

Transcript of	
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Case:

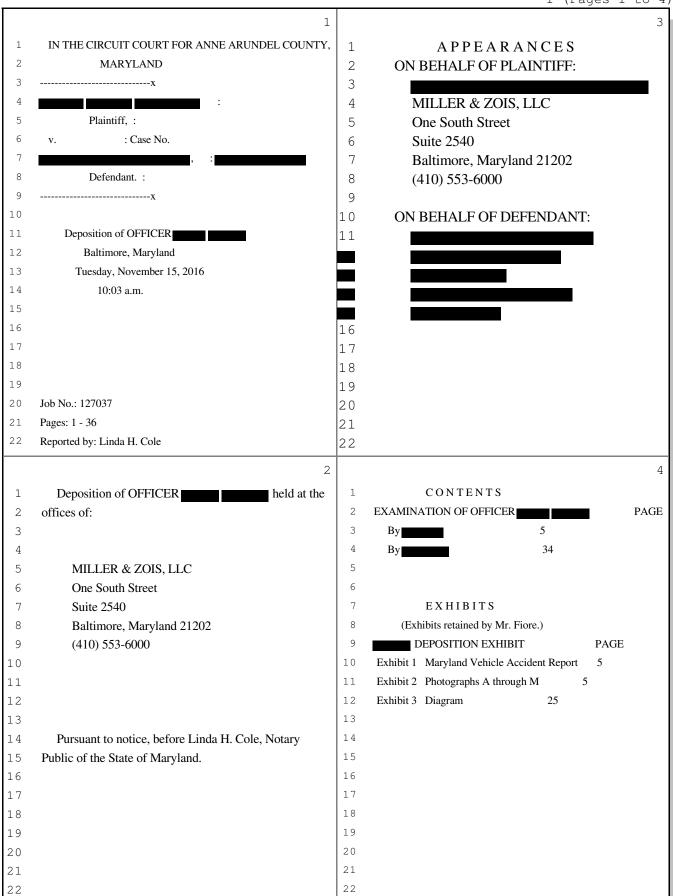
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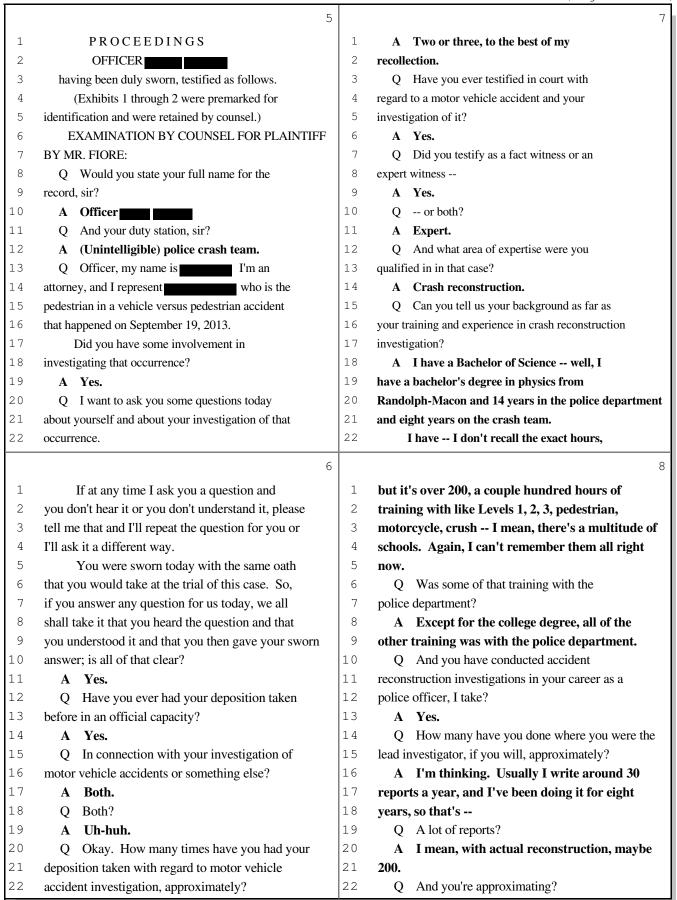
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1 (Pages 1 to 4)



2 (Pages 5 to 8)



3 (Pages 9 to 12)

