

CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PM: Det. Pat Murphy, #859

MB: Meron Bekure, DOB [REDACTED]

CN: Det. Chris Nelson, #839

UF: Unidentified Female

AN: Angela Nucci, #837

UM: Unidentified Male

PM: How are you doing?

MB: Good.

PM: Good? You're kind of a soft spoken person and so I may have to ask you to speak up once or twice because (inaudible) voice carries pretty well, so if, if I can't hear you I, I will ask you to repeat, okay? Um, I do record my conversations, Meron. We get a number of people that we're gonna talk to today, so I wanna' make sure that we remember what people tell us accurately, okay? Okay, um, for the recording, today's date is 4/21/2016 and the time now is approximately 11:46 and meeting....I'm pronouncing it correctly Meron, is that right?

MB: That's right. Uh-huh.

PM: How do I, how do I spell that?

MB: M-e-r-o-n.

PM: M-e-r-o-n. What's your middle name, Meron?

MB: (inaudible)

PM: And last name?

MB: B-e-k-u-r-e.

PM: B-e-k

MB: U-r-e

PM: U-r-e

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: And you're birthday.

MB: [REDACTED]

PM: And an address for you at home.

MB: Ah, [REDACTED]

PM: What's the zip down there?

MB: [REDACTED]

PM: [REDACTED]

MB: [REDACTED]

PM: [REDACTED] and what's your cell phone number?

MB: Um, [REDACTED]

PM: Do you live with anybody else at that house? Or at that address?

MB: My parents.

PM: Okay, and just in case um, I end up calling there I won't talk to them about any conversations that we've had, but what are your mom and dad's first names.

MB: My, my dad's first name is my last name.

PM: You, okay.

MB: And then my mom is A-s-n-a-k-u.

PM: One more time, I'm sorry.

MB: A-s-n-a-k-u....n-a

PM: N-a.

MB: K-u.

PM: K-u. How do you pronounce that?

MB: Asnaku, Asnaku.

PM: Asnaku?

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: And so...

MB: It's (inaudible)

PM: Okay, and so then help me understand last names for your dad then.

MB: Oh, D-e-s-t-a.

PM: One more time.

MB: D-e-s-t-a.

PM: Desta?

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: And same last name for your mom?

MB: No.

PM: Different.

MB: Cherpnet.

PM: How do you pronounce that?

MB: Cherpnet.

PM: Cherpnet? Okay, and help, help me remember how I pronounce your last name.

MB: Bekure.

PM: Bekure? Um, and if I can't get a hold of you on your cell phone, Meron, do you have an email or something like that?

MB: Yeah, it's [REDACTED]

PM: [REDACTED]...anything capitalized, sensitive?

MB: [REDACTED]

PM: [REDACTED]

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: Okay, um, we're here to talk about a death investigation at Paisley Park. Um, have you been to Paisley Park before, Meron?

MB: (inaudible)

PM: Okay, um who was the person that was found in Paisley Park? How do you know that person?

MB: I'm his assistant.

PM: You're his assistant, okay, and who was the person that was found?

MB: Prince.

PM: Does he go by any other, I know he's identified by Prince, but does he, did he have other past legal names?

MB: (inaudible) that's it.

PM: That's, that's what he's known as today.

MB: Yeah.

PM: Okay. Did, I, I thought, and maybe I'm wrong, but wasn't his, one of his past legal names his given name? Was it Roger?

MB: Prince Rogers Nelson (inaudible)

PM: Prince Rogers Nelson, yeah, okay. How long have you been his assistant?

MB: Year and a half.

PM: Year and a half? Okay, so can you tell me what was going on today or what brought you out to Paisley Park this morning?

MB: Well, um, we hadn't heard from him for, since 8 o'clock yesterday, sorry, um, usually he (inaudible) throughout the time, throughout the night. We hadn't heard from him. Ah, Kirk had tried to call his room a couple times and then no answer so we're like let's just go check on him. (inaudible)

PM: Okay, and what time did you say was the last time that you...

MB: I think around 8pm yesterday.

