles in a five-county area that matched the description of the striking vehicle, and all of them were cleared.

Deputy Inspector Bushman asked S/A Szatkowski to review their case file, to see if the Sheriff's Department had missed any other possible leads, or if there were any other investigative steps that could be taken to help solve this crime.

Following the briefing, Deputy Inspector Bushman took S/A Szatkowski to the various areas already described in this DCI-1. S/A Szatkowski told Deputy Inspector Bushman that he would be in touch with him in the next several weeks.

It should also be noted that prior to his meeting with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department, S/A Szatkowski had two separate telephone conversations with the mother of RICHARD HOCHSTETLER, DEBRA E. HOCHSTETLER, DOB: [REDACTED]. The first contact was initiated by DEBRA HOCHSTETLER when she called the Milwaukee DCI office on 12/02/2002, requesting advice from DCI on how to proceed with the investigation of her son's death, which had become a cold case. S/A Szatkowski documented that contact in a DCI zero file, case number SA-0-41-12880.

The second contact was also initiated by DEBRA HOCHSTETLER, when she telephoned S/A Szatkowski in the Milwaukee DCI office during the week of 02/16/2004. DEBRA HOCHSTETLER again asked for S/A Szatkowski's advice in this matter, as well as expressing her concern that the State of Wisconsin apparently turned down a request from the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department to assist in this investigation. S/A Szatkowski told HOCHSTETLER that he was not aware of a request being made, and suggested that she re-contact the Sheriff's Department if she wanted to pursue the matter any further. HOCHSTETLER also asked S/A Szatkowski if there was anything that DCI could do to assist in this investigation, at which time S/A Szatkowski suggested that HOCHSTETLER contact Director Carolyn S. Kelly.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINIONS:

It is recommended that a main case file be opened on the hit and run death of RICHARD HOCHSTETLER. It is further recommended that S/A Szatkowski review the case file and make suggestions as to additional leads and/or resources that could be utilized to help resolve this incident.

It is also recommended that S/A Szatkowski contact DEBRA HOCHSTETLER and her family to discuss DCI's involvement in the investigation. It should be noted that during DEBRA HOCHSTETLER's conversations with S/A Szatkowski she said there were rumors going around town that a police officer or officers might have been involved and were covering up the incident. S/A Szatkowski will investigate the credibility of those rumors as well.

SA-13642
02/26/2004

h:\szatkowskiej\13642 dcil 02202004 szatkowskiej.doc

Wisconsin Case Management
ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/1

Report Date: 06/30/2004

Primary Information

Description: 13642 / Interview / DEBRA E. HOCHSTETLER
 Occurrence From: 06/28/2004 00:00
 Occurrence To: 06/29/2004 00:00
 Reporting LEO: Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI)
 Backup LEO: Banks, Mark E (Milwaukee HIDTA - DCI)
 Approval Status: Approved
 Approved Date: 07/06/2004
 Approved By: Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee Special Assignments DCI)

Synopsis

Interview of Debra Hochstetler

Related Subjects

| Name | Type | Sex | Race | DOB | Relationship |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|--------------|
| HOCHSTETLER, DEBRA A. | Person | Female | White | [REDACTED] | Interviewed |
| S [REDACTED], C [REDACTED] | Person | Female | White | --- | Mentioned |

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Blue, Barbara J (DCI Milwaukee Field Office)
 Record Origination Date: 06/30/2004 12:51
 Last Update Operator: Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI)
 Last Update Date: 07/06/2004 10:57

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|--|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee Special Assignments DCI) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On 06/28/2004, Special Agents Eric J. Szatkowski and Mark E. Banks interviewed DEBRA E. HOCHSTETLER, W/F, DOB: [REDACTED], at her residence, [REDACTED], Manitowoc, Wisconsin, telephone number [REDACTED]. HOCHSTETLER is the mother of hit and run victim RICHARD D. HOCHSTETLER, W/M, DOB: [REDACTED]. She is employed at [REDACTED], telephone number [REDACTED], as a machinist, and she currently works third shift.

HOCHSTETLER was the person who contacted the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department early in 2004 to ask if they would request DCI's assistance in the investigation of her son's death in January of 1999. S/A Szatkowski arranged this interview with HOCHSTETLER to discuss the status of the investigation and to obtain information about possible new leads.

HOCHSTETLER provided essentially the following information:

HOCHSTETLER stated that the investigation into her son's death went very well in the early stages. She stated that Lt. Michael Bushman was a very motivated lead investigator, and the Sheriff's Department created a task force to help track down the driver of the vehicle that killed her son. HOCHSTETLER stated that a \$26,000.00 reward was also offered, and is still in effect to this day.

HOCHSTETLER stated that after approximately a month, leads coming into the Sheriff's Department started drying up. HOCHSTETLER stated that Bushman went back to his normal duties with the Sheriff's Department, but continued working on the case when he could. HOCHSTETLER stated that she understood the Sheriff's Department was working on the matter as best they could, and that the Sheriff's Department was keeping her notified of developments.

HOCHSTETLER stated that each year on the anniversary of her son's death, January 10th, she grants interviews with the media in an attempt to help generate leads. HOCHSTETLER stated that after she appeared on a Green Bay television station on 01/10/2004, she received an anonymous call from a woman who saw the story on a television newscast.

HOCHSTETLER stated that when she answered the phone, the woman asked her if she was the person who lost her son. HOCHSTETLER said she responded yes. HOCHSTETLER stated that the woman told her something to the effect of she knows who killed her son, and that she got the information from her husband, who works in a body shop.

HOCHSTETLER stated that the anonymous woman told her the person who killed her son was a cop, and that she gave her the last name of the person as HERMAN. HOCHSTETLER stated that the woman gave her a first name for HERMAN as well, but that she could not remember it at this time. HOCHSTETLER stated that she gave HERMAN's full name to Lt. Bushman after receiving the call, and he would know it.

Returning to the telephone call from the anonymous woman, HOCHSTETLER stated that the woman claimed the striking vehicle was crushed at CLEVELAND SALVAGE YARD in Cleveland, Wisconsin. The anonymous woman told HOCHSTETLER that happened sometime

between 2:30 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. on the night of the accident. (RICHARD HOCHSTETLER was killed at approximately 1:30 a.m.)

