

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

ph

(1)

(1)

STATION

CDU

DIVISION

C.B

DATE

5th July 2019

Mr. Robert Lee Hopson Jr. DOB

of #

Beckley, West

AGE

56yrs

OCCUPATION

Island Manager for Big Grand Cay

SEX

Male

STATEMENT

I am the above mentioned person of the above said address. I was born in Welch, West Virginia, but I have been living at my U.S. address since 1999. I have been the island manager for Big Grand Cay for almost four (4) years, from since it was purchased by Mr. Christopher Cline sometime between June or July of 2015. My duties as the island manager of Big Grand Cay include, but not limited to day to day operations, I liaison between the island and my local Bahamian government officials including Bahamas Customs and the police, manager all construction projects, guest relations, accounts payable (verify all bills and payments), that how most of the daily schedule is. I work seven (7) days a week from 7am to 5pm. Mr. Cline intent for Big Grand Cay was to develop it into a private island resort to target big fortune 500 companies to bring their Board of Directors or employees, and they would rent out the cay for three (3) day packages or more and we would provide all the amenities including, cooking, spa treatments and other activities while they were here vacationing on the island. Mr. Cline began the development of Big Grand Cay sometime near the end of 2015. This was Mr. Cline's pet project compared to the other businesses he owned, when construction first began he would not come to the cay much, but as development progressed as much as his schedule would allow he would make a day trip to inspect the work and give instructions as to

Rental
plans
were
never
formalized

One of
10 favors
Project

July 5 2019

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

fy(2)

STATION. C.D. DIVISION G.B.

DATE 5th July 2019

Robert Hogan 00B
Beckley, West Virginia

AGE OCCUPATION SEX

STATEMENT designs of buildings. When other amenities like the tennis courts and swimming pool was added he would spend a U.S. holiday weekend here with family members and other guests; he did this about five (5) or six (6) times a year. When Chris (Mr. Cline) would come to the Cay he would either come in his helicopter or sea plane, this would also include his family members, some of his guest would travel to the island by his company's fish vessel name "Dirty Mines". His sea plane is a white colored, with ships single engine Caravan tail number N208KP, and his helicopter is an Aug. Agusta 131, white and aqua in color tail number N322C. The helicopter would land at the helipad which is about 100 yds from the dock and his sea plane would just in front of the dock. The helicopter pilots that flew were Geoff Painter and David Tude, and I know they were flying the helicopter for at least three (3) years. The sea plane was normally piloted by David Tude or Ryan (Blk) Hoffbluff for the same amount of time. I have known Tude for about twenty (20) years, he lives in Juno Beach, Florida. I know he's not married, and he has two (2) grown children, David Tude Jr. and Maxie Tude. Maxie is in school (university) in Kentucky, and David lives in Florida, where he plays professional golf. I have known Geoff for about ten (10) years, but I don't know anything about his personal life. I only know him professionally. I have known Chris since 1982, thirty-seven (37) years. We met in West Virginia, we've done business together, I've worked with him our wives are friends and our kids

July 5 2019

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

13

STATION

CD4

DIVISION

CB

DATE

5th July 2019

Robert Morgan DOB [REDACTED]

Beechley, West Virginia

AGE

OCCUPATION

SEX

STATEMENT

grew up together, (just like Chris is divorced).
Chris has multiple home addresses, including
Canada, USA, and the Bahamas, in the U.S.A he is
Prosperity, West Virginia, and he has another address in
Treno Beach, Florida. Chris has four (4) children
including Candice, she married. I don't know her last name,
she is the eldest, Logan Cline (male), Tanner Cline (male)
and last Kameron (who is known deceased, he died with him).
Mr. Cline came into Big Green Bay on board his sea plane
on Tuesday 2nd July 2019, at about 5pm along with our
interior designer, Ashlee Simmons and on Wednesday 3rd
July 2019, Kameron came to the island along with three
(3) female friends Dehane Wyck, Brittany Seerson, and
Tillian, (I don't know her last name). The purpose of them
coming to the island was to relax, enjoy the weather
and spend time with family and friends, also to celebrate
the 4th July holiday, Kameron and her friends college
graduation and Mr. Cline's birthday which is today 5th July,
which would have made him sixty-one (61) years old.
It was their intention to stay until Saturday 6th July 2019;
However, on Thursday 4th July 2019, sometime early morning, sometime
after 12:00pm Kameron and one of her friends Tillian fell
ill and wasn't doing well. Mr. Cline became worried and
concerned for their well being and he decided to take
them back to the U.S. for medical assistance. Mr. Cline
called Mr. Jude and asked him to come and collect his
daughter and friend to take them to the hospital. After
he informed me of his decision, I then contacted the
U.S. Coast Guard via phone in Miami, Florida and told them.