PM: Okay.

MB: But we were at Paisley until about 10.

PM: So you were at Paisley yesterday until about 10?

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: Okay, so...

MB: It was just me and Kirk. Usually I'm, usually at work, we stay there (inaudible)

PM: Yeah, okay.

MB: Until...

PM: So, where did you, if you hadn't had contact with Prince since 8pm was he on the property or was he someplace else?

MB: He was, he was home.

PM: He was home, okay, and is, he has a living quarters there?

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: Okay.

MB: Off, the front of the building is his, his side of town. The other is kind of the whole musical studio section.

PM: Okay, and it, and I haven't ever been inside that building other than maybe that front entryway where we met this morning...

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: Um, so I, um, would it be possible for you to just kind of give me just a rough site map so that I can understand where the living quarters are?

MB: Where we were?

PM: Yup.

MB: Is basically that whole section is his section.

PM: Okay, and, and, I know, can you just give me a, give me a rough drawing because we're gonna be in there for a little while and it would be nice to have a little bit of a road map of, of, what...

MB: So, this is the front door where you guys came in.

PM: Yup.

MB: There's a small kitchen which is this kitchen, this kitchen. Um, and then green room is up the stairs which is his bedroom.

PM: On that second floor you said?

MB: Yup.

PM: Up the stairs?

MB: The second.

PM: Okay, let me just mark that bedroom. I'll remember green room, but is it, it's called green room because it's green or is....

MB: Yeah.

PM: Okay, and sometimes people will call them a different color but it's not the actual color of the room.

MB: (inaudible) the second floor.

PM: Okay, and where, where does, and this is where he spends most of his time when he's here? Okay, um....

MB: And this is sort of like the studios, the studios and then the back soundstage where they, there's performances done in the back.

PM: Okay, when, when I came in um, I went with Andrew from this front area down this long hallway, um....

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: And then...

MB: That would've been if you kept going you would end up here.

PM: Cause the room that...

MB: The production room.

PM: It, I, I don't know what did, what did you call it?

MB: It's called the production room.

PM: Production room? Um, I know his motorcycle was in there, um, there was a desk in there, that kind of thing.

MB: Yeah.

PM: Okay, all right. Um, and so is there, when you say that's his side of town, is there kind of per, a perceived rule or...

MB: Yeah (inaudible)

PM: Or written rule to say that this is, this is my side, this is stuff that you have a...

MB: We just know, but this is, there's a door that he can lock, basically all throughout so all three doors would lock and you can't, nobody from this side can come in unless there's a garage, I mean, I have the access and Kirk has the access, but just us two.

PM: Uh-huh.

MB: We go through the garage and basically go in and you can open the doors from (inaudible)

PM: Okay, okay. Okay, so you, you hadn't heard from him since 8 o'clock last night. You guys were still on the property but you assumed that Prince was on his side of the building.

MB: Yeah.

PM: Um, what was going on last night when you last saw him? I mean, did you guys talk to him on the phone? Did you meet with him?

MB: No, he was going to the doctor to get a general checkup.

PM: Okay, last night?

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: Okay.

MB: Um, that's, that's all I know.

PM: Okay, so what was going on yesterday then?

MB: Nothing.

PM: Nothing? Did, did you...?

MB: He slept all, like, he went to the doctor around 4:30 and before that we didn't really...

PM: So, did he go himself or did somebody give him a ride there?

MB: Um, me and Kirk were gonna go. That's kind of why I was there and he said, "You don't have to go. I'll go with Kirk," so Kirk and him went and I left.

PM: Okay.

MB: Well, I left and came back.

PM: Okay.

MB: Cause there was a chef and stuff that we bring in for him to cook.

PM: Okay, okay. So, who's the chef?

MB: Um, Ray Roberts.

PM: Do you know if Ray cooked for Prince last night, or...?

MB: He did, but I don't think Prince ate any of it.

PM: Okay, do you think Ray could've seen Prince after you guys did?

MB: He didn't, he didn't see him.

PM: Okay, so...

