PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

- - -

In the Matter of Gary McCaskey :

Notice of Apparent Violation : Case No.

and Intent to Assess : 13-1955-TR-CVF

Forfeiture. :

PROCEEDINGS

before Jim Lynn, Attorney Examiner, held at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Hearing Room 11-D, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday, December 5, 2013, at 10:00 A.M.

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      APPEARANCES:
 2
             Mr. Ryan P. O'Rourke
             Assistant Attorney General
             180 East Broad Street, 6th Floor
 3
             Columbus, Ohio 43215
 4
                  On behalf of the Staff of the Public
 5
                  Utilities Commission of Ohio.
 6
             Mr. Gary McCaskey
 7
             213 Main Street
             New Martinsville, West Virginia 26155
 8
                  Respondent, appearing Pro se.
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|----|-----------------------|--|------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | | INDEX TO EXHIBITS | | 3 | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | IDENTIFIED | | | | |
| 4 | STAFF EXHIBITS | | | | | | |
| 5 | 1 | Driver/Vehicle Examination | 9 | | | | |
| 6 | | Report | | | | | |
| 7 | 2 | Notice of Preliminary Determination | 24 | | | | |
| 8 | 3 | Fine Schedule Out of | 26 | | | | |
| 9 | | Service Violations | | | | | |
| 10 | RESPONDENT'S EXHIBITS | | | | | | |
| 11 | 1 | Professional Driver | 44 | | | | |
| 12 | | Award | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | |

| INDEX TO WITNESSES | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|---------|--|--|--|
| STATE'S WITNE | ESSES | DIREC' | T CROSS | | | |
| Kenneth D. Co | ollins | 6 | | | | |
| Thomas Persir | nger | 23 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| RESPONDENT'S | WITNESSES | | | | | |
| Gary S. McCas | skey | 29 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
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5 1 Thursday Morning, 2 December 5, 2013. 3 4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has assigned for 5 6 hearing at this time and place Case No. 13-1955-TR-CVF, in the matter of Gary McCaskey 7 8 notice of apparent violation and intent to 9 assess forfeiture. 10 I am Jim Lynn, the Attorney Examiner 11 assigned to hear this case. And at this time I 12 will have the appearances of the parties 13 beginning with the Ohio Attorney General's office. 14 15 MR. O'ROURKE: Thank you, Your 16 Honor. Ryan O'Rourke, I am representing Staff today. As stated I am with the Ohio Attorney 17 18 General's office, Public Utilities Section, and 19 my address is 180 East Broad Street, 6th floor, 2.0 Columbus, Ohio 43215. 2.1 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. 22 McCaskey, your name and address, please. 23 MR. MCCASKEY: Gary Samuel McCaskey,

213 Main Street, New Martinsville, West

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Virginia.

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1
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.
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                  MR. MCCASKEY: I am directly across
 3
     from the Weitzel County Court House. And it's
     been in the family since my great grandfather
 4
     had the first Post Office there.
 5
 6
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Congratulations.
 7
     Thank you. Right now we will start our
 8
     proceedings and we will begin with Mr. O'Rourke
9
     and then we will hear from Mr. McCaskey. So,
10
     Mr. O'Rourke, do you have a witness you want to
11
     call?
12
                  MR. O'ROURKE; Thank you, Your
13
     Honor, I do. Staff calls Trooper Collins to the
14
      stand.
15
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Trooper Collins,
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     you are being called to the witness stand,
     please, and let me swear you in and we will get
17
18
     underway.
19
                  (WITNESS SWORN)
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                 TROOPER KENNETH D. COLLINS
22
     called as a witness on behalf of the State,
23
     being first duly sworn, testified as follows:
24
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER:
                                       Have a seat.
25
     Mr. O'Rourke, you can continue with your
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Have you been trained to enforce the

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Q.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations?

A. Yes, I have.

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- Q. And what kind of training?
- A. I received the Part A and Part B training, Hazmat training from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
 - O. You said Part A and Part B.
- A. That stands for Part A is -- Part B, they both cover the driver and the vehicle.

