

FOR THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOMICIDE BUREAU
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NUMBER PD150211054125

INVESTIGATION INTO THE AIRPLANE CRASH, :
WHICH OCCURRED ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY :
11, 2015, AT APPROXIMATELY 2:40 P.M., AT:
14300 KROME AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA. :

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SWORN STATEMENT OF BEATRIZ ARAQUE

Taken before Leslie S. Socolov, Court Reporter and Notary Public
in and for the State of Florida at Large, at [REDACTED]
Street, Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, on Friday, February
13, 2015, commencing at 1:07 p.m. and concluding at 1:16 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

LESTER AGUILAR, DETECTIVE
MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOMICIDE BUREAU

ALSO PRESENT:

OSCAR ANDINO, DETECTIVE
MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOMICIDE BUREAU

BEATRIZ ARAQUE

C/N PD150211054125

1 Thereupon,

2 BEATRIZ ARAQUE

3 having first been duly sworn, was examined and testified upon
4 her oath as follows:

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY DETECTIVE AGUILAR:

7 Q Ma'am, state your full name, for the record.

8 A Beatriz Araque, A-R-A-Q-U-E.

9 Q And what is your date of birth?

10 A [REDACTED] 1960.

11 Q Your phone number?

12 A [REDACTED]

13 Q And your address?

14 A [REDACTED]

15 Q Are you currently employed?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Who do you work for?

18 A [REDACTED]

19 Q [REDACTED]

20 A [REDACTED]

21 Q [REDACTED]

22 A 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

23 Q Okay. And your days off?

24 A They vary.

25 Q Vary?

1 A Never have off set days.

2 Q Do you have a phone number for work?

3 A Yes. [REDACTED]

4 Q Okay, ma'am. I'm going to take your attention back
5 to February 11th, at approximately 2:30, in the afternoon.
6 You had the opportunity of witnessing an event that occurred
7 in the area of 14300 NW -- I'm sorry, SW 177 Avenue. Do you
8 recall that incident?

9 A Yes, I do.

10 Q Okay. Tell me what you saw?

11 A I thought it was about 3:00 p.m., though.

12 Q Okay.

13 A I was driving southbound on Krome Avenue and I
14 noticed an airplane flying really low, and I said, oh my God,
15 that's really, really low. I mean, I don't know anything about
16 airplanes or altitude. The altitude was as far as a bird could
17 fly.

18 Q Okay. Just for the record, previously when we
19 discussed the incident you pointed out a bird, and for the
20 record that bird was at approximately three hundred feet of
21 altitude, more or less. Which direction were you traveling on
22 Krome?

23 A Southbound.

24 Q You were going southbound?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And when you noticed the aircraft with relations to
2 where you were at, which direction was the aircraft?
3 A It was flying westbound.
4 Q Okay. And was it east or west of you?
5 A It was north -- it was south of me. It was south of
6 me. She was coming this way, so --
7 Q Okay. So he was flying west, you were coming south.
8 A Uh-huh.
9 Q Was he east of you or was he --
10 A I'm sorry, he was east of me.
11 Q Okay. He was east of you and he was traveling in a
12 west direction?
13 A Yes. Yes.
14 Q Okay. At approximately more or less three hundred
15 feet of altitude.
16 A Yes, as far as a bird can fly.
17 Q Okay. And what brought your attention to the
18 aircraft? The fact that it was low?
19 A Yes. The fact that it was very low and making -- the
20 propeller was like making a little bit of noise, it was like
21 slowing down little by little and then it tilted.
22 Q Okay. Which propeller was slowing down?
23 A The left propeller.
24 Q Okay. The one facing south?
25 A Correct.

1 Q When you say "slowing down" did it appear to you as
2 if the engine itself was shutting off or --

3 A No, the propeller was going slower and slower and
4 slower.

5 Q Okay. And then you said you saw the airplane tilt?

6 A Tilted a little bit, right.

7 Q To what side?

8 A To the south side. To the left side.

9 Q Towards the left.

10 A Right.

11 Q Okay. What happens next?

12 A And then he kept going lower and lower and I said,
13 is he trying to land? But then he hit the pole and he hit the
14 pole but he kept going to the tree and that's when he like made
15 sort of a nosedive and it exploded.