HOCHSTETLER stated that the anonymous woman said her husband does not want to get involved , but that she would talk to him about coming forward. HOCHSTETLER said the anonymous woman told her the accident was a sore subject with her husband, and she did not want him to know about this phone call. HOCHSTETLER was also told that the woman's husband does not want to get involved, just in case the story is not true.

In response to direct questions, HOCHSTETLER stated that she believed the anonymous caller was serious about the information, and that she seemed to really believe an officer was involved in the death of her son.

HOCHSTETLER stated that she probably did not believe the tip herself, but that the woman was convincing. After the anonymous call, HOCHSTETLER said she contacted S/A Szatkowski, who discussed her son's death with her on a previous occasion. She said S/A Szatkowski told her that if she trusted someone at the Sheriff's Department, she should pass the information along to that person. HOCHSTETLER said she agreed to do so.

HOCHSTETLER said she trusted Lt. Bushman, and contacted him with the information provided by the anonymous caller. HOCHSTETLER stated that when she told Lt. Bushman, he identified HERMAN was "the hatchet man" of the Sheriff's Department, in that he hires and fires people. HOCHSTETLER stated that Lt. Bushman also asked her something to the effect of, "do you know what you're saying?" HOCHSTETLER responded to Lt. Bushman by telling him yes, and that she was putting the information in his hands to follow-up on.

HOCHSTETLER stated that according to Lt. Bushman, he insisted that HERMAN was not involved. Lt. Bushman told HOCHSTETLER that he knows HERMAN did not have a vehicle matching the description of the striking vehicle. She said Bushman also told her that the individuals involved at CLEVELAND SALVAGE deal in more classic cars, not older trucks or vans like the one that hit her son.

In response to direct questions, HOCHSTETLER stated that she could not be certain about the relationship between HERMAN and the owners of CLEVELAND SALVAGE SHOP, but that Lt. Bushman might have said that a relative of HERMAN's might own the business.

HOCHSTETLER stated that at some point after her discussion with Lt. Bushman about the anonymous call, she went to the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department to meet with Lt. Bushman and Detective Link. HOCHSTETLER stated that she wanted to see police reports about the investigation, but that they said no. HOCHSTETLER stated that Lt. Bushman told her it was not a good idea, and that the Sheriff's Department could not let reports about an ongoing investigation leave the building. HOCHSTETLER said she told Lt. Bushman she understood, and that she requested an opportunity to read the reports at the Sheriff's Department itself. HOCHSTETLER stated that her request was turned down, and it was explained to her that the details would be too graphic for her to deal with emotionally.

HOCHSTETLER stated that she asked about the possibility of the Wisconsin Department of Justice getting involved in the investigation, and that Detective Link told her that the State would not get involved because a car was involved and it was only a hit and run case. She said Detective Link told her he checked into that already, but that he could not remember who he talked to.

HOCHSTETLER stated that after the meeting, she contacted S/A Szatkowski, who gave her the number of a supervisor (Director Kelly) in Madison to determine whether or not the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department ever made a formal request for assistance from DCI. HOCHSTETLER stated that she contacted the supervisor, who told her that the only record of her son's death was a conversation that HOCHSTETLER had with S/A Szatkowski in December 2002.

HOCHSTETLER stated after her conversation with Director Kelly, she called Detective Link. HOCHSTETLER said Detective Link told her he would call DCI and request their assistance. HOCHSTETLER stated that at some point after her conversation with Detective Link, S/A Szatkowski contacted her and told her that he would be reviewing the case.

S/A Szatkowski asked HOCHSTETLER if she was satisfied that Lt. Bushman took her tip about HERMAN seriously. HOCHSTETLER essentially replied that she was not sure because she believed Lt. Bushman might fear some type of reprisal or professional retaliation from HERMAN if the matter was taken seriously.

HOCHSTETLER said she directly asked Lt. Bushman to prove to her that HERMAN was not involved in her son's death. HOCHSTETLER stated that Lt. Bushman responded by telling her that he called HERMAN at home on the night of her son's death, got him out of bed, and that HERMAN came out to the scene that night and assisted in the investigation. HOCHSTETLER stated that Lt. Bushman also said something about HERMAN to the effect of "he's going to be sheriff someday," and that HERMAN and/or his family do not have any vehicles like the truck/van they were looking for.

HOCHSTETLER also stated that the tip she received about a police officer being involved in her son's death was not the first time she heard that kind of a story. HOCHSTETLER said that a girlfriend of hers, C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED], once called her with similar information. HOCHSTETLER stated that S [REDACTED], who owns the [REDACTED] in Clover, said she overheard a conversation in the bar about a police officer being involved in RICHARD HOCHSTETLER's death.

HOCHSTETLER stated that she tried to get more detailed information out of S [REDACTED], but that S [REDACTED] refused. HOCHSTETLER stated that S [REDACTED] was concerned about giving out information that she overheard from her customers. In response to direct questions, HOCHSTETLER stated that S [REDACTED] might be willing to share the information with S/A Szatkowski if he contacted her directly. HOCHSTETLER gave S/A Szatkowski a telephone number for S [REDACTED] of [REDACTED].

In conclusion, HOCHSTETLER stated that she shared other leads and/or rumors with Lt. Bushman over the years, and that she believed the Sheriff's Department followed up on them as best they could.

HOCHSTETLER also stated, however, she would feel better about the HERMAN/cop rumor if DCI independently looked into the matter. S/A Szatkowski agreed, and told her at some point DCI would have to identify and question HERMAN directly. HOCHSTETLER said she understood, and hoped that such an inquiry would not cause bad feelings at the Sheriff's Department about her.

HOCHSTETLER stated that she felt the Sheriff's Department has not been as cooperative with her as they were in the initial stages of the investigation. She explained that even if her son's death is never solved, perhaps her pursuit of this matter might help educate law enforcement to conduct an even better investigation in the future. She said she hoped her efforts and DCI's review might help prevent another victim's family from having to deal with an unsolved hit and run death in Manitowoc.