 Then Hazmat and on to tank vehicle. But those are just the parts the statute covers as we were trained to be able to inspect vehicles properly.
 - Q. The scope of your jurisdiction is?
 - A. The whole State of Ohio.
- Q. Approximately, you know, best estimate how many times have you performed a roadside inspection to cite someone for possible violation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations?
- A. Right now I am up to 1,300 inspections.
 - Q. Okay. And you were issued a subpoena in this case. Do you understand the reason for why you were issued that subpoena?
- 25 A. Yes.

- O. What was that reason?
- A. It was a gentleman, the driver, is contesting the safety violation that I wrote him up for.
 - Q. And when you say the gentleman --
- 6 A. Mr --

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- MR. MCCASKEY: Sam McCaskey. Sam.
- Q. Have you identified him as the gentleman you stopped on the day in question?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. And did you prepare any reports on the date of this inspection that we are here to discuss today?
- 14 A. Yes, I did.
- MR. O'ROURKE: Your Honor, may I
- 16 approach?
- 17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Yes.
- MR. O'ROURKE: You Honor, I would
- 19 like to have marked the following exhibit that I
- 20 am passing out to everyone. I am marking this
- 21 as Staff Exhibit 1.
- 22 (EXHIBIT HEREBY MARKED FOR
- 23 IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES)
- Q. Trooper Collins, do you recognize
- 25 this Staff Exhibit 1 that I have just handed to

you?

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- A. Yes. This is my inspection that I completed on the date that I stopped the gentleman for the safety belt violation.
- Q. And is this the type of inspection report that is customarily prepared in the course of the Patrol's business when they perform a stop?
- A. Yes. A commercial motor vehicle inspection.
- Q. I would like for you to walk us through some of the information outlined on this report. So let's start with the first block of information in the upper right-hand -- excuse me. The upper right section. It's got a report number and inspection date.

So why don't you explain what day this was and set the stage for how this inspection came to be.

A. Okay. The report number is my unit number with the sequential order of inspections that I have done to that point. So 902 inspections at that point when I stopped him. I was up to 902 inspections.

The inspection date was the 31st of

- May, 2013. I began the inspection at 3:12 and I ended it at 3:33.
- Q. Just to interrupt, so the time

 started at 1512. It looks like it's in military

 time.
 - A. Yes.

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2

- 7 Q. Okay.
- A. It's in military time. 1512 and
 1533. In this type of inspection it's just of
 the driver himself. You are looking at his log
 book, his is medical card and license.
- And then down in the next section it
 talks about hazmat. It was not a hazmat
 inspection. It was a different type of
 inspection.
- Q. And what roadway are we talking about here where this alleged violation occurred?
- A. This occurred on Ohio Turnpike at 20 Exit 187.
- Q. Okay. So, where were you stationed at this mile post?
- A. Normally I sit stationary in my
 vehicle while the trucks go through the booth.

 But there are sometimes when I am outside

the vehicle and I notice the driver is not wearing his safety belt, and then I approach him then and then I pull him over to the side of the road.

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Now, I don't particularly remember which position I was in, but I know I was stationed in my car and the car was parked stationary. I don't know if I was outside of the car or inside of the car at the time when I did approach him. I believe I did approach him

- Q. Do you recall if -- and that is hard for me to do this without a map, but visually can you explain what your perspective was of the roadway on that day?
- A. Well, the turnpike has when the vehicles come through the booths they have to come to a slow speed of 10 miles an hour to be able to go through the booth and pick up a ticket. They have to come to a stop.

But with the EZ Pass you can just creep through the booth without hitting the toll collectors that walk across the booth, the toll booth, to get to a building.

 $\hbox{I could see drivers -- if I am} \\$ $\hbox{inside my car I can see them as they come}$

through the booth, I could see their torso,
whether they have their seatbelt on or not. And
if I am outside the vehicle talking to a
collector I try to slow people down because
sometimes request that we are visible to slow
people down because we have had collectors
nearly hit, struck from the trucks.

