

INTERVIEW OF CHRIS HUMNISKI

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Date: February 28, 2005

Held at 10th floor Confederation

**Building, 457 Main Street,**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba**

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1 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005

2 Upon commencing at 4:36 P.M.

3  
4 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** The date is  
5 February 28, 2005, the time by my watch is  
6 4:36 p.m. We are in interview room number one of  
7 the Professional Standards Unit Offices on the  
8 10th floor of the Confederation Building, 457 Main  
9 Street in Winnipeg. My name is Roger Girard and  
10 also present is Con Pearson. For the purpose of  
11 voice recognition, please identify yourself by  
12 name?

13 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Con Pearson.

14 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** We are both members  
15 of the Professional Standards Unit. This is an  
16 interview with Sergeant Chris Humniski, regarding  
17 PSU file, I believe it is 05-018, although I may  
18 be mistaken about that. For the purpose of voice  
19 recognition, can you please identify yourself by  
20 your full name and badge number?

21 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Christopher Basil  
22 Humniski, badge number is 1212.

23 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** I remind you that in  
24 accordance with service policy, our conversation  
25 is being recorded, and for that purpose today we

1 are using an Olympus DS4000 digital recorder.

2 We were advised a short time ago that  
3 yourself and another Sergeant from district 3 were  
4 over on the fifth floor in the PSB, and someone  
5 had phoned over here stating that you wanted to  
6 come over and talk to us about this matter.

7 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** That is correct.

8 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** You arrived at our  
9 office a short time ago, you came into the room, I  
10 guess about maybe four minutes ago, five minutes  
11 ago. I let you have a look at the preamble and  
12 kind of explained what that's for.

13 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes.

14 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** And you didn't have  
15 any questions, so we decided to get straight to  
16 it. So is that an accurate account of what has  
17 taken place prior to us turning the recorder on?

18 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes.

19 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** It is our practice  
20 to ensure that members understand their status  
21 when being interviewed, and I remind you that you  
22 are being interviewed as a witness in this matter.  
23 This statement may be used in any criminal, civil  
24 or service proceeding, or it may not be used in  
25 any proceeding at all.

1                   Were any threats made to you or any  
2 promises or hopes or reward offered to you in  
3 relation to providing a statement?

4                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No.

5                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Was anything said to  
6 you by anyone that would influence what you might  
7 say to us in this statement?

8                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No.

9                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. We will just  
10 turn it over to you and you can tell us what you  
11 know of this matter and what you would like to  
12 relate?

13                  **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** All right. I  
14 became aware there was a fatality on 59 regarding  
15 one of my shift members. I can say that I know  
16 where he was three and a half to four hours prior  
17 to that.

18                  **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay.

19                  **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Okay. He was at  
20 one of my other shift members, Sean Black.

21                  **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. Just for the  
22 purpose of the recorder, this is Constable Derek  
23 Harvey-Zenk that we are talking about.

24                  **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** That's correct.

25                  **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay.

1                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** I attended with a  
2 group of officers at Sean Black's address at  
3 approximately quarter to 3:00, 2:30, quarter to  
4 3:00, somewhere in that proximity of time. And I  
5 remained there with these other officers until  
6 maybe 3:30, quarter to 4:00. I'm not sure of the  
7 exact time.

8                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay.

9                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Do you wish me to  
10 state the names of the officers there?

11                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Sure, yes.

12                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Besides Constable  
13 Black, there was Constable Azaransky from my  
14 shift, and Derek was there, as well as Jay Nolet.

15                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Sorry, who is that?

16                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Jay Nolet.

17                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay.

18                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Rob Harding was  
19 there, as well as Kelly McLure, and Jim Anderson,  
20 and also one of our recruits, TJ Spruyt was there  
21 at the time from our shift, and two other  
22 officers, being Norbert Bauer and Tracy Fudge.  
23 And those are the officers that were there at the  
24 time.

25                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** So you went to

1 Constable Black's place, I am sorry, you said  
2 about 2:30 or 3:00, something like that?

3 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yeah, closer to  
4 2:30.

5 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. Where does  
6 Constable Black live?