S/As Szatkowski and Banks thanked HOCHSTETLER for her cooperation. S/A Szatkowski explained to her that DCI would finish its review of the case file, and share ideas with the Sheriff's Department. He also told her that due to the passage of time and scarcity of new leads, the chances of solving the case were not very high. HOCHSTETLER said she understood and has been prepared for such a result for a long time.

HOCHSTETLER thanked the Special Agents for their assistance. The interview was concluded.

Wisconsin Case Management
ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/2

Report Date: 08/11/2004

| Primary Information | |
|---------------------|---|
| Description: | Interview / C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED] |
| Occurrence From: | 08/11/2004 00:00 |
| Occurrence To: | 08/11/2004 00:00 |
| Reporting LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 08/24/2004 |
| Approved By: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |

| Synopsis |
|---|
| On 08/11/2004, Special Agents Eric J. Szatkowski and Mark E. Banks interviewed bartender C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED] regarding statements she may have overheard regarding the hit and run death of RICHARD HOCHSTETLER in January of 1999. |

| Related Addresses | |
|--|---------------------|
| <u>Address</u> | <u>Relationship</u> |
| [REDACTED], Manitowoc, Wisconsin, United States of America | Interview Location |

| Related Subjects | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|--------------|
| Name | Type | Sex | Race | DOB | Relationship |
| C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED] | Person | Female | White | [REDACTED] | Interviewed |
| D [REDACTED] D [REDACTED] | Person | Male | White | --- | Mentioned |
| First Name Unknown D [REDACTED] | Person | Male | White | --- | Mentioned |
| K [REDACTED] K [REDACTED] | Person | Female | White | --- | Mentioned |

| Record Status Information | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Record Origination Operator: | Blue, Barbara J (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) |
| Record Origination Date: | 08/17/2004 12:19 |
| Last Update Operator: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI) |
| Last Update Date: | 08/24/2004 14:11 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On 08/11/2004, Special Agents Eric J. Szatkowski and Mark E. Banks interviewed C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED], W/F, DOB: [REDACTED], at her [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The Special Agent were given S [REDACTED] name by DEBRA E. HOCHSTETLER, the mother of hit and run victim RICHARD HOCHSTETLER. DEBRA HOCHSTETLER previously told DCI agents that S [REDACTED] might have overheard information at her tavern regarding the death of RICHARD HOCHSTETLER.

S [REDACTED] stated that she became friends with DEBRA HOCHSTETLER since approximately the time of the hit and run accident. S [REDACTED] said HOCHSTETLER's best friend, K [REDACTED] K [REDACTED], lived across the street from [REDACTED], and that S [REDACTED] and K [REDACTED] were friends.

S [REDACTED] stated that her tavern is located a few minutes drive south of where RICHARD HOCHSTETLER was killed on County Highway CR. S [REDACTED] said she was working in the bar at the time, and she remembered law enforcement and emergency personnel responding to the scene that night.

S [REDACTED] said that after the accident, she and K [REDACTED] K [REDACTED] would have discussions about the accident, and how devastating it was to DEBRA HOCHSTETLER. S [REDACTED] told K [REDACTED] that she would like to meet DEBRA HOCHSTETLER, and the two were introduced about one month after the accident.

S [REDACTED] stated that over the years, patrons would come into the bar and talk about the accident, in that it was very big news in the area. S [REDACTED] said there were many rumors being talked about regarding what happened, and that the most common rumor was that RICHARD HOCHSTETLER was killed because he was involved with drugs.

S [REDACTED] stated that about a year after the accident, a man named D [REDACTED] D [REDACTED] came into the bar and said he knew the "son of a bitch" who killed DEBRA HOCHSTETLER's son. S [REDACTED] said she told D [REDACTED] to report the information to police, but that D [REDACTED] said he did not need the reward money. S [REDACTED] stated that D [REDACTED] was also concerned about talking to the police because he was into smoking [REDACTED]. S [REDACTED] also said that D [REDACTED] was dating one of her girlfriends, T [REDACTED] M [REDACTED].

S [REDACTED] said that according to D [REDACTED], the person who killed RICHARD HOCHSTETLER owned the [REDACTED] in Manitowoc, as well as a gas station. D [REDACTED] told S [REDACTED] that the last name of the suspect was [REDACTED]. D [REDACTED] told S [REDACTED] that D [REDACTED] had a tan van that disappeared shortly after the accident, and that D [REDACTED] never saw it again. S [REDACTED] stated that she had heard rumors in the past that D [REDACTED] was responsible for the accident.

In response to direct questions, S [REDACTED] stated that she told DEBRA HOCHSTETLER about this information, and that she believed DEBRA HOCHSTETLER passed it along to the Sheriff's

Department. S [REDACTED] stated that she could not say for certain if the lead was investigated or not.

S [REDACTED] also stated that she heard other rumors over the years that the person responsible for the accident was a police officer named HERMANN. S [REDACTED] said that this person was never looked at as a suspect because his father either worked for or just retired from a police agency. S [REDACTED] further stated that according to rumors, HERMANN was asked to leave the Police Department for a reason other than the hit and run, and that HERMANN supposedly had a vehicle that matched what police were looking for, but that the vehicle disappeared.

In response to direct questions, S [REDACTED] said the only information she has heard about the accident has come from rumors. S [REDACTED] stated that she never heard any information from someone who claimed to have direct knowledge about what really happened.

S [REDACTED] also said that approximately two years ago, she took DEBRA HOCHSTETLER to see a nationally renowned psychic, Sylvia Brown, in Green Bay. S [REDACTED] stated that she hoped that DEBRA HOCHSTETLER would be able to ask for Brown's help in solving the hit and run crime during her psychic demonstration in Green Bay, but that HOCHSTETLER was not selected from the audience and was not able to meet Sylvia Brown.

The Special Agents thanked S [REDACTED] for her cooperation. The interview was concluded.