16 Q Okay. Were you able -- do you recall the colors on
17 the aircraft?

18 A It was all silver with lines, and I don't remember if
19 the lines were yellow or white. I don't remember what color
20 the lines, but mostly it's silver.

21 Q Okay. Do you recall if the aircraft was moving at a
22 high rate of speed or was it slowing down, or --

23 A It was slowing down. I think normal speed but
24 slowing down.

25 Q Okay. Also, when previously, when we discussed this

1 incident you also told me that at some point in time you saw
2 the aircraft dive?

3 A I think it did a nosedive.

4 Q Okay. Was that prior to striking the power lines or
5 did you see it dive after?

6 A You know what, I really -- he hit the power line --
7 instead of making -- no. Instead of, maybe it could have just
8 tilted. That I'm not too clear about.

9 Q So you think it might have tilted further to the
10 left?

11 A Tilted and then that's when it exploded. But it
12 exploded at the tree.

13 Q Now, when you first noticed the aircraft and
14 throughout the entire flight path of the aircraft, do you
15 recall seeing any parts of the aircraft falling off?

16 A Absolutely not. That I didn't noticed.

17 Q Okay. And then you said that at some point in time
18 it strikes the power lines or the pole, you're not sure which
19 it hit; correct?

20 A The pole.

21 Q It hit the pole.

22 A Because it cut it in half.

23 Q Okay. And then it continued?

24 A I don't think it could have done a nosedive if it hit
25 the pole. I think it went sideways and that's when it hit the

1 ground and exploded, with the wing.

2 Q Okay. So at some point in time you saw which wing?

3 A The left.

4 Q The left wing.

5 A The left.

6 Q And then you saw it strike the trees and explode?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. What happened after that?

9 A It just caught in a huge fire. It was a humungous
10 fire and everybody raced over there. I saw a young guy run
11 over to see if could aid someone, but it was too much fire.

12 Q It was too hot?

13 A Right. No one could get in there. Way too hot. And
14 then we could hear like little like pop, pop, pop noises.

15 Q Like explosions?

16 A Right.

17 Q Do you remember how many?

18 A Maybe two. Maybe two, maybe three.

19 Q Now, when you noticed the aircraft flying in a
20 westerly direction and strike the power lines, how far north
21 are you from where this event is taking place?

22 A It happened at 144th, I was like maybe four blocks
23 away. And then I parked as close as I could park to watch the
24 whole thing.

25 Q Okay. So as the event is unfolding in front of you,

1 you're approximately four blocks away?

2 A Right, right, right. Four blocks and then I drove up
3 right next to it on the road of course, not on the -- it landed
4 on the grass -- on the -- what is it called. The land. On the
5 field. Everybody parked right on the side.

6 Q Okay. And you remained on scene until emergency
7 personnel arrived?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. I don't have any further questions at this
10 time. Has everything you told me been the truth to the best
11 of your knowledge?

12 A I have no reason to lie, yes.

13 Q And has anybody promised you anything or coerced you
14 in any way to give this statement?

15 A No.

16 DETECTIVE AGUILAR: Okay. Thank you I
17 have no further questions.

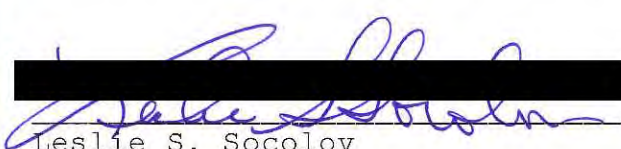
18 (Whereupon, the sworn statement
19 concluded atone: 1:16 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA]
 : ss
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE]

I, Leslie Socolov, Court Reporter and
Notary Public duly commissioned and qualified in and for
the State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify that the
foregoing transcript, pages one (1) to and including
eight (8), is a true and correct transcription of my stenographic
notes of the sworn statement given by Beatriz Araque
at [REDACTED] Street, Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, on
the 13th day of February, 2015, commencing at 1:07 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my official seal at Miami, Miami-Dade County,
Florida, this 13th day of February, 2015.


