

LA CROSSE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
Follow-up Report

16-19180 10/18/2016 11:45

RE: STATE PATROL TECHNICAL RECONSTRUCTION UNIT BRIEFING 10-13-2016

NARRATIVE:

SUMMARY:

On 10/13/2016 District Attorney Tim Gruenke, ADA Susan Donskey, and I attended a briefing at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy with the Technical Reconstruction Unit (TRU) which consists of Wisconsin State Troopers from throughout the State of Wisconsin. The purpose of this was to give them a case review briefing of the Kendhammer Fatal Accident and the TRU was asked to possibly reconstruct the events from 09/16/2016.

One item that was brought to our attention by a TRU member was that on the photographs taken by Deputy Kachel of the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department on 09/16/2016 of the interior of the Kendhammer's 2009 Toyota Camry it appeared as if there were glass fragments in the gear shifter housing. The gear shifter was in the console between the front seats of the vehicle.

Todd Kendhammer had stated that he was northbound on County Road M when the suspected pipe entered the windshield and struck his wife, Barbara. If this were the case, it was pointed out by the TRU member that the vehicle would have to be in "Drive" which is approximately midway through the gear shift pattern and once the vehicle was placed into "Park" the lower portion of the plastic housing would not be covered with glass fragments. The vehicle would had to have been in "Park" for the glass fragments to be placed in the shifter housing in the center console.

Contact was made with a salesperson at La Crosse Toyota and I was advised that they currently had a 2007 Toyota Camry for sale and that the shifter mechanism would be the same in a 2007 as it would be in a 2009 Camry.

Sgt. Yehle and I then conducted a video recorded reenactment of how the plastic housing moves when the shifter is repositioned from the "Park" position into the "Drive" position. This was done first and a second test was conducted with the vehicle placed in "Drive." I took an absorbent material, also known as Floor-Dry, and scattered it throughout the plastic housing on the shifter mechanism of the vehicle. When I placed the vehicle from "Drive" back into the "Park" position, the lower portion of the plastic housing, which moves with the gear shifter, did not have any of the Floor-Dry debris in the lower portion as would have been the case if the Kendhammer vehicle would have been in drive when the glass fragments entered the interior of the vehicle.

A copy of the video of this demonstration will be placed into evidence at the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department.

No further information.

Capt. John Zimmerman #1042

kp