Wisconsin Case Management
ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/3

Report Date: 08/11/2004

Primary Information

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Description: | Interview / Law Enforcement Officer Robert C. Hermann |
| Occurrence From: | 08/11/2004 00:00 |
| Occurrence To: | 08/11/2004 00:00 |
| Reporting LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 08/24/2004 |
| Approved By: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |

Synopsis

On 08/11/2004, Special Agent Eric J. Szatkowski interviewed Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department Inspector Robert C. Hermann regarding rumors that he might have been involved in the hit and run death of Richard Hochstetler.

Related Subjects

| Name | Type | Sex | Race | DOB | Relationship |
|----------------|--------|--------|-------|-----|--------------|
| ROBERT HERMANN | Person | Male | White | --- | Interviewed |
| LAURA KING | Person | Female | White | --- | Mentioned |
| TODD HERMANN | Person | Male | White | --- | Mentioned |

Record Status Information

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Record Origination Operator: | Blue, Barbara J (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) |
| Record Origination Date: | 08/17/2004 13:32 |
| Last Update Operator: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI) |
| Last Update Date: | 08/24/2004 14:14 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On 08/11/2004, Special Agent Eric J. Szatkowski interviewed Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department Inspector ROBERT C. HERMANN in his office at 1025 South 9th Street, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, telephone number 920-683-4150. Inspector HERMANN has been employed by the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department since 1983. At the time of the RICHARD HOCHSTETLER hit and run accident in 1999, Inspector HERMANN was the Lieutenant of the Juvenile Detention Center.

S/A Szatkowski informed Inspector HERMANN that his name had been associated with rumors in the Manitowoc area that he might be involved in the hit and run death of RICHARD HOCHSTETLER. S/A Szatkowski asked Inspector HERMANN if he would be willing to answer questions, to which he responded yes.

Inspector HERMANN provided essentially the following information:

Inspector HERMANN stated that he learned about the accident when he got a phone call from work at his residence. Inspector HERMANN stated that he was sleeping, and the time was somewhere around 3:00 a.m. Inspector HERMANN said he was called in to work on the case, possibly by Deputy Michael Bushman, because Inspector HERMANN was experienced in accident reconstruction.

In response to direct questions, Inspector HERMANN stated that he was home that evening with his live-in girlfriend, LAURA KING, and Inspector HERMANN's two year old son. Inspector HERMANN stated that he was not out and about that night, including between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m., and that he was home with his family.

Inspector HERMANN stated that he went to the accident scene in his personal vehicle, a 1998 Chevrolet pickup truck. Inspector HERMANN stated that he sold the vehicle to another Manitowoc officer in 2001. In response to direct questions, Inspector HERMANN stated that he never owned a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle, specifically a Chevrolet truck or van manufactured between 1985 and 1988. Inspector HERMANN said he once owned a Ford truck made during those years, but never a Chevrolet product.

Inspector HERMANN said that upon arriving at the scene, he was briefed about what had happened. Inspector HERMANN said he got measurements at the scene, and also picked up some pieces of the grill of the striking vehicle. Inspector HERMANN said other officers also gave him pieces of the grill that they found at the scene as well.

Inspector HERMANN stated that after the scene was cleared, he started searching car dealer parking lots in the Manitowoc area in order to find a vehicle with a matching grill. Inspector HERMANN stated that he eventually found an old Chevrolet pickup that had a grill which was similar to the parts found at the accident scene. Inspector HERMANN stated that his discovery allowed officers to begin looking for a specific type of vehicle, specifically a Chevrolet truck.

In response to direct questions, Inspector HERMANN stated that he was not involved in the accident, nor did he have any knowledge about who might be responsible. Inspector

HERMANN also stated that no one in his family, nor his friends, own a truck that matched the description of the vehicle police were looking for. Inspector HERMANN was specifically asked if his brother, TODD HERMANN, ever had a vehicle similar to what police were looking for. Inspector HERMANN responded no. Inspector HERMANN stated that TODD HERMANN is an officer with the Sheriff's Department, and was so employed in 1999.

Inspector HERMANN stated that this was not the first time he heard about the rumors of his alleged involvement in the accident. Inspector HERMANN said he was talked to by Deputy Bushman after Deputy Bushman received similar information a year or so ago. In response to direct questions, Inspector HERMANN stated that he has no knowledge of who might be involved in this accident, nor does he have any suspicions that have not already been investigated.

Inspector HERMANN was asked about his relationship with CLEVELAND AUTO SALES AND SALVAGE in Cleveland, Wisconsin. Inspector HERMANN stated that the business was operated by his brothers, CHUCK and JIM HERMANN. Inspector HERMANN stated that his brothers salvage business probably would have had parts available to replace the damage caused on the striking vehicle, but he did not believe his brothers had any knowledge or involvement about the hit and run accident.

Towards the end of the interview, S/A Szatkowski and Inspector HERMANN went over some of the reports in this case prepared by the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department. Inspector HERMANN pointed out that his activities on that night were documented on pages 15, 16 and 17 of the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department case file. S/A Szatkowski observed that the reports contained the same information told by Inspector HERMANN during this interview.

S/A Szatkowski thanked Inspector HERMANN for his cooperation. The interview was concluded.

Wisconsin Case Management
ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/4

Report Date: 08/11/2004

Primary Information

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Description: | Interview / Cleveland Auto Sales & Salvage Owner CHARLES S. HERMANN |
| Occurrence From: | 08/11/2004 00:00 |
| Occurrence To: | 08/11/2004 00:00 |
| Reporting LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 08/24/2004 |
| Approved By: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |

Synopsis

On 08/11/2004, Special Agent Eric J. Szatkowski interviewed CHARLES S. HERMANN. HERMANN is the brother of Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department Inspector ROBERT HERMANN.

Related Subjects

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>Race</u> | <u>DOB</u> | <u>Relationship</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| CHARLES S. HERMANN | Person | Male | White | ████████ | Interviewed |

Record Status Information

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Record Origination Operator: | Blue, Barbara J (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) |
| Record Origination Date: | 08/17/2004 14:29 |
| Last Update Operator: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI) |
| Last Update Date: | 08/24/2004 14:15 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On 08/11/2004, Special Agent Eric J. Szatkowski interviewed CHARLES S. HERMANN, W/M, DOB: [REDACTED], at his place of business, Cleveland Auto Sales & Salvage, 1486 North Avenue, Cleveland, Wisconsin, telephone number 920-726-4444. CHARLES HERMANN is the brother of Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department Inspector ROBERT HERMANN.

