## Transcript – Pima County Sheriff Deputy Thomas Audetat & Defendant

- 2 **Incident Date:** 29 March 13
- 3 Case #: TR-13-050961
- 4 Location: SR-86, Milepost 146.6, Southern, AZ (CBP Roadblock)
- 5 A = Deputy Audetat
- 6  $\mathbf{D}$  = Defendant

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- $7 extbf{V} = Deputy Vatterrodt$
- 8 Deputy Audetat arrives on-scene after being requested by CBP Agent Grayson to respond. Audetat talks
- 9 with CBP agents and then approaches Defendant. Exchange begins at approximately 1555 and ends at
- 10 approximately 1559:
- 11 **A:** "How you doing sir?"
- 12 **D:** "Pretty good, how are you sir?"
- 13 **A:** "Pretty good. Any reason why you're stopped here?"
- 14 **D:** "Because they stopped me. I'd be on my way if they would allow me to go."
- 15 **A:** "They're telling me that they directed you to pull over and you didn't and now you wont move."
- 16 **D:** "Well ah, because they are currently illegally detaining me here. They know who I am. They know
- my immigration status. They never gave me any orders or any feedback when I first stopped at the
- 18 checkpoint. They just stared at me and took out their cameras. They said nothing for on the order of a
- 19 minute or two minutes. They just stared at me so I stopped at the stop sign like I'm supposed to...."
- 20 **A:** "I can barely hear you. Can you roll your window down."
- 21 **D:** "Um, that's as far as I'm willing to roll it down right now. Um, so after they told me to stop, I
- 22 stopped and here I am. So as immigration ahhh, federal law enforcement officers operating a
- 23 suspicionless checkpoint they have a very limited mandate here. The scope of this checkpoint has to be
- 24 limited to very brief immigration queries. They already know my immigration status. They asked me no
- 25 immigration questions. I have it on video here. They just stared at me and laughed at me when I came
- 26 to a complete stop. And, now they're refusing to let me go. They have a few minutes in which to stop...."
- 27 **A:** "And asked you to pull over to the secondary area which you refused to do."
- 28 **D:** "I haven't refused to do anything."
- 29 **A:** "OK, well that's not what they said."
- 30 **D:** "OK, but nonetheless this is a federal checkpoint so could I ask you what your role is here? They
- 31 are federal officers fully empowered to arrest individuals who have violated federal law so if they think
- 32 I have violated federal law that they have authority over then they should be handling this.'
- 33 **A:** "But now you're violating state law and impeding traffic."
- 34 **D:** "Well ah, I'm...how so? I mean they are not state peace officers. They don't have traffic control
- 35 authority. They have authority to stop you briefly"
- 36 **A:** "Well I do"
- 37 **D:** "Yes you do. OK so what are you telling me to do?"
- 38 **A:** "They told you to pull over to the side. Which you refused to do. Correct?"
- 39 **D:** "I haven't refused to do anything."
- 40 **A:** "OK then why are you sitting here then?"
- 41 **D:** "Why am I sitting here? Because they told me to stop here so I stopped."