MB: Cause we just had him pack up the food and then just leave it in the back and Prince never, I don't think he came to the back to grab the food.

PM: Okay. When did Ray leave then or when was he on the property?

MB: It was probably around 8:30.

PM: Okay. Do you have a contact number for Ray?

MB: Yeah. [REDACTED]

PM: Uh-huh.

MB: [REDACTED], I'm sorry [REDACTED] I have to let him know that you guys are calling ...

PM: Yeah, that's okay.

MB: Just cause he doesn't, he, he doesn't have any idea.

PM: Um, is he just a private chef or does he have a business someplace else?

MB: He has a business. People's Organic.

PM: People's Organic?

MB: He's the...

PM: I'm s...

MB: He's the owner.

PM: Okay.

MB: But he's our personal chef.

PM: Okay.

MB: Can I call him and just let him know?

PM: You can call him in a little bit. I won't have a chance to call him until after we're done talking anyway, so...

MB: I can call him?

PM: You can call him in a little bit.

MB: Oh.

PM: Okay, yeah, cause it, let's finish our conversation and then we're not getting side tracked so...

MB: I just don't want him to freak out or anything.

PM: No that, that's okay. Do you think he knows what's going on yet, or...?

MB: Maybe. He was just texting me so.

PM: Okay, yeah, so we can talk to him about that. Again it's, what, what we're trying to do, Meron, is just trying to figure out the last time that anybody saw Prince, talked to Prince, and, you know, I just want to try and verify information that you're telling me, okay.

MB: Right.

PM: Okay, okay, um, so did you see Prince in person yesterday?

MB: Yes.

PM: Okay. How was he doing yesterday?

MB: I, I saw him from far distance.

PM: Okay.

MB: I mean it's when he told me I didn't have to go to the doctor with them.

PM: Okay. Okay.

MB: So, I didn't really get a chance to know how he was doing.

PM: Okay, has he been struggling with some things lately?

MB: I'm not aware.

PM: Okay. You're his Personal Assistant but a guy who just flew in from California this morning seems to have a reason to believe that he was here to help Prince for a reason and I would think that his Personal Assistant would also know and what we're trying to find out, Meron, is the circumstances for the reason that Prince was found dead. Okay, and I understand that Prince has a very private life and people try to protect his um, his persona and his lifestyle and everything else, but it is really important for us to understand to try and manage any rumors that are gonna come out of any of this, um, what was going on yesterday and I, and I, and I think you have an understanding being his Personal Assistant um, if he was, if...

MB: But I don't know the laws saying... I don't know.

PM: What do you mean the laws?

MB: I, well, we all have confidentiality agreements (inaudible)

PM: And Price is deceased. Prince is deceased, um, and so what we would want to know is the circumstances surrounding why he's dead, okay, and if you have information that may help us understand that, um, that will help us explain the circumstances in which he was found in. Um, and I'm hoping that you can be comfortable in talking about that.

MB: I'm not.

PM: You're not. Okay, so, are you willing to tell me anything that you know about that may help us understand Prince's current condition?

MB: I don't know.

PM: Okay. You're not in trouble, okay? And you're not gonna get in trouble for things that you tell me as long as you're honest about it.

MB: I understand that.

PM: Okay, this...

MB: I would like to speak to someone, possibly a lawyer or whoever to also make sure that I, I'm, you know, saying the right thing and I also just, you know, I'm not sure the ins and outs of this whole thing so I don't know what to tell you. I don't know...

PM: Okay.

MB: We all have confidentiality agreement that we signed and that's what I would stick with and...

PM: Okay.

MB: As far as I know the only thing I know is he was going to the doctor to get a checkup yesterday so that's...

PM: Okay.

MB: The only thing I can tell you.

PM: So, the confidentiality agreement, just so I understand, was that something that you had to sign when you got employed?

MB: Yeah.

PM: And was it...

MB: That's I, I believe not only am I doing it because of the agreement...

PM: Uh-huh.

MB: I also think as his Personal Assistant and knowing his private, I would like to keep his privacy so...

PM: Right.

MB: So.