7 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** He lives in East  
8 St. Paul. I'm not sure of the street, somewhere  
9 off Hoddinott. Do you want me to backtrack  
10 further?

11 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Just, you know, in a  
12 nutshell, if you can just let us know what was  
13 going on. And take your time, we understand this  
14 is very difficult.

15 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** At Sean's?

16 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Yeah.

17 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** We just had a  
18 group attended there and had some snacks, and  
19 there was some liquor there that Sean had at his  
20 residence. There was no one that brought liquor  
21 there. And for myself, I had a couple of drinks  
22 and then I ended up leaving. I had to go home  
23 because I had to get up with the kids just after  
24 7:00.

25 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** What time was that

1 that you left?

2 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** To the best of my

3 recollection, it would be between 3:30 and 4:00.

4 I thought I was home around 4:00 but I never

5 looked at the clock, but I remember saying I have

6 at least three hours before I have to get up at

7 7:00. My wife leaves at 7:00 and I have to get my

8 sons up and get them breakfast and pack their

9 lunches. To the best of my recollection it is the

10 exact time I left. I was there maybe an hour at a

11 most, maybe a little bit longer. But as far as

12 that went, prior to that we had come from

13 Branigan's Restaurant. My shift, some of the

14 members had asked for time off during the course

15 of the night, so I contacted the Com centre to see

16 how many cars could be let go at around 10:30.

17 And several cars left at that point, including

18 Derek. Derek and his partner had started actually

19 at 2:30 that afternoon. They started a couple of

20 hours early, they had to do a school presentation.

21 And as I say, it was one of the first three cars

22 that went.

23 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** What time was that?

24 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** They were allowed

25 to leave at 10:30, those three. Later on in the

1 course of the evening, of the night, the other  
2 cars left as well, and that was per  
3 instructions -- I called the Com centre to see if  
4 that was okay. It was a quiet night and the  
5 fellows decided to go for some wings.

6 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** So you said it was  
7 Derek and his partner and who else that left at  
8 10:30?

9 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** It would have been  
10 Al Williams and Marnie Nechwediuk, Rob Harding and  
11 Christian Guyot.

12 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay.

13 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Other than that, I  
14 remained at work. We were working with some of  
15 the other guys on their supervisor submissions.  
16 And I attended at Branigan's just after 1:00, so I  
17 was there maybe an hour, and had some wings and a  
18 couple of drinks. And at that point we were  
19 leaving. And part of the group had left, we were  
20 waiting, there was trouble at the cash register,  
21 so there was about a 20 minute wait at the front.  
22 And I guess that's when the talk about going to  
23 Sean's came up. It wasn't planned to go there.  
24 And being that I live, drive down 59 North on my  
25 way home, I figured I would stop by for a bit on

1 my way home.

2 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay.

3 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** And that's  
4 about -- oh, on the way to Sean's, sorry, I should  
5 say, on the way to Sean's a group of vehicles left  
6 and nobody knew where he lived exactly. He lived  
7 off Hoddinott. So it is about, I think five  
8 vehicles followed each other to Sean's. On the  
9 way we stopped at 7 Eleven, picked up a couple of  
10 sodas and ice, and we went to Sean's place from  
11 there.

12 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. Was Sean at  
13 Branigan's with you?

14 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Sean Black, yeah,  
15 he was one of the cars -- like Branigan's was,  
16 basically ended up being the entire evening shift.  
17 At one time we used to go there. Everybody had  
18 their slips put in, I made sure that they gave  
19 them to Bob Hogg, and he hung on to them.

20 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** So he would have  
21 been on nights?

22 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes, he was the  
23 night shift sergeant, so they had to clear it  
24 through him to go. He has all of their slips. I  
25 told him I would put them in, in the morning,

1 because I was coming back at 11:00 the next day, I  
2 was working in the morning, so I put them all  
3 through.

4 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. How would you  
5 characterize the gathering at Sean Black's place?