9 11 1 A Yes. 1 that's what happened. 2 2 Q I guess I should ask you this Q Have you had any contact with me before 3 3 today? question first. Do you have -- as you sit here 4 4 A I don't think so. today, do you have any independent recollection of 5 5 Q Have you had any contact with the incident that's documented on Exhibit 1? 6 the attorney who represents the driver of the 6 A Honestly, the only thing I remember is, I 7 7 vehicle in this incident, before today? believe this is the same crash, the guy had dog poop 8 8 A No. on his shoe and that's how we got an AOI. It's like 9 9 Q With regard to that pedestrian versus car the smear mark of dirt on the road is the only thing 10 10 incident that happened on September 19, 2013, what I really remember about the crash because it was 11 was your role in that investigation? 11 odd. It's like one of those random things. It 12 12 A Lead investigator. never happens, and it happened. 13 13 Q And the AOI is what? Q Were there others that assisted you in the 14 investigation? 14 A Area of impact. I apologize. 15 15 Q So you do recall that because it's an A Yes. 16 unusual fact. Q How many others? 16 17 A I don't recall. 17 Do you recall independently anything else 18 18 Q But you were the lead? about your investigation? 19 19 Uh-huh; ves. A No. 20 Q Were you the first officer upon the scene 20 Q And it would assist you to look at your 21 21 that day? report, I take it, and your papers as you are 22 22 testifying? A No. 10 12 1 Q When you arrived, had the scene been A Yes. 1 2 2 secured by other officers? Q Okay. So please feel free to do so. 3 A Yes. 3 You arrived on the scene, and you do 4 Q Exhibit 1 in the deposition is your -- is 4 remember you weren't the first officer on the scene? 5 the state of Maryland Motor Vehicle Accident Report, 5 A I wouldn't have been the first officer. 6 6 My unit is called secondary. After it is deemed the 7 7 person is injured enough and they are going to a Is that a report you had any hand in 8 8 preparing? trauma center and have a certain amount of injuries, 9 A Yes. 9 we are called in to do the investigation. 10 Q What was your involvement in preparing 10 Q So you know you weren't the first officer 11 that report that's Exhibit 1? 11 on the scene because of that fact? 12 A I wrote the report. 12 A Yes. 13 Q Did anyone else give you input into the 13 Q When you arrived at the scene, do you have 14 report as far as police officer personnel go, not any recollection of getting there and what you saw 14 15 15 when you got there? fact witnesses? 16 16 A I don't recall. A No. 17 Q The incident is reported on Exhibit 1 as 17 Q What would have been your protocol back on 18 happening on September 19, 2013, at 1800 hours. 18 September 19, 2013, to investigate an accident of 19 Is that in accord with your recollection? 19 this nature? 20 A Honestly, I don't -- it was over three 20 You received a call saying it was a car 21 years ago. I don't recall every detail. That's why 21 and a pedestrian; did you have that much 22 22 information? I write the report. So, if it's on the report,