PM: But what, what we're trying to understand, Meron, is what I've already heard is there is some concern that Prince was having some struggles with chemical dependency stuff, okay, and I would believe you, as his Personal Assistant, would have some judgement about how he was reacting yesterday – whether he seemed normal, whether or not he seemed out of it, um, what his personal ah....affects were as, as how he would normally communicate with you.

MB: This is what I told you, um...

PM: You didn't tell me anything before.

MB: I'll say, I'll say it again, but when I came yesterday this, so I thought I was gonna go to, he was gonna need me to go to the doctor with him.

PM: Uh-huh.

MB: So I came, and so right when I got there I saw him walking by and he kind of was from a far distance and he said, "Meron, I'm just gonna go with Kirk. You don't need to go."

PM: Okay.

MB: And that was the last, you know, exchange.

PM: And that was about....

MB: So I can't really say how he was doing yesterday.

PM: Okay.

MB: Cause I don't know.

PM: How about his past history, so I mean, why, why was this person here from California that was here believing that he was going to help Prince um, with some chemical struggles?

MB: Um, you're gonna have to, um, talk to him .

PM: Oh, I did talk to him and you as his Personal Assistant would know why this man was coming here because you guys arranged for him to come.

MB: I understand what you're asking me but I'm saying I can answer and then, from them....correct understanding of the situation. I can't just...

PM: Okay.

MB: Whatever I'm, you know, this isn't a, a, an interview and I just want to make sure I, you know....

PM: Okay.

MB: I would like to speak to people from my own and then...

PM: Okay, who was, just so I understand, with the confidentiality agreement, who was the confidentiality agreement signed with? Was it signed with Prince or was it signed with Paisley Park?

MB: I believe it's NPG that's what they call it.

PM: Okay, and do you know who the controller is of NPG?

MB: No.

PM: Do you know how, with the, with Paisley Park, do you know how the hierarchy is set up, um, as far as who manages the property when Prince isn't there?

MB: Kirk and I manage the property.

PM: Okay, so then above you is there, is there anybody above you guys that manage the property?

MB: Uh-uh.

PM: So then you guys would be the controllers of NPG?

MB: Yeah.

PM: Okay, so then why did you tell me you didn't know who controls NPG?

MB: I don't know who, I don't believe we have anybody that's an authority.

PM: Okay.

MB: I'm not sure.

PM: So, then you guys, what I'm trying to understand is just how the business is established and how it's set up, okay. So, and then you and Kirk are the person's that are in control of Paisley Park and the company.

MB: Paisley Park, you said, you asked me who manages this, the property.

PM: Uh-huh.

MB: That's me and Kirk.

PM: Okay, and you told me before you didn't know who the managers were.

MB: The NPG is not...

PM: Okay, is NPG, okay is NPG a parent company of, of other companies, I guess maybe that's to try and clarify my question.

MB: NPG controls the music side of it. Paisley Park is Paisley Park.

PM: Okay. Do you know what the acronym NPG stands for?

MB: I think New Power Generation.

PM: New...

MB: New Power Generation.

PM: New Power, okay. So, it's NPG not MPG?

MB: Yeah.

PM: Was that one of the companies that Prince had originally set up in the past cause I think he had, didn't he have....?

MB: For albums.

PM: A couple of albums that...

MB: Yeah, it's kind of like the band's name too.

PM: Yup, yup, okay, okay. So, other than you, Kirk, and um, Ray being on the property yesterday, was anybody else there?

MB: Just Prince.

PM: Nobody else that you would be aware of that would've been on that side of the building that could've gotten there without you guys knowing that, that?

MB: What, no. I don't, I don't think so. It's possible, but I don't think so.

PM: Okay.

MB: To let anybody in, but...

PM: Right, and then you guys, you left, did you and Kirk leave at the same time last night? And so what time was that again?

MB: Around 10:30.

PM: And then do you stay around here or do you go back, go back home?

MB: Um, I stay at the hotel sometimes and I stay at home sometimes.

PM: Which hotel do you stay at?

MB: Country Inn.

