

*I/V Phillips, Laura Transcript Det. M Poling C27

On November 24, 2009 I conducted a telephonic interview with Laura Phillips. The interview was recorded and the following is a transcription of the conversation. Please refer to the dss.file placed into evidence for complete details.

Laura: Hello.

Det. Poling: Hello, is this Laura Phillips?

Laura: This is Laura.

Det. Poling: Hi, Laura, my name is Mike Poling; I'm a detective with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office in Prescott, Arizona.

Laura: Oh my, hi.

Det. Poling: That was a mouthful, huh?

Laura: I know what you're calling about.

Det. Poling: Of course. And I don't know if you have first, it says you had second hand knowledge and I know it's your sister, I believe that, has first hand knowledge.

Laura: Yes.

Det. Poling: And you say she was in the 2008, well hold on, if you don't mind give me a second here, I'm gonna try to pull up my 2008 spreadsheet which has all the participants in it I'm gonna try to

Laura: 2007

Det. Poling: Excuse me.

Laura: It was actually 2007 from last week, it was actually I'm pretty sure 2007.

Det. Poling: Okay, well I do have let me look here, I just got an email sent to me on all the years, hold on let me see here.

Laura: Okay.

Det. Poling: Bear with me for a second so I could be on the same page with you here.

Laura: I'm pretty sure that (Inaudible) don't get (Inaudible) in more trouble cause she'll get really mad if she knows that I was talking to you

Det. Poling: She's not gonna get in trouble, I just want to uhm

Laura: But I'd be happy to tell you what I know.

Det. Poling: Does she not want contact?

Laura: I think probably, well you know what? If you're contacting everybody anyway, contact her, absolutely. She basically says, she's not gonna come forward but if she's contacted by you guys and you guys are contacting everybody, I've been reading up on it, I know you are, I think absolutely contact her.

Det. Poling: Why didn't that come up, maybe I have to get rid of that okay, hold on, I'm trying to. Okay I do have a contact list for 2007, your sister's name would be

Laura: Carol (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: (Inaudible), Rod and Carol, Santa Barbara, California.

Laura: That's right.

Det. Poling: Okay, so that's, that's, that's a positive one to talk to then.

Laura: Yes.

Det. Poling: Okay, can I ask you just a couple of questions?

Laura: Sure.

Det. Poling: Oops that didn't work

Laura: You won't tell her that you talked to me, right?

Det. Poling: Excuse me.

Laura: Don't tell her that you talked to me, right?

Det. Poling: I don't have to tell her I talked to anybody and I'm not gonna do that, especially if I have a list, and I can just say I'm going down the list of names and she may not want to participate, that's fine, you know I'm not gonna

Laura: I'm pretty sure, she basically said you know she's very appalled about this whole thing and she said that she's not going out of her way to contact you guys, but if she's contacted, she'll tell them what happened.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Laura: So, I'm pretty sure she'll tell you in pretty good detail what happened to her.

Det. Poling: Okay, cool. And that's what I will do, I will make that a priority to get a hold of them. I haven't called anyone in 2007 and I didn't know anyone in 2007 got sick, so I'm kind of glad that you, I have read your email, so that I can at least go that distance. We have contacted a lot of people in 2009 especially 2005 and next is 2008, and heck if I have a good source in 2007 I'll contact them too.

Laura: Go for it.

Det. Poling: I'll even call a few others just to, so that I can be on the same page. Like Nancy Oglebee, I don't know if you know that name

Laura: Mmm Mmm

Det. Poling: that's someone in 2009, I've talked to already and she was there in 2007 too, so that's good.

Laura: Okay.

Det. Poling: So a lot of these people are with them a lot. Liz Newman, the one that passed away is also in the 2007.

Laura: (Inaudible) , oh my God cause (Inaudible) was very upset about Liz.

Det. Poling: Right.

Laura: Who she's friends with so she's not happy about any of this at all.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Laura: (Inaudible).

Det. Poling: Alright.

Laura: You know that guy?

Det. Poling: Do I know what guy?

Laura: What did you say, I want James Ray behind bars pretty much.

Det. Poling: And that's you know, we're working on the criminal charge here, so we will see if the county attorney will accept it and charge him then that'll be it, but I've got to get enough information in my investigation to do that and that will help. Did they tell you how many people got sick this year in 2007, it seems like there is a lot of people, about 71 participants there.

Laura: Oh, how many people got sick in 2007?

Det. Poling: Yeah, when your sister went, did she tell you if there was lot, uh?

Laura: Yeah she told me basically that, I think something, not like the levels of people here, but she definitely was vomiting and she definitely got sick, and so I don't remember her telling me how many others, but I'm sure it wasn't just her, she's pretty healthy you know she wouldn't be the only one.

Det. Poling: Okay, alright. Did she tell you anything that would in particular that would help me, did she say anything to you about things James Ray would say or convince them not to leave or anything that was dangerous that you can think of that, that was said to you, so I can focus my attention in that direction?

Laura: Yeah I mean, she you know (Inaudible) it's hard, I do think that it was very (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: Hold one second, (Inaudible) just second, sorry about that.