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

15 13 1 A If we -- if the crash came up, the police 1 individually. 2 2 Q Do you recall ever speaking with the responded, and patrol units would request the crash 3 3 team and we responded, we would go to the scene and, pedestrian 4 4 I guess, get out and talk to witnesses, analyze the A I don't recall if I spoke to the 5 5 scene, take measurements and photographs, and pedestrian. 6 respond to the hospital. I guess that's normal 6 Q Looking at your report that's labeled as 7 7 protocol. Exhibit 1, does that assist you in determining 8 8 Q When you arrived, were you alone? whether you had any interaction with either the 9 A I don't recall. 9 pedestrian or the vehicle driver 10 10 Q What would have been the practice; would 11 you have been alone or would you have had someone 11 A Does it assist me in recalling if I spoke 12 12 to them? with you? 13 A Usually, it's one officer per car, and we 13 Q Yes. In other words, if you look at that, 14 work the entire county so it's not -- other people 14 does that refresh you; would you say, oh, yeah, I 15 15 could have been other places in the county and they spoke with the lady or I spoke with the man? 16 all go to the crash so we respond at different 16 A If I wrote in the report that I spoke to 17 times. So I don't recall. 17 the individual, then I spoke to them. In this 18 Q What equipment did you have with you; did 18 instance, both of them completed written statements 19 19 you have a digital camera? and I just copied their written statements. So, by 20 20 A For the unit, yes, because we use a that, I would say, no, I did not talk to them. 21 21 digital camera for pictures, but each car has Q What would have been the practice back 22 different equipment in it. I mean, usually it's 22 then; normally, would you speak with witnesses or 14 16 would one of your subordinates speak with the 1 measuring equipment, like a wheelie-walker, tape 1 2 2 witnesses? measures, levels, that kind of thing. But, as in 3 who brought the camera that was used, I don't 3 A When we arrive at a scene, we all take 4 4 recall. different jobs just to facilitate, I guess, handling 5 5 Q Did you take the pictures? the crash quicker to open up the roadway. So 6 A I don't recall if I did or not. 6 somebody does pictures, somebody does measurements, 7 7 Q The pictures that are marked as Exhibit 2 somebody talks to witnesses, somebody talks to the 8 8 and they are subtitled A through M, do you recognize drivers. So the jobs get shuffled up every time we 9 9 those as pictures from this file? 10 10 A Yes. The only the thing I'd say is that's Q So you can't say who would have done --11 my arm --11 Yeah. 12 Q Okay. 12 Q -- that task on September 19, 2013? 13 13 A No. A -- on J. 14 14 There is a statement from the driver which Q On Exhibit 2J, you recognize your arm, and 15 15 it's the exhibit of the hand holding the shoe? is part of Exhibit 1, the second to last page, and 16 A Yes. So, by that, I would surmise that I 16 then also from a witness named Grant Baber. You're 17 17 took the pictures. looking at those statements right now. 18 Q When you arrived at the scene, do you have 18 Looking at them, does that assist at all, 19 any recollection of speaking with the operator of 19 jog your memory, as to whether you were involved in 20 the motor vehicle identified as Lisa Michelle 20 the completion of this statement? 21 21 A By completion of the statement, what do Barracato? 22 22 you mean, like taking the statement from the A I don't remember talking to her

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

17 19 Q Do you know who that was? 1 individual? 2 2 A By the boots, I cannot. Q Yes. 3 3 Q Do you have an idea what that individual A No, it doesn't. I would say, like, our 4 normal protocol is I don't take the statement, but 4 is doing in that photograph? 5 my name is on the long form because that's -- they 5 A Probably either making note of what's 6 all have to filled out. Since it's my report, I get 6 going on inside the car or trying to hook up the EDR 7 7 all the statements and I just put my name on them -to do an image of the air bag monitor. 8 8 Q Do you know if any EDR data was downloaded Q Understood. 9 9 for this crash in that vehicle? A -- before we turn in the report. 10 10 Q Okay. That's why I was asking. A The only thing I can say is if it's not in 11 11 So I know you don't have any independent the report -- I mean, if it's in the report, it was recollection of this specific accident, but take me 12 12 done. If it's not in the report, it didn't get 13 through the steps that you would go through when 13 done. Because sometimes you can download a car and, 14 investigating an accident of this nature back at 14 if it's not severe enough, it doesn't record 15 15 that time. anything. 16 16 A Um --Q I know you don't have great 17 Q Just in summary form. You don't have to 17 recollection -- independent recollection because of 18 18 the number of crashes you investigate, but when you go into great detail. 19 19 arrived do you recall if the motor vehicle was in A I respond to the scene, and I get out. 20 Usually I walk the scene to get an idea of what 20 the general vicinity that is shown on photograph 2A? 21 21 happened, if there's any evidence on the road, A The only the thing I can testify to is 22 22 that it is, I guess, protocol that if we're called damage to the car, see if there are witnesses. 18 20 1 Then it's take notes of the car, note any 1 the scene is left alone. So cars are not supposed 2 2 to be moved before our arrival; and, if they are, we vehicle damage, take photographs of the car, 3 photograph the scene, make note of any evidence in 3 are noted, like we are given notation. 4 4 the roadway of either shoe scuffs, hats, shoes, Q And you don't have any notation that this 5 5 blood. vehicle was moved before you arrived on the scene? 6 Then measure the scene, measure the 6 A Correct. 7 7 evidence that we found, and talk to the witnesses Q There were cones set up as shown in 8 and drivers, if they are available and at the scene. 8 photograph 2A. 9 Then, once the on-scene investigation is complete, 9 Would those be cones you would have placed 10 then usually it's respond to the hospital and speak 10 just from your practice or would they have been put 11 11 to the individuals involved. there before you arrived? 12 Q And you don't have any recollection of 12 A I would say it's standard practice for a 13 going to the hospital and speaking with 13 patrol to cone items, especially in pedestrian 14 crashes, that are of interest, shoes, hats, and 15 15 that. So they know, if somehow somebody kicks it 16 16 Q Exhibit 2 is the photographs taken at the and it's moved, they still have the general area of 17 scene, we believe. The third picture, photo C 17 where it was. 18 labeled down in the corner, shows -- it looks like 18 So we usually do not put down cones. I 19 an officer is in the vehicle I presume trying to get 19 mean, it has happened in the past, but as a general 20 data from the hookup in the vehicle. 20 practice usually a patrol does it. 21 21 Is that you in that photograph? Q On page 2 of Exhibit 1, which is the

22

police report, in the middle of the page there's a

22

A No.