PM: Did you stay in town last night in the Country Inn?

MB: I did.

PM: Okay, and is that the one here in town?

MB: (inaudible)

PM: Okay, what room number did you stay in?

MB: 127.

PM: I'm sorry.

MB: 127.

PM: And do you have a normal room that you stay in if you stay here.

MB: That's it.

PM: Okay. When did you check in?

MB: I've been checked in a long time ago.

PM: Okay.

MB: I just kind of stay there if I'm out here. I stay there.

PM: Okay. So, is the room always held for you so that whether you come in, when you come and go so you don't ever have to go to the front desk or anything? It's just held for you and....

MB: Yeah.

PM: And that's where you stay? Okay. Do you know how long that arrangement's kind of been in place?

MB: It's been awhile. I don't know, about (inaudible)

PM: Okay, and did, after you left Paisley last night, did you go right back to the hotel or did you go someplace else?

MB: I went to the hotel.

PM: Do you remember what time you got back there?

MB: Around 11.

PM: 11? Do you remember which door you came through when you went in?

MB: Probably the side door.

PM: Which is, which is the side door?

MB: Not the Jimmy John's but the other one. There's two side doors. One right by Jimmy John's, one by...

PM: Okay, north or north, southeast, west side of the building?

MB: The front door's here the door's that way.

PM: Okay, so opposite side of the front part of the building. And where from that back door is room 127 located?

MB: Right by that door.

PM: Right by the door? Okay.

MB: (inaudible) doors.

PM: Okay. Um, I picked up your purse when we were in Paisley Park. Um, because it's a death investigation, um, we have the right to control the interior of that building. Um, we also have the right to, um, go through stuff. Is there gonna be anything in your purse that would be of concern to you that I would find?

MB: Nope.

PM: Anything illegal that would cause a problem or concern?

MB: No.

PM: Okay, could we look through it just so I can verify that? How did you manage to get your job with Prince? You said you've only worked with him for about a year and a half. Did you know him before that or?

MB: No, I, I used to model around town here, and the make-up artist that worked with his band knew me and so the position that opened up and she told me and (inaudible)

PM: Okay, so you kind of got lucky in that circumstance and so, how was he to work for?

MB: He was (inaudible) and he was an amazing person.

PM: Yup, yup. Where did, what companies did you model for before this then? Were you doing private stuff or did you, were you connected with a company or?

MB: I worked with agen, different agencies in town.

PM: Okay. When did you start your modeling career?

MB: About, after I graduated college.

PM: Oh, so how old are you today?

MB: 26. Well, I'll be 26 next week.

PM: About 26?

MB: What day is it?

PM: Today is the 21st I think. Isn't it?

MB: Okay, yeah, uh-huh.

PM: When is your birthday?

MB: Um, [REDACTED] is my birthday.

PM: So, it's okay if I look through here?

MB: Go for it.

PM: Okay.

MB: There's just a bunch of junk in there. My room is a mess too.

PM: Yeah.

MB: Cause my life is just...

PM: And I apologize for that. I know I'm going through women's purses it's, you know, kind of no man's land. You find, ah, you know, everything short of the kitchen sink so. So who would you have to get in touch with, Maron, to feel comfortable with um, being able to talk to me about the private side of Prince's life because I said our, our concern is is not to spread rumors about the man...

MB: Right.

PM: But we also want to try and control rumors about the man and you know as well as I do that, given his per, perception and notoriety that there's gonna be a million rumors that are gonna go on around about him.

MB: Right.

PM: Um, and so...

MB: I just have to talk to my family for a sec.

PM: Okay. Your family, you mean, your mom and dad or...?

MB: Yeah.

PM: Or other people?

MB: And then I just need to figure out what they suggest. I mean, it's, it's just...

PM: The only thing I'm asking, Meron, is just for people to be honest. That's, that's all I can do is ask for people to be honest about what they know. Um...

MB: You're gonna find a lot of cash in there.

PM: Okay, how much is a lot of cash?

MB: I do a lot of like tour book sales and stuff like that.