[REDACTED]
Leslie S. Socolov
Notary Public
State of Florida at Large



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FOR THE MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOMICIDE BUREAU
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NUMBER PD150211054125

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14300 KROME AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA. :

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SWORN STATEMENT OF RALPH JORDAN

Taken before Leslie S. Socolov, Court Reporter and Notary Public
in and for the State of Florida at Large, at the Miami-Dade
Police Department Fred Taylor Headquarters Building, [REDACTED]
Street, Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, on Thursday, February
12, 2015, commencing at 3:24 p.m. and concluding at 3:37 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

DAVID GRACIA, DETECTIVE
MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOMICIDE BUREAU

1 Thereupon,

2 RALPH JORDAN

3 having first been duly sworn, was examined and testified upon
4 his oath as follows:

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY DETECTIVE GRACIA:

7 Q Please state your name, for the record.

8 A Ralph Jordan, J-O-R-D-A-N.

9 Q And how old are you?

10 A I'm 60.

11 Q And what is your date of birth?

12 A [REDACTED]/54.

13 Q What is your home address?

14 A [REDACTED] Homestead Florida 33030.

15 Q What is your telephone number?

16 A [REDACTED]

17 Q What do you do for a living, Mr. Jordan?

18 A I'm a farm manager for a tomato farm down in
19 Homestead.

20 Q I'm going to bring your attention to February 11,
21 2015, which was yesterday. You understand we're investigating
22 a plane crash that happened in the area of Krome Avenue and
23 143rd Street. Can you tell me what information you have
24 regarding this case?

25 A At approximately 2:25 I was stopped probably 200

1 yards north of that location facing the south. And I was
2 talking to another vehicle on the side of the road when I saw
3 the airplane traveling from my left, which would be in the east
4 headed toward the west, facing southwest and I mentioned to the
5 guy --

6 Q Mr. Jordan, the person you're speaking to, you
7 identified him earlier as Robbie Swarns, S-W-A-R-N-S.

8 A I think it's S-W-A-R-M-S, Swarms.

9 Q Swarms. And you provided a phone number for him of
10 area code [REDACTED]

11 A Correct.

12 Q Is Robbie in the farming business as well.

13 A Yes, he's also a farm manager.

14 Q Okay. Please continue.

15 A And at approximately 2:32, 2:33, I saw the airplane
16 traveling, coming from the left to the right and there was
17 problems. I knew there was problems. It was bucking up and
18 down, coming down, and I told Robbie, I said, this guy's fixing
19 to land or crash. And his wheels were up. And as he was
20 coming in he was crossing Krome and he was headed for the
21 house; there was a house there. At that point the aircraft
22 banked hard to the right. I noticed that the port, or the left
23 motor was not running; propellers were stopped. At that point
24 when he banked to the right the aircraft fell out of the sky,
25 into the power lines. It looked like the left wing caught the

1 power lines and it flipped the aircraft probably 60 to
2 80 degrees off of the direction it was going and it slid into
3 the ground and slid about a hundred feet up into the fence and
4 trees. At that point, about two to three seconds after that it
5 exploded in flames. And there was flames going clear back to
6 Krome with fuel in the dumping. It hit the power lines; it was
7 dumping fuel out when it was coming down cause it ignited. The
8 flames ran back to Krome. You can see it in the video.

9 Q Mr. Jordan, when you first saw the aircraft how fast
10 would you say it was going?

11 A Under a hundred miles an hour. That's just a guess.
12 Under a hundred.

13 Q Did it seem to you that it was traveling too slow
14 for an airplane?

15 A Oh, it was traveling way too slow to be airborne.

16 Q How high in the sky would you say the airplane was?

17 A When I noticed it, it was probably 60 feet above the
18 field, about twice as high as the telephone pole, and he was
19 coming down.

20 Q You stated earlier that you observed the landing
21 gear was not down?

22 A The landing gear were up. I noticed it was odd that
23 you would notice something; I noticed the windows. I'm going
24 that's a big aircraft to be out here. You know. You know I'm
25 used to the smaller planes buzzing around and everything. The

1 large amount of windows I knew that it was a pretty good size.

2 Q Okay. You stated earlier that you observed that the
3 left propeller was not working?

4 A Was not working.

5 Q Did you observe the right propeller to be working?

6 A Yes, the right was going.

7 Q In your opinion, did it appear that the aircraft was
8 traveling towards the house, which for the record the house
9 Mr. Jordan is speaking about is located at 14300 Krome Avenue.
10 Mr. Jordan, did you think the aircraft was heading towards
11 that house?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And do you think the aircraft banked right in order
14 to miss the house?