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

			6 (Pages 21 to 24)
	21		23
1	heading, quote, Part 2: Observations (of the	1	inspection and a deduction-type conclusion?
2	investigator).	2	A From my experience in doing crash
3	Are you the investigator referred to	3	reconstruction, when you have a shoe scuff, that's
4	there?	4	the area of impact. It's where the pedestrian was
5	A Yes.	5	standing when he was struck by the vehicle.
6	Q So those were your observations in the	6	Q Did you measure where that scuff mark is
7	narration underneath part 2?	7	in reference to any point?
8	A Yes.	8	A Yes.
9	Q Let's go down to the one thing that you do	9	Q What page of the report are you looking
10	specifically recall because it was unusual and that	10	at?
11	is the dirt mark in the road.	11	A Page 5.
12	Was it dirt or was it, in fact, dog feces	12	Q On page 5, in the middle of the page, it
13	or a combination of both?	13	says, quote, area of impact, dash, 29 feet, 11
14	A I think it was a combination of both	14	inches east and 8 feet, 11 inches north of the
15	because it was unusual. Shoe scuffs are very hard	15	reference point; is that what you're looking at?
16	to find and to have one on scene is kind of it's	16	A Yes.
17	a rarity. The dirt on the shoe makes the shoe	17	Q Up above that writing on page 5 of Exhibit
18	scuff. Like I said, that's the only thing I	18	1 is your description of what you used as the
19	remember from the crash.	19	reference points.
20	Q Fair enough. How did you determine that	20	Can you read that part into the record?
21	the strike that.	21	A The east curb of Beechfield Avenue and the
22	There's a photo in Exhibit 2, subphoto D,	22	south curb of Wilkens Avenue were used as reference
	22		24
1	the fourth one down.	1	points for the following measurements.
2	Is that a photo of the transfer of the	2	Q Okay. And then you measured the road
3	dirt or dog feces to the roadway that you're talking	3	dimensions of Wilkens Avenue?
4	about remembering?	4	A Yes.
5	A Yes.	5	Q And that's not using the reference points.
6	Q And it's your opinion that shows what?	6	That's just measuring the roadway; correct?
7	A It shows where the shoe was located when	7	A Yes.
8	it was, I guess, abruptly moved sideways. That	8	Q Then, beneath that, you have measurements
9	would be considered the AOI, area of impact.	9	of the wheel position of all four wheels of the
10	Q Going on down, photo J is the shoe, and	10	vehicle.
11	we've already commented you remember that's you hold	11	Are those measurements taken with regard
12	the shoe there?	12	to the reference points?
13	A Uh-huh.	13	A Yes.
14	Q Did you take that photograph or would	14	Q Can you show me maybe using page 9 of the
15	someone else have taken it?	15	report, the page with the diagram is it possible
16	A I would have taken it.	16	to show me or show us, because we have some
17	Q Okay. In determining that the transfer of	17	confusion, where those reference points are, if we
18	the soil to the roadway was the point of impact, did	18	come around and take a look?
19	you use any calculations or was it just your	19	A Okay.
20	reckoning from what you saw?	20	Q And the reason I'm asking is because I had
21	In other words, did you use any analysis	21	a little trouble getting it.
22	to arrive at that or was it just from a visual	22	A If you look on

