# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION & MEDIA

Summary of the investigative conclusions & role of the media

# What did we have?

- Potential homicide investigation
  - Were the children all still in the vehicle?
  - Were the children deceased or assaulted prior to entering the water?
  - Was this an intentional act?
  - Besides our driver and children, who were the other key players?
- Chaotic scene
  - Different information elicited by the mother/driver
  - Investigators were responding for different agencies
  - Coordination of line officers
  - Agency leadership off-site
  - Media arriving at the scene

# Jurisdiction

- Multiple agencies on scene
- Questions arose as to which agency was lead
- Established a multi-agency approach
  - Utilize the strengths of each individual agency
  - Work collaboratively towards the same goal
  - Team interview approach
  - Division of duties based upon investigators and agency strengths
  - Meetings during the investigation process.


Salem Ave S
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Google

# Investigation

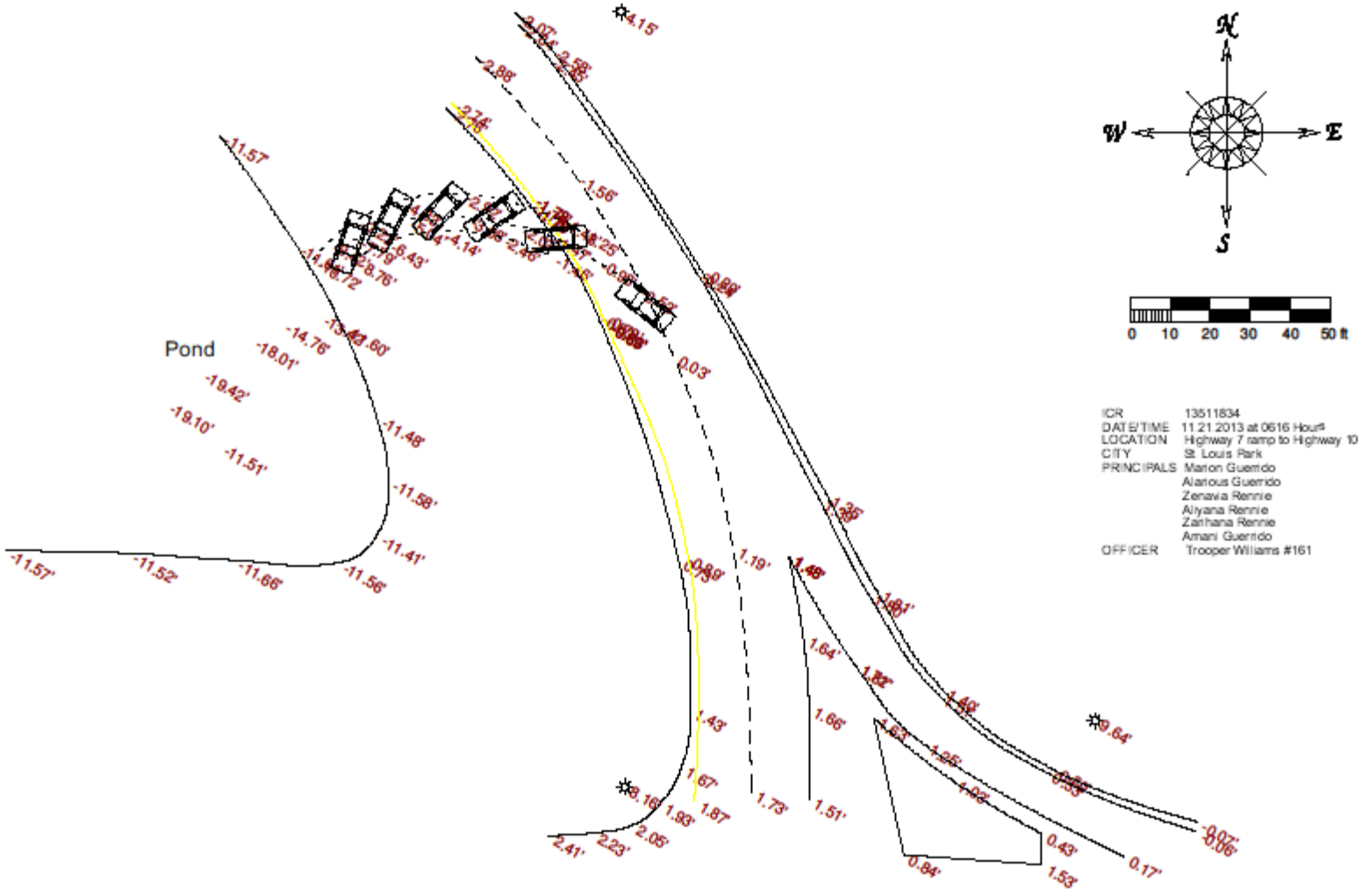
- Initial interview of our driver & witness
  - Line officers to gather preliminary information
- Formal interviews
  - Team approach (SLPD, MSP, HCSO)
  - Marion Guerrido (druver)
  - Julius Rennie(husband of driver)
  - Mr. Oine (first responder-swam)
  - First responding fire personnel
- Fluid testing
  - Consent blood test obtained