PM: Okay. What's a lot of cash?

MB: Um, well, there should be, I don't remember how much is in there, but there should be like 3 something in there. 2, 3 thousand.

PM: Okay. I haven't run across cash in this envelope yet.

MB: (inaudible)

PM: In the back? Okay. Is that, and that's typical for you to carry that kind of money?

MB: Yeah.

PM: Yeah? So, as Prince's Personal Assistant what does he have you doing? Do you set appointments for him? Do you...?

MB: I do everything.

ICR# 16012559

Statement Meron Bekure, [REDACTED]

5/9/16 kkr

PM: Okay. So, it looks like you're also, you must be getting mail to (inaudible)

MB: (inaudible) uh-huh.

PM: Do you get it right at the hotel or do you have a PO box in town that it gets dropped at.

MB: No, at the hotel.

PM: This must be the envelope with the cash.

MB: Yes.

PM: Is that a (inaudible)

MB: No, that's a disc burner.

PM: Disc burner? I just wanna make sure you and I are in agreement, in agreement to what you got here for money. I just, I have to count some cash, Chris.

CN: Now Angie's done. So we got everybody done.

PM: Yeah, I think Meron was their last meeting so if you wanna touch base with Dewitt and then kind of see where we're at.

CN: Okay.

PM: Okay.

CN: Um, she's gonna need a r, a ride back.

PM: She is? Okay.

CN: Because the other two have a, a doctor's appointment.

PM: Yup, okay, so we can either drop you back off at um, the hotel or um, Paisley Park is gonna be a place where you can't go right now. Um, so I can help you out with that so, it's up to you if you want to take a ride or if you want to walk or, it's up to you.

MB: I, I can go back to the hotel.

PM: Okay, so um, we just have some cash we have to count, Ang.

AN: Okay, do you want me to help you with that or?

PM: Yeah, I think maybe if we just divide it out here and, she thinks there should be about 3 grand here.

AN: Okay.

MB: 360 something (inaudible)

PM: That should be a thousand.

AN: Did Jasmine get you (inaudible)

MB: Uh-huh.

AN: Oh, okay, good. I was worried that (inaudible)

MB: Thank you so much

AN: No, you're welcome

MB: (inaudible) 200...(inaudible)

PM: Should be 6 hundred and 30 in that pile. Is that about what you would...

MB: 3,630, yeah that makes sense.

PM: 3,630.

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: And then we got this envelope also. And what's, what's the tour book money? What is, what is that?

MB: It's a tour book that we're doing um, we're selling through peer, through peer to peer distribution..

PM: Uh-huh.

MB: So I sell it for whole sale price and then they would...

PM: Yeah, but what's in the, what's in the tour book? I mean, what...

MB: Oh, um, it's a tour book. So he just did a tour recently it's a piano microphone show so there's a couple pictures and, you know...

PM: Okay.

MB: I can kind of show you.

PM: Yeah, I just, I'm trying to understand what it is, or so, is it a marketing thing through Paisley or?

MB: Sorry if my (inaudible) merchandising.

PM: Yup. Okay, so then you arrange tours with other artists and that kind of stuff?

MB: (inaudible)

PM: Okay, just, but I mean, if, if I bought a tour through you do I get to go....

MB: It's not a tour. It's a tour book.

PM: Tour book.

MB: So, it's a bunch of pictures of Prince from the shows.

PM: Okay.

MB: It's kind of something that they can purchase. It's kind of like the t-shirts that they buy.

PM: Yup, okay, so the merchandise and the, okay, all right.

MB: So it's a merchandising...

PM: So I would, I was trying to understand if it was a, um, like a tour of the facility, tour someplace else, a backstage pass thing...

MB: It's, it's just his, his, his the (inaudible)

PM: It's his way of being able to merchandise himself and make some extra money on the, on the other side, right?

MB: Yeah, something like that, yeah. I think this one might have been for a CD.

PM: Ah, it doesn't say. It's just got Bremer Bank on the outside of it.

MB: Oh, that might actually be my cash. Sorry, it was, that's actually my cash.