25 27 Q Do you mind if we stand around you? 1 1 from? 2 2 A See how I have this marked here and that A If this is the point, and I measure -- you 3 3 marked there? They are my references. I'm using said the right front wheel? 4 the curb here. 4 Q Yes, the first entry there for unit one. 5 5 MR. FIORE: Okay. Let's do this, then. A It's 37 feet, 9 inches from this curb. 6 Let's mark this as the next exhibit. 6 O From the east curb of Beechfield? 7 7 A Yes. (Exhibit 3 was marked for identification 8 and was retained by counsel.) 8 Q Okay. Was there anything else that 9 Q We're talking about the reference points 9 factored into your determination of the AOI other 10 10 that you used in Exhibit 1 to take some than, essentially, the dead reckoning of seeing the 11 measurements. I'm showing you now what is marked as 11 scuff mark on the road versus the shoe? 12 12 Exhibit 3. A The one thing I would say is that it 13 13 Can you identify what that is? coincides with the damage on the vehicle. It kind 14 A A copy of my diagram, handwritten diagram. 14 of lined up in the middle of the vehicle. The 15 15 Q And would this diagram have been created damage lined up in the middle of the vehicle so it 16 at the scene or at some point later? 16 all -- I would say they coincided with each other. 17 A At the scene. 17 Q The area of the resting place for the 18 18 Q Can you show us on Exhibit 3 the reference pedestrian, did any calculations go into that other 19 19 points you're using when you say you're using the than the fact that that's where the blood was, the 20 east curb of Beechfield Avenue and the south curb of 20 pool of blood, which I think is shown in one of the 21 21 Wilkens Avenue as reference points? photographs? 22 22 A The east curb of Beechfield and the south Did anything else go into your calculation 26 28 of the final resting point of the pedestrian other 1 curb of Wilkens. 1 2 2 Q Okay. And then you have drawn in a than the pool of blood? 3 rectangle which depicts the approximate place of the 3 A Calculation or measurement? 4 vehicle? 4 Because the resting point was not 5 5 A Yes. calculated, but measured. 6 Q And you have drawn in a stick figure that 6 Q And it was measured from the reference 7 depicts the approximate place of the resting point 7 point to the pool of blood? 8 8 for the pedestrian? A Yes. 9 9 Q I understand. A Yes. 10 Q And you have drawn in a dark line along 10 Did you have any idea of the speed of the 11 the curbing. 11 vehicle just from what you saw there? 12 Does that indicate the sewer grate? 12 A From my experience, it looked like a 13 13 A No. That's just a reference for myself to low-speed impact. 14 14 Q And were you basing that on the damage to know what curbs I used as reference points. 15 the motor vehicle? Q Okay. So the two dark lines along the 15 16 curbing are just indications of that's the reference 16 A It's the damage to the motor vehicle and 17 17 point -- those are the reference points? the distance from where the pedestrian was struck to 18 18 where they came to final rest. The higher the A Yes. 19 19 Q So, in your report where you say the right speed, the greater the distance. 20 front wheel was 37 feet, 9 inches east and 9 feet --20 Q And I would presume the more damage to the 21 21 and 4 feet, 0 inches north of the reference point, car --22 can you show us on Exhibit 3 where you're measuring 22 A Yes.

8 (Pages 29 to 32)

31 29 1 1 Q -- likely as well? Q Go ahead. 2 2 A If I recall, there were some on the west You hadn't done the calculations to come 3 part of the intersection. There was a crosswalk to up with the approximate speed the vehicle was going 3 cross Wilkens Avenue. 4 at the scene. Just eyeballing it, your conclusion 4 5 5 was, well, this wasn't a high-speed impact? Q Is there such a thing in Maryland law as 6 6 an unmarked crosswalk? A Correct. 7 7 A There is. I think it's called an implied Q And you don't recall the driver of the 8 8 vehicle saying anything to you as far as what her crosswalk. 9 9 Q And what's an implied crosswalk? speed was? 10 10 A I don't have the definition. A No. 11 Q There is a statement by the witness, Grant 11 Q What's the general understanding? 12 12 I'm not holding you to the words of any Baber, on the last page of Exhibit 1 where he states 13 or writes that the vehicle, the black SUV, was 13 statute, but what is your understanding of the 14 "traveling at a high rate of speed." 14 implied crosswalk? 15 15 Did you attach any significance to that A Where you have -- the sidewalk comes down 16 16 statement? and the curb is lowered for ease of, I guess, 17 A No. 17 getting off the curb to go onto the street. When 18 18 Q Why not? you have that but no crosswalk, like no painted 19 19 Most witnesses have a false perception of crosswalk, that would be implied. 20 20 Q So a pedestrian crossing there would be speed. 21 21 Q Do you remember speaking with Mr. Baber? entitled to the protections of a crosswalk even 22 22 though there's none painted on the roadway? 30 32 1 Q Mr. Baber also writes "he -- meaning the 1 A I would -- I don't know. 2 2 pedestrian -- was in the crosswalk at the time." Q How wide is your standard crosswalk when 3 Did you attach any significance to that 3 one is painted on the roadway? 4 statement? 4 A I don't know the specific dimensions, but 5 5 A No. usually I would say eight to ten feet. 6 Q Why not? 6 Q And you're approximating? 7 A Well, the area of the impact put the -- I 7 A It's an approximation. 8 mean, the shoe scuff put the area of impact outside 8 Q In your experience, are they usually 9 9 uniform sizes when they're painted or do they vary of a crosswalk. So pedestrians have -- not 10 pedestrians, excuse me, witnesses don't have the 10 in what you've seen? 11 best recollections. 11 A They vary. 12 O Was there a crosswalk at the intersection 12 Q Do you know where Mr. entered 13 there where the accident occurred, where this the roadway of Wilkens Avenue? 13 14 pedestrian was crossing? 14 A As in? 15 15 A For Wilkens Avenue where the crash Q Can you identify within a few feet where 16 he entered the roadway? occurred there was no crosswalk. 16 17 Q Are you saying there were no painted 17 A No. 18 crosswalk lines on the roadway? 18 Q Is your understanding of where he was, at 19 A No. 19 least when the contact occurred, limited to that 20 Q That's correct, there were no painted 20 scuff mark from the shoe that's in the roadway? 21 21 crosswalk lines on the roadway? A Yes. There's physical evidence that puts 22 22 A Correct. him at that location.