July 5, 2019

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

P. (2)

STATION COU DIVISION C.B.

DATE 5 July 2019

Robert Hagon DOB

Beckley, West Virginia

AGE OCCUPATION SEX

STATEMENT The helicopter piloted by Mr. Jude and Mr. Painter arrived at the island at about 2:00am to transport Mr. Cline, Cameron, Sullivan, Deleany and Brittany to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. I saw them all board the aircraft. I shut the helicopter's door and watched them take off at about 2:10am, and headed in an easterly direction. When the helicopter lifted off I did not notice anything unusual or strange. I then went to the big white house to call the U.S. Coast Guard and asked them to have the ambulances awaiting their arrival. There were some other guests including Tanner. I told them to shut the music off and go to bed. I did the same. I woke up about 6:00am, and began my day like I usually do. I got some breakfast and began my day. It didn't even occur to me then that Mr. Cline didn't call or say anything. David was scheduled to bring Logan (the other son), but the helicopter wasn't at the hangar, Palm Beach Airport (PBI), once I learnt this I began calling. This was near to mid-day. The U.S. Coast Guard, hospitals and anyone else we could think of, persons in the U.S. were also calling around to see if they heard from Mr. Cline, but no one did. I then requested the U.S. Coast Guard to start a search. A little later while speaking to Brooks and Jeremy who work on the island and I was telling them what happened, Brooks and Jeremy then gave me information about persons hearing a third sound earlier that morning and at the same time the helicopter took off. I said that didn't make any sense so there was no reason to fly that way.

Rel 5 2019

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

lg(5)

STATION. CDU DIVISION. GB

DATE. 5th July 2019

Robert Hygon 00B
Beckley, West Virginia

AGE. OCCUPATION. SEX.

STATEMENT. because it was in the opposite direction of where they needed to go, the direction they were talking about is just open water. We all then decided to go out on the boat that was here and go looking in the direction they were talking about; this would have been sometime after 2pm or 3pm. While were looking we discovered the green bottom of the helicopter, a short time later about seven (7) boats showed up with persons wanting to assist. Brooks then assisted me by telling the persons to wait and to go notify the police. When the police arrived they got onto our boat and I told them that I wanted to assist and abide by the law. The police then asked for the assistance of a diver. A guy went in the water and down came back up and said that there were bodies in the helicopter. I then asked him to go back down and count the bodies and tell me how much, there was, I hoped that someone may have survived. When the diver came back up and told me that there were seven (7) bodies that when I knew no one survived. The diver was assisted by another diver and they retrieved all the bodies from the helicopter and placed them on our boat. After everyone was on the boat, I identified them as all the persons. I saw get on the helicopter including the pilots. When we then brought the bodies back to the main land of Lil Grand Cay, the nurse came checked the bodies gave information about them being lifeless and we waited for other police and government officials to come. I saw when the bodies were taken off our boat and placed

July 5, 2019

onto the police boat, before they left. I know that the pilots were experienced in flying the helicopter. I'm not sure who maintained or serviced the helicopter. Those records are kept at PBI, but I know that the helicopter was recently purchased about two (2) years ago, or thereabout. When the helicopter was on the helipad it never shut off, and no one was in or around the helicopter, it was simply touch and go. This statement is true and correct.

Robert C. Hogan

July 5, 2019 3:43 PM

6/7/19 3:42 PM

I further wish to state that David Gude, the pilot of the helicopter left by Grand Cay. on Wednesday 3rd July 2019, at about 4pm, taking no one with him. This statement is true and correct.