15 A Correct. It banked to the right and at that point it
16 just fell out of the sky.

17 Q Once the aircraft hit the power lines, you said it
18 was kind of flung to the ground?

19 A It hooked to the wires and it slung the airplane
20 around. It didn't seem to come apart when it hit the wires it
21 kind of arrested it. Like on an aircraft carrier, it's that
22 kind of a look. You know, the cable were going crazy and this
23 aircraft just kind of slung onto the ground. Really smooth.
24 It landed smoothly, sideways, and it just slid on the ground.

25 Q Did the aircraft land on it's belly?

1 A Landed on it's belly, with the nose -- the nose was
2 pointing toward the south as you see it, where like it was
3 pointing toward the east -- southeast. Southeast direction.

4 Q When the aircraft crashed did it come apart,
5 initially?

6 A It did not come apart.

7 Q So the plane does not come apart. The plane you
8 said slides into that fence on that property and into a few
9 trees; correct?

10 A Right. Slid up and stopped right there at the fence
11 and trees.

12 Q Once the plane stopped was it still intact?

13 A Yes. Yes.

14 Q And you stated earlier a few seconds later the plane
15 exploded?

16 A Exploded.

17 Q Mr. Jordan, you told me earlier that you shot some
18 video footage of the plane on fire on your cell phone;
19 correct?

20 A With my cell phone, yes.

21 Q Okay. And you provided me with a copy of that
22 footage; correct?

23 A Yes, I did.

24 DETECTIVE GRACIA: Now, for the record,
25 the time stamp on that video footage taken by

1 Mr. Jordan started at 2:42 p.m.

2 THE WITNESS: Correct.

3 BY DETECTIVE GRACIA:

4 Q And, Mr. Jordan, you stated earlier that Robbie
5 Swarms lives part-time in Florida and part-time in Georgia?

6 A Yes, correct.

7 Q And that he is currently traveling to Georgia?

8 A He's leaving tomorrow to go back to start the farm in
9 Georgia.

10 Q Did Robbie Swarms witness everything that you
11 witnessed, as well?

12 A He -- he caught the aftermath as it was going in.
13 He didn't see it coming across the field because he was pointed
14 in the opposites direction and until I told him, and for him to
15 get around and look, it was already going into the trees and
16 going into the power lines. But then he did go out -- actually
17 in the video that's him on the right side of the video trying
18 to get to the aircraft, until it started exploding and then he
19 backed off.

20 Q Mr. Jordan, did you observe any other people attempt
21 to render aid to the persons --

22 A In the video there's one other man in shorts, in the
23 video. He ran up there and he was on the east side of the
24 aircraft, Robbie was on the west side, and once it started
25 popping and exploding both of them left. It was so hot and the

1 explosions, you didn't look at them. But it was totally
2 engulfed at that point.

3 Q Mr. Jordan, has everything you stated today been
4 true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

5 A The best of my knowledge?

6 Q Has anyone threatened or coerced you to give this
7 statement?

8 A No.

9 Q Have you given this statement freely and
10 voluntarily?

11 A Yes.

12 DETECTIVE GRACIA: Thank you very much.

13 (Whereupon, the sworn statement
14 concluded at 3:27 p.m.)

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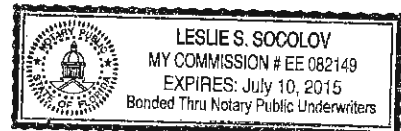
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA]
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COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE]

I, Leslie Socolov, Court Reporter and
Notary Public duly commissioned and qualified in and for
the State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify that the
foregoing transcript, pages one (1) to and including
eight (8), is a true and correct transcription of my stenographic
notes of the sworn statement given by Ralph Jordan
at the Miami-Dade Police Department Fred Taylor Headquarters
Building, [REDACTED] Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida,
on the 12th day of February, 2015, commencing at 3:24 p.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my official seal at Miami, Miami-Dade County,
Florida, this 12th day of February, 2015.


[REDACTED]
Leslie S. Socolov
Notary Public
State of Florida at Large



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