(Pages 33 to 36)

33 35 1 Q Do you have any evidence that he was 1 A If it's not in the report, I didn't make 2 2 crossing the roadway in anything other than a notes of it, I didn't see it. 3 3 straight line? Q Okay. And, had there been skid marks, 4 4 those would have been measured; is that correct? A No evidence. 5 5 Q Do you have any evidence of any other A Yes. 6 pedestrian crossing the roadway with him? 6 Q And put into your analysis as to the speed 7 7 and the like; is that correct? I know you don't have specific recall of 8 8 it, but does anything in your investigation, looking A Yes. 9 9 at Exhibit 1, give you any indication that there was MR. COHEN: Those are all the questions I 10 10 more than one pedestrian crossing the roadway? have. 11 11 MR. FIORE: Thank you, Officer. A No. 12 12 Q And that includes even the statement of (Discussion off the record.) 13 the driver, Ms. Barracato; right? 13 MR. FIORE: In the presence of defense 14 14 counsel, I advised the witness generally of his A Yes. 15 Q Your report concludes, essentially, that 15 right to waive or read and sign the transcript. The 16 the pedestrian is at fault for this accident. 16 witness told us that he elects to waive the reading 17 Why is that? 17 and signing. 18 18 A There's not a marked crosswalk. Is that correct, Officer? 19 19 Basically, the pedestrian is illegally in the THE WITNESS: Yes. 20 20 THE REPORTER: Can I get your order? roadway. Cars have the right of way. 21 Q Were you able to determine the color of 21 MR. COHEN: Copy. 22 22 the traffic lights for Wilkens or Beechfield at the (Off the record at 10:40 a.m.) 34 36 CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER-NOTARY PUBLIC 1 time the contact occurred? 2 2 I, Linda H. Cole, the officer before whom A Was I able to determine the specific light 3 3 color? the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby 4 Q Yes. 4 certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and 5 5 correct record of the testimony given; that said A No. MR. FIORE: Those are all of the questions 6 6 testimony was taken by me stenographically and 7 I have for you, Officer. Thank you so much. thereafter reduced to typewriting under my 8 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT 8 supervision; and that I am neither counsel for, 9 9 BY MR. COHEN: related to, nor employed by any of the parties to Q I'll be very brief. Good morning again. 10 10 this case and have no interest, financial or 11 11 A Good morning. otherwise, in its outcome. 12 12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Q My name is Adam Cohen. I represent the 13 driver, Lisa Barracato, involved in this incident. 1.3 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 18th day of November, 2016. 14 Do you know either or 14 15 15 My commission expires July 19, 2018 Lisa Barracato? 16 A No. 16 17 17 Q And one of the findings that you would have noted at the scene would be skid marks if there 18 18 19 19 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR were any; correct? 20 Yes. 20 STATE OF MARYLAND 21 21 Q Were there any skid marks that you noted 22 2.2 at the scene?