July 5, 2019
4:17 PM

ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

Statement Form

0

STATION Grand Cay Police DIVISION Abaco

DATE 5th July, 2019

STATEMENT OF M^cGarett Russell Doo of [REDACTED] (Full Name)

[REDACTED] Grand Cay, Abaco
AGE OCCUPATION Fisherman SEX male

This statement (consisting of pages each signed by me), is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the day of 20 Signed

. being unable to read the Statement, I

of read it to him before he signed it.

Dated the day of 20 Signed

I am the above mentioned person and I reside at the above mentioned address. I have been living in Grand Cay my entire life. On Thursday 4th July, 2019 sometime around 2:30pm I recieved a telephone call on my cell phone from a friend in Nassau who asked me to make enquiries into something for him. He told me the owner of Big Grand Cay and a few others left the cay during the early morning and have not being heard of. He stated that he got a call saying the plane never reach and he asked me to get a search team to check the area. I then got up put on some clothes and went out to the dock area along with my son Cay Russell. Once I got to the dock I asked Alexander Rolle who is employed at Big Grand Cay to go with me over to the cay but I didn't tell him why I was going.

Signed

Statement taken and signature witnessed by
Rank and Number

I then went and met with the Manager of the cay Robert Hogan who we call Rob. I told Rob of the information I received from Nassau. While talking to Rob he received a call from the United States where he was told the aircraft is not in the United States air space or waters and the persons who was sick is not in any hospital in Florida or West Virginia. I then left Big Grand Cay and drop Alexander back to the main land and took my son out to look around to see if we would find anything. After about a hour of (seal) searching and asking boaters if they saw anything I went back into Big Grand Cay. At this point Manthany McIntosh (Brooks) Jeremy Curry, Rob and two others was on one of the owners boat coming out to help search. They followed me out and I also asked a boat that belong to a tourist which had a native on it to assist us. I stayed out for about fifteen minutes then I came to the main land for some fuel. I then return to the area we was searching and a short while after we saw what appeared to be the wreck. My son Cory said he would go to check it out. Cory went into the water and after diving to the wreck and came up and confirmed that

ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

Statement Form

2

STATION DIVISION

DATE

STATEMENT OF McGarett Russell
(Full Name)

AGE OCCUPATION SEX

This statement (consisting of pages each signed by me), is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the day of 20 Signed

..... being unable to read the Statement, I

of read it to him before he signed it.

Dated the day of 20 Signed

it was Mr. Chris Cline aircraft and there was five (5) persons in it. When he said that one of the guest said it should seven (7) persons because seven (7) persons left. Cay went down a second time and when he came up he confirmed that it was seven (7) persons and they were still strapped with there seat belts. At that point the guess an Mr. Cline boat asked that Henry go in and get the police so my son came out the water and we stayed in the area until the officers got to the site. At this point it was around 5:30pm when the process of getting the persons out the plane started. my son Cay and another guy from the area was asked to go and pull the persons out the plane and they were loaded unto the boat with the officers, Rob and also the two nurses from the

Signed

Statement taken and
signature witnessed by
Rank and Number

clinic. Once the seven persons was pulled from the wreck unto the boat we all left the site back to the main land and waited around at the clinic until the police boat from Freeport came.

That conclude my involvement in this matter. I have read the above statement it is true and correct. x [REDACTED]

x July 5th, 2019

[REDACTED]
5/07/19

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

STATION

C.D.U.

DIVISION

C.D.U.

DATE

5th July 2019

D.O.B.

Mathene McIntosh

Grand Cay.

AGE

39yrs

OCCUPATION

Boat Captain - Fishermen

SEX

Male

STATEMENT

1:08 PM

I am the above mentioned person and I reside at the above mentioned address. I am a resident of the Grand Cay and have been all my life. I'm pretty familiar with the island and everybody on the island. On Thursday 5th July 2019 at about 1:30AM whilst on Logic's Dock along with my brother in law Jeremy Cossy having a few cocktails I heard a loud engine sound flying over the island. I looked up and saw the lights of a helicopter coming onto the island at Big Grand Cay which is just east of the dock. I thought nothing of it because this is regular occurrence. So Jeremy and I continued partying and having more cocktails as time would have passed it got to about 2:15AM when I heard the helicopter in the air again and saw the lights flying by Jeremy and I. I saw the lights travelled just north of Grand Cay and I was all of a sudden about a mile or two from where I stood just saw the lights vanished and heard a loud bang. I immediately called my cousins and a friend Tisha, Verdell and Brandon along with Jeremy and we went to the area. I saw the lights vanish and heard the loud bang, but it was too dark we could not see or hear anything. We searched for about two and a half hours and came up with nothing. I then called another fellow on the island Herby and told him