# Investigation

- HSCO Crime Lab
  - Gathering of all clothing at hospital
  - Took possession of vehicle
    - Stored indoors at the Sheriff's office
    - Search warrant obtained for vehicle and Airbag Control Module (ACM)
- HSCO Dive Team
  - Assisted with secondary search the day of the crash
  - Returned to the pond the following day to search for the cell phone—never located
  - Warrant for cell – (found no cell phone use)

# Investigation

- Crash Reconstruction
  - Forensic road evidence collected
  - Due to damp roadway, floor dryers were brought out to dry the pavement and observe the tire marks
- Overall, once the scene was no longer in a rescue operation, the process at the scene became slow and methodical


Pond
N
W
E
S
0 10 20 30 40 50 ft
ICR 13511834
DATE/TIME 11.21.2013 at 0616 Hours
LOCATION Highway 7 ramp to Highway 10
CITY St. Louis Park
PRINCIPALS Marion Guerrido
Alarious Guerrido
Zenavia Rennie
Aiyana Rennie
Zarhana Rennie
Amani Guerrido
OFFICER Trooper Williams #161

# Criminal Investigation Conclusions

- The weather was calm
- The road surface was damp
- There were no roadway defects, construction or maintenance in the area.
- The area was illuminated by street lamps
- The vehicle's ACM did not record data as their had not been a deployment
- The blood results were negative and no impairment had been detected

# Criminal Investigation Conclusions

- The roadway had a slight grade, 2-3% traveling north to south.
- The grassy area between the roadway and the pond had 15-17% grade.
- Hennepin County Water Patrol assisted with measuring depth of the water and vehicle position in the water.
- The came to rest in 7.5-8 feet deep water.
- There were not enough restraints for all the children and the 1 child seat was not attached to the rear seat

# Criminal Investigation Conclusions

- Minimum speed was determined to be 19-24 mph when the vehicle hit the grass, from the asphalt.
- There were no medical conditions that affected Guerrido.
- Attributed to Marion Guerrido losing control of the vehicle due to improper steering input followed by over correction.
- Dominant factors:  driver inexperience and lack of proper driver's training

# Criminal charges

- Submitted to Hennepin County Attorney
  - Declined Criminal Vehicular Homicide, as elements of the statute were not met
- Submitted to the St. Louis Park City Attorney
  - Formally charged with Instruction Permit violation; Uninsured motor vehicle; Child Passenger restraint violation.
  - Convicted of 2 misdemeanors and 1 petty misdemeanor
  - Supervised probation 1 year
  - 90 days in the Hennepin work house, with 60 days stayed, eligible for electronic home monitoring & work release

# Media

- Initial news conference releasing response, rescue and initial details of information
- Second news conference for rescuers to explain rescue operation
- Family Attorney:  Took all media inquires as to the status and condition of the children
- Daily requests for additional information, much based upon updates on the children