S/A Szatkowski told HERMANN that he was assisting the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department in the investigation of a fatal 1999 hit and run accident, and was seeking his help in the investigation. HERMANN agreed to answer questions, and provided essentially the following information:

HERMANN stated that his salvage yard has routinely cooperated with law enforcement on vehicle related investigations for many years. HERMANN stated that he remembered assisting the Sheriff's Department in the fatal 1999 hit and run investigation, and he was glad that the matter was still be investigated.

S/A Szatkowski asked HERMANN to describe how police would be able to trace parts used to repair a vehicle involved in a hit and run. HERMANN essentially stated that since the late 1980's, vehicle parts such as fenders, hoods and headlights are required to have identification numbers that can be used to assist law enforcement. HERMANN further stated that identification numbers were not required on items such as grills, which is what the Sheriff's Department was looking for.

S/A Szatkowski asked HERMANN to speculate how the driver of the hit and run vehicle might have been able to avoid detection. HERMANN stated that the driver could have obtained an after-market replacement grill from any auto parts store in the state, and simply replaced the damaged grill himself.

HERMANN stated that the only difference between the after-market grill and a manufacturer's grill is the lack of the Chevrolet emblem across the front. HERMANN suggested that a grill on a suspect truck without a Chevrolet logo might raise suspicions. HERMANN further stated that it is very easy to replace a grill, and that a person does not need any specialized training or experience in auto body repair to change a grill.

S/A Szatkowski reviewed with HERMANN a list of area salvage yards provided by his business to law enforcement in 1999, which was used to assist in the investigation. HERMANN stated that he believed the salvage yards to be reputable, but that the driver could have gone to literally any salvage yard in the state or any other business that sells after-market parts and the person would have been able to avoid detection.

HERMANN stated that there was no state or business regulation requiring auto part shops to keep records of sales of parts. HERMANN suggested that perhaps law enforcement could contact after-market parts suppliers and inquire about grills purchased shortly after the time of the hit and run accident.

HERMANN again stated that he was glad to see law enforcement continuing their investigation in this matter. He said that he would like to see the person caught and that somebody who does something like that should be "hung." HERMANN said he has no knowledge of who might be responsible for the hit and run death.

S/A Szatkowski thanked HERMANN for his cooperation. The interview was concluded.

Wisconsin Case Management
ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/5

Report Date: 09/03/2004

Primary Information

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Description: | Recommend Closing of Case |
| Reporting LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 09/22/2004 |
| Approved By: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |

Synopsis

Recommend closing of DCI's review of the unsolved hit-and-run death of Richard Hochstetler in Manitowoc in 1999.

Record Status Information

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Record Origination Operator: | Szatkowski, Eric J (ICAC & Computer Crimes DCI) |
| Record Origination Date: | 09/03/2004 11:40 |
| Last Update Operator: | Kelly, Carolyn S (Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center DCI) |
| Last Update Date: | 09/22/2004 15:27 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | Kelly, Carolyn S (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On February 18, 2004, S/A Eric Szatkowski was given an assignment to review the investigation of the unsolved 1999 hit-and-run death of Richard D. Hochstetler, W/M, DOB [REDACTED] of Manitowoc. The 17-year-old boy was killed as he walked home during a driving snowstorm on a rural highway.

The Manitowoc Sheriff's Department was the primary law enforcement agency involved in the investigation, and they were unable to identify the driver. Parts of the striking vehicle found at the scene allowed investigators to determine only that the vehicle was made between 1985 and 1988, and that it was a Chevrolet truck or van.

The victim's mother, Debra E. Hochstetler, W/F, DOB [REDACTED], encouraged the Sheriff's Department to ask DCI for assistance, which they did in early 2004.

S/A's Szatkowski and Mark Banks interviewed Ms. Hochstetler about the matter. She was particularly concerned about rumors she heard that someone on the Sheriff's Department was involved, as was a salvage yard owned by a relative of that person.

S/A Szatkowski followed up on the lead, and found no evidence indicating the officer, identified as Todd Hermann, was involved in the accident. S/A Szatkowski also found no evidence indicating that Hermann's brothers, who own an area salvage yard, had anything to do with the accident. A DOT vehicle history check on all of the Hermann brothers showed no vehicles matching the 1985-88 make and model that struck Hochstetler.

S/A Szatkowski also followed up on another lead offered by Ms. Hochstetler, that a bartender friend of hers, C [REDACTED] S [REDACTED], had information about who was responsible. S/A's Szatkowski and Banks interviewed the bartender, and found that she had no direct evidence, only unsubstantiated rumors and gossip from tavern patrons.

S/A Szatkowski thoroughly reviewed the case file as provided to him by the Sheriff's Department, and was unable to identify any suspects that had not already been investigated and cleared by the Sheriff's Department.

On September 1, 2004, S/A's Szatkowski and Banks again met with Ms. Hochstetler, and informed her of the results of DCI's investigation. She expressed gratitude for DCI's involvement, and stated that she is comfortable knowing that another outside agency looked at what the Sheriff's Department had done. She still has hope that someday a break in the case could happen.

S/A Szatkowski composed a letter including suggestions to the Sheriff's Department, as to how they might be able to generate new leads in the case, and how to better investigate an accident like this in the future. A copy of the letter can be found at the end of this report. S/A Szatkowski also gave the Sheriff's Department the option to re-contact DCI if they needed further assistance.

Since there is nothing more that DCI can do at this point to assist in this investigation, it is recommended this case be closed.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PEGGY A. LAUTENSCHLAGER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Daniel P. Bach
Deputy Attorney General

Division of Criminal Investigation
James R. Warren, Administrator

17 West Main Street
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857
608/266-1671
V/TTY 1-800-947-3529
Email: dci@doj.state.wi.us

September 3, 2004

Deputy Inspector Michael J. Bushman
Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department
1025 S. 9th Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Re: Richard D. Hochstetler Death Investigation

Dear Michael:

This letter is a follow-up to the meeting Special Agent Mark E. Banks and I had with you at your Department on August 11, 2004. As I informed you at the time, I was nearing the conclusion of my review of your Department's case files in this matter.