Continuation

I think I see the chopper that Chris Cline
the owner of Big Grand Cay go down onto
the water and Herby Guy they take off they
gone. So after I heard that from Herby who
takes care of the island of Big Grand Cay
I say they must be straight I start to
second guess myself and we went back to
shore and called it a night. At about 4:00pm
on that same day whilst on the dock at
Rosie along with Jeremy we got information from
the employees of Big Grand Cay saying the
chopper that Chris Cline owned never made
it to Florida. Jeremy and I then got into
a boat and travelled to Big Grand Cay and
speak to Robert Hagan the Manager of the Bay
who told us directly the Helicopter didn't make
it. So we told him what we heard and we
got into his boat along with Rob and went
back to the area. I initially heard the
loud bang and says the lights vanish. About
30 minutes later Rob, Jeremy and I found the
wreckage of the Helicopter which was in some 18
feet of water. Curry and another guy whose called
"Shifty" went down into the water and looked into
the helicopter and said there was seven (?) people
on the inside of helicopter and all of them appears
to be dead. We then called the local police and
started with the retrieval of the body of the
Seven people one of whom was the owner of
Big Grand Cay Chris Cline. I did not see anything
suspicious with the plane or movements that night.
I do not know what happened why the plane went
down. This statement is true and correct. [REDACTED]

1:50PM

5.7.2019

1:50PM

5/7/09

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

STATION

C.D.U.

DIVISION

C.D.U.

DATE

5th July 2019
Grand Cay

AGE

27 yrs

OCCUPATION

Fisherman

SEX

Male

STATEMENT

I am the Above mentioned person of the Above Address. I was born on [REDACTED] in Freeport Grand Bahama, I am previously employed as a Fisherman.

Shortly around (10) Ten minutes to 2 am on Wednesday night - Thursday Morning 4th July 2019 I was at my father's Gas Dock "Rosie's Restaurant and Bar" situated in Grand Cay, Abaco along with Brooklyn Marthony McIntosh, my Nephew Chance and another guy Tiko Miller all of Grand Cay. We were all on the Dock

Shooting the Breeze and talking. While there I saw and heard the Chopper flying over and heading over to Big Creek Cay which is owned by Chris Clyne who has a development going on that employees report of the Outrigger.

I was not a regular Occurrence as I lived here all my life and never saw that happened before. After hearing that and seeing that a short time later the Chopper took off. Immediately I observed a Light spinning and a Loud sound. So every one of us except from my Nephew Chance jumped in one of my father's Boat and headed where we observed the Light coming from. At this time it was around 4:00 am in the

Morning and due to it being night could not see anything. I then got going Cellular Phone and Called Beryl the wife of the Care taker Herbert Thompson and I told her what we observed and she advised us that there was an Emergency on the Island and that the Chopper left and heading back to the United States. After speaking with her we all headed back to the land.

Sometime around 4:00pm on Thursday 4th July, 2019 I was on our Dock when I received a call from "Brooksy" who told me that the Chopper and Mr Cline then never made it to the United States. On hearing this we all jumped in one of our boats and drove over to Big Grand Cay where we (me and Brooksy) met with Mr. Rob on the Dock to the property. I advised him as to what we had seen the morning before and the crash also that they were looking in the wrong direction. We myself Brooksy Mr. Rob Dave and two other white male I had just met and not knowing their names we joined in the Company's Boat and we directed them to the northern side of the Island. It was about a mile out I observed a white plastic Cabbage in the Current and heading in an Easterly Direction. I then observed the belly of the Chopper that was green in colour and pointed it out to them. I was on the Bow of the Boat and had the best view.

BAHAMAS POLICE

Statement Form

STATION.....

DIVISION.....

DATE.....

Continue

AGE.....

OCCUPATION.....

SEX.....