6 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** At Sean's, it was  
7 fairly quiet. It was not like it was -- and  
8 that's one of the reasons I came, because it  
9 wasn't like a big drinking party or anything. He  
10 made popcorn, the guys had chips and dip, it was  
11 very low key. There wasn't that many people. And  
12 no one seemed to be having problems or  
13 difficulties as far as overconsumption that I  
14 could see. I know prior to me leaving, Dave  
15 Harding was saying he didn't feel very good, so I  
16 know he sat down, I think in the livingroom, for a  
17 bit. And then Sean offered him a couch. Sean's  
18 family wasn't home, so he offered him a place to  
19 stay. It was shortly after that that I left.

20 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. You said Dave  
21 Harding, earlier you said Rob Harding, is it Dave  
22 Harding?

23 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** I am sorry, it is  
24 Dave Harding, not Rob, I'm sorry.

25 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** No, that's all

1 right. So from the sounds of it, correct me if  
2 I'm wrong, but it sounded like nothing was really  
3 out of control and you didn't have any concern  
4 about anybody when you left?

5 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, no, I didn't.

6 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Had you heard, other  
7 than Dave Harding, had you heard any other  
8 conversation about anybody else maybe staying over  
9 or --

10 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Not that I  
11 overheard. It was fairly early on with Dave. And  
12 I left, like when I did, and no one else really  
13 had any problems.

14 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Were you one of the  
15 first people to leave?

16 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** I was the first  
17 one to leave. I wasn't feeling good. I could  
18 barely talk, I had a hoarse throat, not much  
19 better today, plus I had to get up with my kids  
20 so --

21 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Would you have any  
22 idea of how much Derek had to drink while you guys  
23 were at Branigan's and at Sean Black's?

24 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** At Branigan's  
25 definitely not, because I wasn't there with him.

1                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** You got there later.

2                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** I got there later.

3                   There was a group of guys seated at the high  
4                   tables. I sat on the side with Jim Anderson and a  
5                   couple of other fellows. I was basically the last  
6                   one to get there. I stayed at work.

7                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** And you were there  
8                   about an hour?

9                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yeah, until  
10                  closing.

11                  **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. So from the  
12                  time that you got there until the time that you  
13                  left Sean's, do you have any idea how much Derek  
14                  had to drink?

15                  **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** I didn't really  
16                  even notice him in there in the group. Like I  
17                  said, we had our shift, and I believe there was  
18                  two traffic guys who I didn't even know were going  
19                  were there. There was, Tracy Fudge and Norbert  
20                  Bauer were there as well, but I couldn't recall --  
21                  like 25 people.

22                  **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Was Derek on your  
23                  shift?

24                  **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes.

25                  **SERGEANT PEARSON:** There was like a

1 combination of shifts there so --

2 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes, two traffic  
3 officers from district 3, I believe both of them  
4 were there as well.

5 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay.

6 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** As far as, even at  
7 Sean's, as far as, I didn't really see Derek  
8 having any drinks. I didn't see him pouring  
9 anything. I may have seen -- I was trying to go  
10 back because I know it is important for the sake  
11 of the MVA, and I may have seen him with a glass  
12 in his hand but I'm not sure what he had in it.

13 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** How was he feeling,  
14 was he feeling okay during the course of the  
15 evening? You say you were sick. Was anyone else  
16 sick?

17 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** As far as --

18 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Feeling ill maybe?

19 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Any problems that  
20 you know of --

21 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, he seemed fine  
22 to me, but I wasn't really looking closely at him.

23 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** All right. So it  
24 would be safe to say you had no concerns when you  
25 left the party about anyone?

1                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, none at all.

2                   **SERGEANT PEARSON:** You wouldn't know  
3 if Derek had a passenger with him when he went to  
4 Sean's?

5                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No. I was in the  
6 back, I guess you call it almost like a  
7 procession, and I didn't see who was driving what.  
8 Like I wasn't sure who was with who.

9                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** So you were the  
10 first one to leave then from Sean Black's?

11                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Um-hum.

12                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. All right.

13                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Like seeing,  
14 hearing the accident and finding out what time it  
15 happened, like the tragedy that happened, I was  
16 not sure what lead up to it.