Following a discussion on September 1, 2004, with the victim's mother, Debra Hochstetler, I believe DCI's assistance in this matter has been completed for now. Ms. Hochstetler has been patient and understanding in her contacts with DCI, and I believe she is appreciative of the efforts by the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department and DCI.

S/A Banks and I told her that we believe the Sheriff's Department remains committed to solving the hit and run, and we encouraged her to keep an open dialogue with law enforcement to help bring the person or persons responsible to justice.

Within this envelope, I am including copies of three reports that I did in the course of my review. Perhaps you can pick up a lead or two from them.

I am also including the following list of suggestions, some of which we talked about during our last meeting, to consider for generating leads:

- 1 Contact Ken Olsen at the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory in Madison about the possibility of sending the tan/black paint chips to a special lab in Canada for further analysis. Mr. Olsen said there might be a way to better identify the striking vehicle - - if the paint can be narrowed down to a particular year a manufacturer used it, and on a particular model. If such information can be obtained, it could be shared with the public to generate leads.
- 2 Keep in mind that Mr. Olsen cannot say with 100-percent certainty that the vehicle was tan in color, and it's possible the paint chips were picked up as the victim came in contact with the highway, where paint chips may have already been on the ground from a previous accident. With no new leads, however, you might have to concentrate on searching for a tan vehicle - - especially if the Canada option is successful.

Also consider doing research, if possible, on other accidents that happened on that stretch of highway, including car-deer hits. If there weren't any other accidents within a few weeks of the accident, or if the vehicles involved in any accidents were not tan in color, chances are better the suspect vehicle was tan.

- 3 In reviewing the reports you gave me, many of the vehicles that were reported cleared do not have detailed descriptions of how they were cleared. This review assumes that every officer did a physical inspection of every vehicle, closely looking for signs of repair/replaced parts in areas that were damaged or could have been damaged. If each officer for each vehicle inspected did not follow that procedure, there is a possibility the striking vehicle was missed. If there are vehicles that were not properly inspected, consider identifying them and have them re-inspected, plus re-interview the driver/owner.

The concerns in Number 3 are based on a 2002 hit and run death in Dodge County that DCI investigated. In that case, involving a volunteer firefighter, the suspect's truck twice passed inspection by investigators who missed the repairs because they did not know what to look for. Trained inspectors were from the State Patrol were called in to help by Dodge County, and the vehicle was finally identified. A body shop owner actually assisted in the cover-up, and this nearly allowed the perpetrator to get away with the crime.

- 4 If outside agencies cleared vehicles, it might be a good idea to get copies of their reports and add them to your case file. Perhaps another agency missed something while clearing a vehicle, but without a report to review, there is no way to determine if the inspection was as thorough as it should have been.

Also, if any vehicles were cleared only on tire size, consider rechecking them. A suspect would know that during a snowstorm, tire impressions would be damning evidence. Tires may have been changed to throw off investigators, in addition to having body repairs made.

- 5 It might be worthwhile for you to go over the entire case file again, perhaps a couple of times. Look for things with a very critical eye, for things that might not have been followed-up on as thoroughly as they could have been. Don't hold back, be your own worst critic, and look for things you think could have been done better - - by yourself or by others. No one knows the case as well as you. Sometimes the case officer can see things in a different perspective after a number of years go by.

If there is a suspect and/or vehicle you always had doubts about, even after initial investigation cleared him or her, look at it again. Check to see if they sold their vehicle after being questioned and cleared.

- 6 Consider going back to some of the restaurants/taverns that the driver might have left from before the accident happened. Sometimes managers, proprietors, bartenders, wait staff, etc., have heard rumors about what happened in a highly publicized case like this. That might generate some leads. Sometimes just going out and doing interviews gets people talking, resulting in more leads.

The same could be done with selected people interviewed in the course of the investigation, such as people who were at a particular bar or at a party that night. If it was an area resident that then got help from others to get away with a cover-up, chances are someone has talked about it over the years. Another place to do interviews could be salvage yards, parts stores, or body shops, perhaps asking to look at receipts for parts sold in the days or weeks after the accident.

I would recommend interviewing people in person rather than waiting for a tip or anonymous call. For example, if someone hears a story on the news asking for the public's help, a person has to take the initiative and make a call, which could be difficult. It's a lot easier for someone to give information if they are asked directly by an investigator, especially if they think it's only a rumor or gossip. Sometimes that kind of information can lead to a break in the case.

- 7 If you get a lead, do a title history on the suspect vehicle. Pay close attention to see if it was sold soon after it was officially cleared, and find out why. Aggressively question the owner/drivers; ask them about how often they used the highway where the accident took place; if they drove on the road at or around bar time; ask possible suspects to take a polygraph or CVSA.
8. If you have the time, and this is possible with DOT, go back to the list of cleared vehicles and ask DOT to give you another list that shows only those vehicles that were sold or scrapped within 6 months of the accident. If someone thought they got away with the crime after passing an inspection, they might have tried to get rid of the vehicle to avoid further inspections or simply to get rid of or destroy the evidence.
- 9 Hold a news conference to announce that a review of the investigation has resulted in some new leads that will be looked at. This will generate media attention, which you can

use to again ask for the public's help. It might make the person responsible nervous enough to make him or her slip up and say something, or it could bother the conscience of a co-conspirator enough to come forward.

10. Contact Inspector Mark Andraschko of the Wisconsin State Patrol, and ask him if he would be willing to review your files too. I have a lot of respect for him and his work, and he did a great job working the Dodge County hit and run investigation I mentioned earlier in this letter.

In future cases, I would recommend documenting interviews with all of the drivers of suspect vehicles, especially when drivers are contacted after enough time has passed for repairs to be made. The interviews would be in addition to the vehicle inspections.