CN: We're gonna take off (inaudible)

PM: Okay, yup.

UF: (inaudible) see you later.

UM: Um, we're gonna go to the apartment and we're all there.

MB: Okay.

UM: So, you said you'll take her?

CN: Yup, we'll take her.

PM: Yeah, we'll get her back to the hotel one way or the other.

UM: Thank you. How do we get out sir? (inaudible) We're just a phone call away.

PM: They got side tracked so now I gotta recount. So, there's a hundred there and I think there's a hundred here, so it should be 200. Does that sound right, Meron?

MB: Huh?

PM: 200?

MB: Yeah. Yeah, that was actually my cash, my bad.

AN: Yup.

PM: There should be a hundred there.

AN: Perfect.

PM: Okay, and put that back in the envelope. I just wanted to...

MB: Keep that separate, right?

AN: Yeah, that's separate.

PM: Yes, yes, one's here and one's there, okay? Actually, I'm gonna hand that to ya and I'm sure that I messed up your purse so I didn't put stuff back in the right order so...you can arrange it. Um, if you called your parents to talk to them about the circumstance that you're in um, because I don't want to keep going back and forth, Meron, I want to figure out what you feel comfortable with but I said at the same time um, we're trying to understand the issue of concern with Prince. I know that people were concerned about him today and that's the reason you guys were there. Um, and like I said, from what I know at this point there is an issue of concern with him struggling with some chemical dependency stuff. Whether it was um, prescription meds or pain meds or, or something else, but, again, I reasonably believe that you as his assistant would have some of that history which may help us explain the circumstances of why he's there today because in reality what we are trying to figure out is was this something that was a medical event with him? Was it an overdose? Or did somebody murder the man? And so what we're, that, that in any death investigation that's, those are the questions that we have to answer.

MB: I understand.

PM: And that's, that's why I'm asking you to be honest about what you know, okay. Um, because, again, he's a very high profile person and people are going to spread rumors no matter how much you try to control them. Um, but it's important for us to know on the front half what those concerns would be because if, if I talk to somebody who was his confidant and somebody who knew him and dealt with him and worked with him every day, I can discount some of those rumors, okay, but that's important for me, okay, and it's important, I think, to respect Prince's life in that way. To not allow people to spread those negative rumors, okay?

MB: I agree.

PM: And so that...

MB: That's why I need to...

PM: But that, that, that is also our job so what I want you to do is um, take a couple minutes, make those couple phone calls that you need to and then I'd like to check back in with you and then um, maybe we can answer some of those questions that you're a little concerned about. Um, again, I know that he's your friend, he's your boss, you have these confidentiality agreements, but it really is important for us to

understand how we could best explain the circumstances that we found him in today, okay?

MB: Uh-huh?

PM: I know that makes sense to you and I know that you understand that.

MB: Uh-huh.

PM: Okay? So, um, what I'll do is I'll let you go jump out in the lobby or you can use that conference room to make a couple of those calls. Um, how long a time do you think you'll need for that cause I want to give you a reasonable time for but I don't want to drag it out too long either.

MB: Um, about a half hour?

PM: Okay, that's reasonable, okay. Um, I have your phone number in case we lose touch with each other cause during that half an hour I'll make some phone calls and stuff too, um, for things that I need to accomplish and then we'll get back together.

MB: Okay.

PM: Okay, um, do you need anything else right now? Um, you know, I'm not saying that you can't leave the building. It's easier for us to find each other but I need to, do you need to step outside, take a walk, relieve some stress a little bit?

MB: I think my parents actually might be around so I can call them (inaudible).

PM: Okay, so I will, where should I meet you in a half hour? Should I meet you in that lobby where you and I saw each other before? In that common area?

MB: Yeah.

PM: Okay, so I'll meet you there in a half hour.

MB: Okay.

PM: So, what time is it now? About 12:23, okay? Anybody else that you need help getting in contact with that you haven't been able to?

MB: No, I'm good.

PM: You're good? Okay. Let me turn this off and time now again is approximately 12:23.

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