- **A:** "And (muffled) pull off to the side which you refused to do."
- **D:** "Sir are you asking me to do something?"
- **A:** "Yeah, pull over to the side."
- **D:** "OK, I'll pull over to the side. You are a state certified...post certified police officer..."
- **A:** "Do I look like I am?"
- **D:** "What's that?"
- **A:** "Do I look like I am?"
- **D:** "You are a sheriff's deputy who is post certified."
- **A:** "Correct."
- **D:** "So you have authority to direct traffic. They do not."
- **A:** "Yes I do."
- **D:** (pulls over to side of road)
- 13 Deputy Audetat walks back to CBP Agents for further collaboration
- While Deputy Audetat was talking with CBP Agents, Agent Brandon approached Defendant and tells
- 15 Defendant the BP inspection is complete but he can't leave yet because the sheriff's deputies are going
- 16 to write Defendant a citation for impeding traffic. Agent Brandon walks away and Deputy Vatterrodt
- 17 approaches and asks for Defendant's license. Defendant provides the license, Vatterrodt walks away
- with it and several minutes later deputy Audetat approaches. Exchange begins at approximately 16:12
- and ends at approximately 16:16:
- 20 A: "Mr. Bressi"
- **D:** "Yes"
- **A:** "OK, I'm citing you for a Title 28 violation of stopping unnecessarily on a highway."
- **D:** "Well, how can you do that because I was ordered to stop by federal agents"
- **A:** "You were ordered to stop off the highway."
- **D:** "I was actually ordered to stop by federal agents which is what I did."
- **A:** "You can discuss that in court if you want but that's what you're getting cited for."
- **D:** "Yes, well you know a Tohono O'odham police officer tried this exact same thing once before and
- 28 the judge threw it out within about five minutes...."
- **A:** "OK"
- **D:** "So um, I would like to know what.... You're the only person here, you and the other deputy, are the
- 31 only two individuals here that are POST certified and...are...have the authority to direct traffic here. So
- 32 as you know as soon as you pulled up..."
- **A:** "I disagree"
- **D:** "As soon as you pulled up...are these Border Patrol agents POST certified?"
- **A:** "They may direct traffic. Yes they can"
- **D:** "Are they POST certified?"
- **A:** "No they're not."
- **D:** "Exactly."
- **A:** "They're federally certified."
- **D:** "Yes but they're not POST certified so they have no authority to enforce the state's laws as you
- *know.* "
- **A:** "Arizona is within the federal government."

- **D:** "Actually, Arizona is a sovereign state."
- **A:** "*Right*"
- **D:** "One of the several states of the United States of America"
- **A:** "Right."
- **D:** "As I'm sure you know."
- **A:** "Which is within the borders of the United States."
- **D:** "Right, but their authority here is very limited as you know without being POST certified."
- 8 A: "I can't here you."
- **D:** "Sorry about that, I know there's loud traffic. I try to ah...my throats getting a little dry here so...I'm
- 10 sorry if I'm hard to hear. But as you know I fully complied with your request..."
- **A:** "Yes you did."
- **D:** "...when you came up. Um so unless you are assisting these federal agents with running a federal
- immigration checkpoint then you really don't have any basis here to write me a citation for this."
- **A:** "OK, I think we're going to have to take that to court because I disagree."
- **D:** "OK Audetat? Do you have a badge number sir?"
- **A:** "I do."
- **D:** "Could you tell me what it is?"
- **A:** "It's on the citation."
- **D:** "OK And the other deputy that's here with you. Could you tell me what his name is?"
- **A:** "Deputy Vatterrodt"
- **D:** "Vatterrodt?"
- **A:** "Vatterrodt"
- **D:** "Could you spell that for me?
- **A:** "I can't spell it."
- **D:** "Could he spell it for me? I'm going to need witnesses here to so....(other deputy approaches).
- 26 Sorry, I was just trying to get your name. VATTERRODT."
- **V:** "That's correct"
- **D:** "Could I get your badge number?"
- **V:** "6119"
- **D:** "6119. Um, do you have the...names of the Border Patrol agents..."
- **A:** (garbled)
- **D:** "Are you responding to...so your responding to complaints by them basically?"
- **A:** "Basically, yes"
- **D:** "So are you certified in any way to enforce federal immigration law?"
- **A:** "Which ones?"
- **D:** "I don't know, Any. Are you currently certified in any way to enforce federal immigration laws?"
- **A:** "No."
- **D:** "OK and neither is the other deputy I would imagine?"
- **A:** "*No*"
- **D:** "*OK*, all right."
- **A:** "OK?"
- **D:** "I would like the names of the Border Patrol agents. Do you have those? It looks like you were
- 43 sharing some information with them."
- **A:** "I can get them for you."
- **D:** "That would be great...."
- **A:** "I'm going to give you the citation. Your license is in here as well."
- **D:** "OK"

- **A:** "OK The court date's going to be on the 17th of April."
- **D:** "OK"
- **A:** "115 N. Church at 8:30 in the morning."
- **D:** "OK"
- **A:** "OK I'll be right back"
- 6 Deputy Audetat walks over to Agent Grayson and tells him I want to talk with him. Agent Grayson then
- 7 approaches.