STATEMENT

We all Waved to a second company boat—that had Steve and Kenny two (2) Brothers from Grand Cay—that works for the Company. Mr. Rob Hogan then alerted Kenny and Steve to notify the Police and they left and followed that instructions. Mr. Garret then came out on his personal boat there was about five persons with him. At this time I could recall his son Cory being with him. and a short time later the Police arrived on the scene. Cory would have been the first to jump in the water followed by "Shelly" Cory then came up and gave a head count of seven persons and at that point the Police had given the permission to start removing the bodies from the Wreckage. As the bodies came up we all assisted in placing them in the boat. I observed Mr. Glynnes, David the Next Pilot, Mr. Cline daughter and her (3) three friends. the (Local Nurse one of whom I know as Lighbowme the other one I don't know her name made checks up the body which appeared lifeless. In my life time I seen some a Lot of Accidents and all these persons onboard

Continuation

were in my mind broken up. I must have
been Around 5:00am in the morning when
we all arrived at the Local Clinic. At
the Clinic I assisted in placing the
Bodies in Bags (body) and around 9:30pm
The Police from Freeport arrived and took
all the Bodies to Freeport Grand Bahama.
This is my involvement in this matter I
have read the Above Statement and it is
true and correct.

[REDACTED]

R/S [REDACTED]
July 2019
3:00
3:00 P.M.

~~I further wish to state the David Gude the pilot left
Big Grand Cay.~~

ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

Statement Form

0

STATION Grand Cay Police DIVISION Abaco

DATE 5th July, 2019

STATEMENT OF Cory Xavier Russell D.O.B. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] (Full Name)

[REDACTED] Grand Cay, Abaco

AGE 22 OCCUPATION Fisherman / Diver SEX male

This statement (consisting of _____ pages each signed by me), is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the _____ day of _____ 20 _____ Signed _____

_____ being unable to read the Statement, I _____

of _____ read it to him before he signed it.

Dated the _____ day of _____ 20 _____ Signed _____

I am the above mentioned person and I reside at the above mentioned address. On Thursday 4th July, 2019 sometime around 2:30 pm while at my dad said something happen we need to go. We then left the house and went down to dock area and was asking persons if they heard anything but everyone was saying "No". We then went to our boat and went to Big Grand Cay. I stayed in the area of the dock while my dad went up on the Cay and was talking to Rob the manager. When my dad came back to the boat we went around the back of the cay and was looking around and asking persons in different boats if they heard anything the night before or saw anything and everyone said "No". Me and my dad went back into Big Grand a second time and went back

Signed _____

Statement taken and signature witnessed by _____

Rank and Number _____

out with one of Mr. Clines boat which Jeremy Curry was the captain and he had Rob and a few others on the boat. After searching for a while my dad decide to go in for gas and shortly after we got back out the aircraft was spotted in the water. I then agreed to go and make a check and when I got like ~~that~~ half way down I saw a light green and white helicopter up side down and only the pilots doors was on and I saw about five (5) persons strapped in up side down so I went to the top of the water and told them what I saw. One of the white guys then said seven (7) persons was onboard so I went down again and counted seven (7) persons. I then came out the water and waited until the police came. Once the police was on site and gave permission to pull persons from the wreck me and another guy went into the water and got the persons out. In order for us to get them from the plane I had to cut the seat belts and twist and turn because wires and stuff was hanging and around there body. I didn't see any visible injuries but once we move them thats when the blood start to come out. Once we loaded the bodies onto the boat we left the area. Based on what I saw it appear as if the helicopter dragged

ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE

Statement Form

②

STATION DIVISION

DATE

STATEMENT OF Cory Xavier Russell
(Full Name)

AGE OCCUPATION SEX

This statement (consisting of pages each signed by me), is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the day of 20 Signed

..... being unable to read the Statement, I

of read it to him before he signed it.

Dated the day of 20 Signed

or was Flipping because all the sides
was off, it was basically only the body
of the helicopter was there. I saw one
of the doors a short distance off from
the plane but I never saw the tail
of the plane. I also saw the blades
from the helicopter a short distance
of from the plane and there was pieces
of the plane around the area. This
concludes my involvement in this incident. I
have read the above statement, it is true
and correct.

X 05.7.19

5/07/19

Signed

Statement taken and
signature witnessed by
Rank and Number