Those interviews, much like a neighborhood canvass, could focus on standard questions such as alibis for the time the accident happened, as well as one's familiarity with the location of the accident, i.e. have they driven that route before. As you know, indicators of deception can be picked up in interviews, and result in a more in-depth investigation of certain suspects.

Also, for future cases, I'd suggest doing reports on all of the steps taken by your department to help identify the vehicle. That could include things like special instructions or photos given to investigators to use in their inspections, or the use of any case management applications to track leads. As the case agent, you know all of the lengths you went to, and there is nothing wrong with documenting those efforts to show how meticulous your investigation was.

As you know better than anyone, solving this case will be extremely difficult for several reasons. First would be the sheer number of vehicles you had to check, in addition to the passage of time and the inability to determine with certainty if the driver was from the Manitowoc County area.

Additionally, since so many years have gone by, it is quite probable the vehicle has been scrapped or sold. [REDACTED]

The suggestions I've included in this letter are time-intensive, and might have a low probability of success. However, in my years of experience in working cold cases, there are no short cuts that can be taken in a case like this. You will have to decide which, if any, of these suggestions would make the best use of your limited resources. I understand the amount of effort your department can put into this case will depend upon many issues, including personnel, budgeting, and ongoing investigations. I know those problems are inherent to all cold case investigations, which make them difficult to resolve.

Thank you again for requesting DCI's review, and please let me know if you have any questions or need further assistance from DCI, in any capacity, to help bring this matter to a successful conclusion. I wish you the best in your efforts, and applaud all the work you've already done to try and bring those involved to justice, and so that those affected by this tragedy can get some sense of closure.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Szatkowski, Special Agent
Division of Criminal Investigation
Milwaukee Office

Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI

ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/6

Report Date: 07/24/2009

Primary Information

Dissemination Code: Agency
Reporting LEO: Klyve, Craig S (DCI Investigative Services)
Approval Status: Approved
Approved Date: 10/02/2009
Approved By: Myszewski, Michael G (Div. of Criminal Investigation (DCI))

Synopsis

Information received from a telephone caller regarding a 1999 hit and run death. The case was worked in the past by Eric Szatkowski and the case was closed in 2004.

Related Subjects

| Name | Type | Sex | Race | DOB | Relationship |
|------------------------|--------|------|-------|-----|--------------|
| HOCHSTETLER, RICHARD D | Person | Male | White | | Victim |

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Klyve, Craig S (DCI Investigative Services)
Record Origination Date: 07/24/2009 15:44
Last Update Operator: Myszewski, Michael G (Div. of Criminal Investigation (DCI))
Last Update Date: 10/02/2009 10:05

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|---|-----------|
| Klyve, Craig S (DCI Investigative Services) | | Myszewski, Michael G (Div. of Criminal Investigation (DCI)) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation Case Report
Case/Report Number:DCIR13642/6

On July 24, 2009 at approximately 9:45 a.m. Director Craig Klyve received a telephone call that was transferred from the DCI main telephone line. The person providing the information refused to provide a name and wanted to give information he received from friends regarding the hit and run death of Richard Hochstetler who died on January 10, 1999 when Richard was 17 years old. The caller wanted to remain anonymous and would provide no information on the source of the allegations other than the individuals who provided the information were high school friends of the suspect that did not want to get involved in the investigation and did not know the caller was providing information to authorities. The caller wanted to give the information to an outside law enforcement agency due to the alleged involvement of the Manitowoc Sheriff's Department.

The caller said that Richard Hochstetler was walking on HWY CR in Manitowoc at approximately 2:00 a.m. on January 10, 1999 when he was struck by a pick-up truck driven by Robert Hermann who was a deputy with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department. Richard was dragged for about 180 feet prior to disentangling from the truck. Robert Hermann had been drinking with other officers and firefighters at a private party in Manitowoc prior to the accident. The caller stated that the truck that struck Richard was taken to Cleveland Auto salvage on January 10th and crushed. The remains of the truck were then buried on the property of a friend or relative of Robert Hermann. The caller said that Robert Hermann had a early to mid 1980s Chevy pick-up truck that has not been seen since the time of the accident. The caller believes this vehicle was the one that struck and killer Richard Hochstetler.

The caller stated that Robert Hermann has been drinking more lately and almost told another person about the incident a few months ago. The caller had heard rumors about the involvement of the Robert Hermann over the years. The caller mentioned a web site that had been posted on the Internet by the mother of the victim to get leads on Richard's death. The web site is linked to this report as an attachment.

The caller did not witness any of the information provided to Director Klyve. Director Klyve provided his telephone number in case the caller wanted to provide any further information regarding this incident.

Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI

ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/7

Report Date: 10/16/2009

Primary Information

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Description: | Interview of Hermann's Former Live-In Girlfriend: Laura A. Lee |
| Dissemination Code: | Agency |
| Reporting LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 10/20/2009 |
| Approved By: | Layber, Daniel L (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) |

Related Subjects

| Name | Type | Sex | Race | DOB | Relationship |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|--------------|
| ROBERT HERMANN | Person | Male | White | --- | Interviewed |
| LAURA KING | Person | Female | White | --- | Mentioned |
| HOCHSTETLER, RICHARD D | Person | Male | White | [REDACTED] | Victim |
| Lee, Laura A. | Person | Female | White | [REDACTED] | Witness |

Record Status Information

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Record Origination Operator: | Szatkowski, Eric J (ICAC & Computer Crimes DCI) |
| Record Origination Date: | 10/16/2009 14:50 |
| Last Update Operator: | Layber, Daniel L (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) |
| Last Update Date: | 10/20/2009 15:02 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|---|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | Layber, Daniel L (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On the night of October 13, 2009, S/A's Eric Szatkowski and Michael Hoell interviewed Laura Lee at her residence, [REDACTED], Two Rivers, WI. She was reported to be the former live-in girlfriend of Robert Hermann, current Sheriff of Manitowoc County.

Lee, formerly Laura King, was reportedly living with Hermann in January of 1999, when Richard Hochstetler was killed in a hit-and-run accident in Manitowoc County; Lee and Hermann reportedly had a 2-year-old son together at that time.