Laura: Oh, I remember one thing specifically. She said that he said to them you might feel like you're gonna to die, but you're not, nobody's ever died in the sweat lodge and then something like you just push through it or whatever.

Det. Poling: That's important.

Laura: That's real important.

Det. Poling: Right.

Laura: Because then you're not even really paying attention to your own sensations cause you feel like you're gonna die, but he promises you you're not, many times you know. Nobody's ever died in a sweat lodge and kind of like downturn that whole thing and then you know if you so that if they're, you know the participants are feeling like horrible, there is, and she also was talking about how, yeah she was talking about how people for her experience and again you didn't hear this from me, but (Inaudible) said the main problem is that once you're in there you become so weak and everybody's so weak that even though you want to get up, and you're trying to get up, you can't. So even if people were thinking I need to get out and whether or not James Ray was there and the conditions were so horrible and so dangerous that people couldn't stand up and get out, they're just too weak to do that. She said I was just too weak to call out and ask for help.

Det. Poling: Right.

Laura: So, it's not like these people are a bunch of idiots sitting there going oh man I feel like I'm being (Inaudible) I'm not gonna go, it's that they physically couldn't get up and get themselves out of there.

Det. Poling: When she said that statement about you, you know you're gonna feel like you're gonna die, uhm but you're not, did you hear that from anyone else besides her, and this is a two part question and the second one is, did you hear this after these people had passed away and it finally came out? Did you know this before hand?

Laura: I know that before any of this happened, she told me her (Inaudible) there and she said how she has got really, really sick and was vomiting and she personally told James Ray herself, she said, that was too much, you went too far, that was too much.

Det. Poling: Did, she actually told you she did that?

Laura: Yeah.

Det. Poling: Oh man, I wish I could talk to her.

Laura: She personally told him that was too much.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Laura: And the thing about her, I think that the (Inaudible) came out after all this happened. She goes, you know she even told, he told us you know you're not gonna die, I don't (Inaudible) before uhm all this happened, but that doesn't really change the fact whether he said that or not.

Det. Poling: Did she go back to any more events after this one?

Laura: She has been yes, since her Spiritual Warrior one, she went one more time to Egypt with James Ray.

Det. Poling: Was she part of the World Wealth Society?

Laura: I'm sure she was for that year, yeah.

Det. Poling: Okay. Do you know why she fell out of graces with James Ray?

Laura: She started to be very, become very disenchanted. She was kind of feeling like he was just very full of himself and not really, being who he proclaims to be.

Det. Poling: Right.

Laura: And she just kind of like they did the last quest and just said that's enough I'm not, he's not my God.

Det. Poling: Okay. Is Ron her husband?

Laura: Yes, Ron is her husband and he's been to all the James Ray events with her.

Det. Poling: And who's the weak link, if you don't mind me asking, when I say that would it be easier to get information from Ron or would it be easier to get it from Carol?

Laura: I mean Carol will talk more, I think they'll both talk.

Det. Poling: Okay.

Laura: Yeah, they could both talk, it's gonna be hard to get a hold of them (Inaudible) I think once you contact them and you should say you're going down the list of everybody who's been in James Ray events specifically the Spiritual Warrior so that she knows that she wasn't singled out.

Det. Poling: Well, let me confirm your phone number make sure that it's going to be same because that might be a signal. If I call a new phone number, it's because they don't have my new phone number, you know what I mean?

Laura: Yeah.

Det. Poling: So I have (805) area code, is that Bakersfield?

Laura: No, it's Santa Barbara.

Det. Poling: Santa Barbara. [REDACTED]

Laura: That's exactly it. It's been her number for years.

Det. Poling: And did they still have a same e-mail address, [REDACTED]

Laura: Yes.

Det. Poling: Okay. That way if I can't get them on phone, I'll send them an email, saying I'm going through all this, please give me a call and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

Laura: Awesome.

Det. Poling: Okay. Yeah, I definitely will call them. I appreciate your help today.

Laura: Yeah I think that they will be very good people talk to, they're very level-headed, they really are and she remembers something to say. She remembers details like nobody else I've ever met. So she will have all kinds of details for you, if you get her engaged and you can get her talk, she'll talk.

Det. Poling: Cool.

Laura: (Inaudible)

Det. Poling: Yes. I definitely appreciate that. And I saw that you went for the salty droid.

Laura: Yeah. I'm just reading whatever I could on anything, because it's like this was just so appalling.

Det. Poling: Yeah.

Laura: And the way James Ray's handled this is even more appalling than it just like oh man, (Inaudible) suck.

Det. Poling: Well, and that's what we are trying figure out if he's done something that is prosecutable so we'll continue investigation and Laura, I really appreciate your help and I will be contacting Ron and Carol and I will you know, make sure I keep your information anonymous.

Laura: Thank you.

Det. Poling: Thank you. You have a good day and have a good Thanksgiving.

Laura: You too, thanks. Okay, bye.

Det. Poling: Alright. Bye now.

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