

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

-- VS.

Defendant(s)

INCIDENT LOCATION:STATE OF NEW YORK LOCAL CRIMINAL COURTCOUNTY OF ORLEANSTOWN of GAINESLOCATION OF DEPOSITION:

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORLEANSTOWN of GAINES

On	Date 04/24/2018	at	Time Started 02:36 PM	I,	Full Name: MARK H BENNETT
Date of Birth	No. and Street		CITY	State	
			ALBION	NY	

State The Following:

MY NAME IS MARK H. BENNETT AND I WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO SGT. JOHN M. DOYLE OF THE ORLEANS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. THAT ON APRIL 24TH, 2018 AT APPROXIMATELY 1:45P.M. I WAS DRIVING MY CAR NEAR THE GAINES VALLEY AIRPORT ON GAINES ROAD. AT THAT TIME I OBSERVED A MINI HELICOPTER HOVERING BACK AND FORTH APPROXIMATELY 6FT OFF THE GROUND, IN FRONT OF SEVERAL AIRPLANE HANGERS. THE MINI HELICOPTER THEN WENT STRAIGHT UP IN THE AIR APPROXIMATELY TWICE AS HIGH AS THE POWER LINES. THE HELICOPTER THEN TRAVELED IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION ACROSS GAINES ROAD. JUST WEST OF GAINES ROAD, I OBSERVED A SMALL PIECE OF EQUIPMENT COME OFF THE HELICOPTER AND I HEARD A LOUD POPPING NOISE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY A SEVERE GRINDING NOISE. I THEN OBSERVED THE HELICOPTER COME STRAIGHT DOWN AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED. AT WHICH TIME A SECOND PIECE OF EQUIPMENT CAME OFF BEFORE STRIKING THE GROUND. UPON IMPACT THE HELICOPTER BURST INTO FLAMES. I WAS ALREADY ON THE PHONE CALLING 911 AND SHORTLY AFTER MAKING THE CALL I RAN TOWARDS THE CRASH SCENE. I THEN FOUND A WHITE MALE IN HIS MID 60'S LAYING ON THE GROUND ON HIS BACK. THE MALE WAS ON FIRE AND HE WAS YELLING "PUT ME OUT, PUT ME OUT". I THEN INSTRUCTED THE MALE TO START ROLLING ON THE GROUND, HOWEVER HE REMAINED ON FIRE. THE MALE THEN HANDED ME A KNIFE FROM HIS OWN POCKET AND I CUT HIS SHIRT OFF. EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ARRIVED ON SCENE MOMENTS LATER AND I ASSISTED THEM REMOVING THE VICTIM FROM THE SCENE. THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT AS WRITTEN

Notice

(Penal Law §210.45)

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 24TH day of APRIL, 2018

- OR -

* Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____

(SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT)

(WITNESS)

(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

Time Ended	04/24/2018	02:53 PM
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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

-- vs.

N/A

Defendant(s)

INCIDENT LOCATION:

STATE OF NEW YORK LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT

COUNTY OF ORLEANS

TOWN of GAINES

LOCATION OF DEPOSITION:

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORLEANS

TOWN of GAINES

On	Date 04/24/2018	at	Time Started 02:32 PM	I,	Full Name: DIRK CLIMENHAGA
Date of Birth	No. and Street	C/T/V	State		
		ALB/ON	NY		

State The Following:

I give this statement to Deputy Martin Stirk Jr. [REDACTED] of the Orleans County Sheriff's Office. On April 24, 2018, at approximately 2:03 pm, I was in the yard of my residence, located at [REDACTED] in the Town of Gaines, County of Orleans, State of New York. While I was in my yard, I heard a very loud engine start up at Gaines Valley Aviation, located at 2501 Gaines Waterport Road. I recognized the sound of the engine to be that of a small helicopter that is a single seat unit and is usually at the first hanger on the northwest corner of the Airport property. As soon as the helicopter started, I looked over towards the airport and watched the helicopter running on the ground. The helicopter ran for less than one minute and then began to slowly leave the ground. After leaving the ground, the helicopter hovered at approximately the height of the power wires along the roadway for ten seconds or less. After that, the helicopter began to turn around. I looked away for a second and continued my yard work. A few seconds after that, I heard a very loud mechanical sound. I looked back up at the helicopter and saw the helicopter appeared to be out of control. The helicopter then began to rise up and began traveling westbound over the power lines and the roadway. The helicopter also appeared to be on fire. The fire appeared to be behind the operator of the helicopter. The helicopter looked like it was trying to travel westbound, but it did not look like it was flying westbound in a normal fashion, as if something appeared to be wrong with the way it was flying. By now, the fire had grown in size and started 'popping.' The fire appeared to be 'blowing up.' After the helicopter had crossed over the roadway, the helicopter appeared to be coming down as the fire was growing faster. The helicopter then went down, with the 'ski's' towards the ground. After hitting the ground, the fire continued to grow. I then ran over to see if I could help. When I was going over to the helicopter, Mark H Bennett was already at the helicopter with someone in a black truck helping the operator. Mark had got the operator out of the helicopter and had him on the ground. I had already called 911 and help began to arrive. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge.

Notice

(Penal Law §210.45)

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 24TH day of APRIL, 2018

- OR -

* Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____

(SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT)

(WITNESS)

(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

Time Ended
04/24/2018 03:21 PM