Lee said she is employed full-time as a counselor at Denmark Schools, and part-time as a reserve deputy with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department.

Lee was informed of the nature of the investigation, and asked if she could recall events at and around the time of the accident, January 10, 1999. She said she remembered the accident, and knows that it is still unsolved.

Lee confirmed that she was living with Hermann and their son, [REDACTED], on Sunset Road. Lee said [REDACTED] is currently 12 years old, and lives with her and her current husband, Aaron Lee.

Lee said that Hermann was working as a road deputy at the time, and remembered that he helped with the investigation. Lee said she thought at one point Hermann found a part of a grill from the striking vehicle, which she observed either when he brought it home, or at the Sheriff's Department in the evidence room when she was going through training. She said Hermann was taking the part of the grill around the area looking for a matching vehicle.

Lee was specifically asked if she recalled Hermann being called at home on the night of the accident, and getting a call from the Sheriff's Department in the middle of the night to come in and help with the investigation. Lee said she had no recollection of Hermann getting that call, but she also stated that it very well could have happened and she simply forgot about it because so much time has passed.

Lee said that she would not cover for Hermann under any circumstances, and that if she could remember if he got the call or not, she would say so. She said they split up about a year after the accident, and still maintain an amicable relationship. Lee also said that there is tension in their relationship, however, because Hermann was responsible for cutting her current husband's position at the Sheriff's Department.

Lee was asked if she and Hermann may have been out on the night of the accident, perhaps at party, because it took place on a Saturday night. Lee said she had no recollection of being out that night. She explained that when she lived with Hermann, they did not go out very much because of the responsibility of raising [REDACTED], especially when he was a toddler.

Lee also said that Hermann often worked odd hours in his spare time on fixing up squads for the Sheriff's Department. She said when new squads would come in, Hermann would transfer all of the equipment from an old squad to a new one, and that this was time consuming. She said it was possible that he did this on weekend nights too.

In response to direct questions, Lee said that she could not remember if Herman was out working on the night of the accident, or if he was home. Lee said she did not remember exactly how or when she learned about the accident.

Lee said she could not recall being awakened in the middle of the night by a phone call to Hermann, ordering him out to a hit-and-run accident. She was asked if a hit-and-run was a big deal in Manitowoc County; she responded yes, that something like that does not happen in Manitowoc County. Lee said she just could not remember how she learned about it.

Lee said that Hermann was not a big drinker, and she had no recollection of him coming home drunk on the night of the hit-and-run. She said that Hermann drank alcohol, but never to the point where she would consider him having a problem with alcohol or having a reputation as a drunk.

Lee said Hermann never drove an older model truck or van that was being sought as the striking vehicle. She said she remembered Hermann driving a newer model Chevy truck that was white and blue in color. She said he always drove newer stuff.

In response to direct questions, Lee said Hermann never did or said anything that would raise suspicion that he had anything to do with the hit-and-run accident. She said if he was involved, because of his law enforcement background, she would not expect him to be so careless as to do anything that would raise suspicion to her or anyone else for that matter.

The S/A's thanked Lee for her cooperation. S/A Szatkowski provided her a business card and asked her to call if she remembered any other information. She agreed. The interview was concluded.

A couple of days later, Lee contacted S/A Szatkowski with additional information. She said that if Hermann was out the night of the accident, the only other place she could think of was Club Bil-Mar in Manitowoc. She said the establishment was and still is a popular gathering place.

Lee suggested that S/A Szatkowski look into whether a gun show/Ducks Unlimited/White Tail event was held on the night of the accident. She said that Hermann and his friends and relatives always attended those kind of shows, which included dinner, drinks, and prizes. She said those gatherings would last well into the night. She said the cost would be \$50 per person, and she would not have attended.

S/A Szatkowski thanked Lee for her cooperation. The interview was concluded.

Wisconsin Department of Justice DCI

ACISS Investigative DCIR13642/8

Report Date: 10/20/2009

| Primary Information | |
|---------------------|--|
| Description: | Interview of Club Bil-Mar President: Dennis J. Herbert |
| Dissemination Code: | Agency |
| Reporting LEO: | Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) |
| Approval Status: | Approved |
| Approved Date: | 10/26/2009 |
| Approved By: | Layber, Daniel L (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) |

| Related Subjects | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------|-------|-----|--------------|--|
| Name | Type | Sex | Race | DOB | Relationship | |
| Hebert, Dennis J. | Person | Male | White | | Witness | |

| Record Status Information | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Record Origination Operator: | Szatkowski, Eric J (ICAC & Computer Crimes DCI) |
| Record Origination Date: | 10/20/2009 10:57 |
| Last Update Operator: | Layber, Daniel L (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) |
| Last Update Date: | 10/26/2009 15:09 |

| Reporting LEO | Date | Supervisor | Date |
|---|------|---|-----------|
| Szatkowski, Eric J (Milwaukee ICAC DCI) | | Layber, Daniel L (DCI Milwaukee Field Office) | 4/11/2016 |
| | | | |

Narrative begins on the following page.

On October 20, 2009, S/A Eric Szatkowski conducted a telephone interview with Dennis J. Herbert, the president of Club Bil-Mar, 3627 County Road CR, Manitowoc, WI. Herbert said he has been the president there since October of 1998. The club is located on the same highway where Richard Hochstetler was struck and killed in the early morning hours of January 10, 1999.

Herbert stated that according to his records, there were only 2 parties that took place at Bil-Mar on Saturday night, January 9, 1999. They were for Manitowoc Ice and Copp's Food Center. He said there were no events for a gun show or any other outdoors-related event.

Herbert said that music at Bil-Mar parties generally ends at midnight, and that most people are usually gone by about 12:30 a.m. or so. He said he had no records to indicate who attended the parties on January 9, 1999, or what time attendees left.

Herbert said he remembered that the Sheriff's Department did some investigation at Bil-Mar in the day or two after the accident. He believed that bartenders were interviewed at the very least; he did not know if other follow-up was done regarding Manitowoc Ice or Copp's, but he assumes it was.

S/A Szatkowski thanked Herbert for his cooperation. The interview was concluded.