17                   **SERGEANT PEARSON:** So during the  
18 course of your last day or so of the shift, how  
19 many hours would Derek have been awake? You know,  
20 from the start of the shift, from the start of the  
21 shift to when the accident occurred roughly, do  
22 you know?

23                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** From the start of  
24 the shift until -- yeah.

25                   **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Yes, when did he

1 start his shift?

2 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** He came in at  
3 2:30. I didn't have any conversations as far  
4 as --

5 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Do you know what  
6 time he got up that day, or if he had to be up  
7 early for any reason?

8 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, it is such a  
9 busy area, we don't usually have --

10 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** The day before, do  
11 you remember what time he went home?

12 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, he would have  
13 been scheduled I think after 8:00. I'm done at  
14 1:00, so it was after that.

15 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Was it a  
16 particularly busy week for any overtime for  
17 anyone, particularly Derek?

18 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, I don't -- I  
19 couldn't answer for the full week. It was a busy  
20 week for our supervisors because we had four guys  
21 going for promotion, so there was a lot of going  
22 over their --

23 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Did you say Derek  
24 started at 2:30, you said?

25 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes, he and his

1 partner started early.

2 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Who was his  
3 partner?

4 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Jay Nolet.

5 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** That's about it,  
6 that's fine.

7 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Jay Nolet.

8 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** N-O-L-E-T?

9 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** N-O-L-E-T.

10 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Okay. And then  
11 they were off shift at 10:30, you think?

12 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes.

13 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Okay.

14 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Is there anything  
15 else that you can think of that might be important  
16 that we are overlooking?

17 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** I don't think so.

18 I know that the reason Jim and I came out here is  
19 we wanted to get away from this interpretation of  
20 that this is a shift, a big party. It wasn't, it  
21 wasn't a planned thing. It is just -- I didn't  
22 want things to be brought up that weren't there.

23 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** You didn't want  
24 rumors hatching.

25 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yeah.

1                   **SERGEANT PEARSON:** That is good. So  
2 basically what you are saying is it was just an  
3 informal, last minute impromptu get together and  
4 that was it. Everybody was -- the observations  
5 were no one was drunk.

6                   Do you know Derek well?

7                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, I never met  
8 Derek until I got on to the shift, and that's been  
9 since last April. As far as I know, he is a  
10 fairly responsible fella. He is, you know, it is  
11 kind a shocker that this happened. It is a very  
12 unfortunate thing for both families involved, I  
13 guess, not only the victims, but it is going to  
14 affect him for the rest of his life as well. So  
15 no doubt --

16                   **SERGEANT GIRARD:** It is very tragic.  
17 Okay. Well, I don't have any other questions.  
18 Con?

19                   **SERGEANT PEARSON:** From your knowledge  
20 of him working shift, he seems to be very  
21 responsible?

22                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** Yes.

23                   **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Have you ever had  
24 any difficulty with him?

25                   **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, I haven't. We

1 have a fairly junior shift, and like all of these  
2 people are very conscientious. It is terrible  
3 what happened, and it happened, and I just want to  
4 know that these guys aren't the kind that you go  
5 out and have booze parties and stuff.

6 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** Okay.

7 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Anything else, Con?

8 **SERGEANT PEARSON:** No, I don't think  
9 so.

10 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. So I will  
11 just ask you again, to just to cover it off, is  
12 there anything else that you can think of as far  
13 as what you might know about this that we haven't  
14 covered that you think is important?

15 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** No, I don't think  
16 so. Like I said, I never saw Derek driving. I  
17 wasn't even sure what kind of vehicle he had until  
18 after this.

19 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Right.

20 **SERGEANT HUMNISKI:** I don't think  
21 there is anything else.

22 **SERGEANT GIRARD:** Okay. All right  
23 then, the interview is concluded, the time is  
24 4:56 p.m. and the recorder is being turned off.

25

1  
2 OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE  
3  
4  
5

6 I, CECELIA REID, a duly appointed Official  
7 Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby  
8 certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct  
9 transcript of an audio recording of the above  
10 interview of Sergeant Humniski to the best of my  
11 skill and ability.  
12  
13  
14

15 -----

16 Cecelia Reid

17 Official Examiner, Q.B.  
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