And those trucks move, fly through those toll booths. So, if I am outside the vehicle I can see vehicles coming at me and I can see the driver clearly if he is not wearing his seatbelt.

- Q. On the day in question as you are facing the roadway, on which side of the toll booth would it have been?
- A. Well, on the right-hand side. On the right-hand side.
- Q. So you are stationed on the side of the road and the toll booth is on the right-hand side?
- A. The building is on the right-hand side. If you look at it -- should I draw it?
 - Q. Just do the best you can.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: If I could step

25 in.

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MR. O'ROURKE: Of course.

EXAMINATION

By the Attorney Examiner:

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- Q. Officer, first if you could describe, your perspective apparently is as vehicles enter the toll both, approach the toll booth --
 - A. Right.
- Q. And for my own knowledge I will ask while it's on my mind, how many lanes of traffic are there going into the toll booth?
 - A. Possibly three.
 - Q. So possibly three?
- 14 A. Right.
- Q. And you are saying that you don't recall whether you were in your vehicle or outside of the vehicle?
- 18 A. No, I do not.
- Q. There could be three lanes. And Mr.

 McCaskey presumably was slowing down as he

 approached the toll booth. This is where they

 would -- are they paying a toll or picking up a

 ticket on the roadway or what?
- A. They would be either getting a ticket --

- Q. To start on their travel?
- A. Yes. To get onto the turnpike, yes.

 So they have to slow down.
 - Q. That is probably what he was doing here?
 - A. Possibly.

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- Q. You are saying possibly because --
- A. I don't know if he had a transponder. You don't need to get a ticket.
- Q. Okay. I see. So you were, bear with me, Mr. O'Rourke, I am asking these questions while they are on my mind, so you are on the side of the road, Mr. McCaskey is approaching the toll booth. You said there could be three lanes of traffic going that way.

You don't recall if you were in your vehicle or not. Do you recall what lane Mr.

McCaskey was in? Was he in the lane closest to you, the one closest to the median, closest to the side of the road? Because you were on the side of the road?

- A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall which lane he was in?
- A. No, I do not.

- Q. You don't remember which lane he was in?
- 3 A. No.

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. If you would please continue, Mr. O'Rourke.

MR. O'ROURKE: Okay.

CONTINUED DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. O'Rourke:

- Q. So, when you spotted Mr. McCaskey were there any obstructions from your perspective of the traffic as it was entering in terms of perhaps anything overhanging the roadway like a sign instructing traffic where to go in the tolls?
- A. No. There was no obstructions to my vision or my view of the drivers as they came through the gate at that particular point. Now, I parked at such a perspective where I can see the vehicles coming and I can see what colors the drivers' shirts, see what color the shirts the drivers are wearing, whether or not he is wearing his safety belt.

I am looking for placards, you know, because they have to slow down to ten miles an hour. That is the speed limit for vehicles

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      entering the turnpike to get a ticket.
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                    FURTHER EXAMINATION
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      By the Attorney Examiner:
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             Ο.
                  And you are observing the traffic?
 5
             Α.
                  Coming in.
                  Right. Coming into the --
 6
             0.
 7
             Α.
                  Entering.
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                  Okay. I think I am clear on that.
             Q.
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      And it could be you are actually observing
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      vehicles as they come down, the vehicles in any
      of the three lanes perhaps?
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12
             Α.
                  That's correct.
13
             Q.
                  You are looking across from one
14
      or --
15
             Α.
                  I scan the drivers, the vehicles.
16
                  Okay. But you don't recall what
             Ο.
17
      lane Mr. McCaskey was in?
18
             Α.
                  No, sir.
19
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Please go ahead,
2.0
      Mr. O'Rourke.
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                 FURTHER DIRECT EXAMINATION
22
      By Mr. O'Rourke:
23
                  So when you spotted Mr. McCaskey
             0.
24
      driving his vehicle as he was approaching this
25
      toll booth do you recall if it was the driver's
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- side door that was closest to you or the passenger side door that was closest to you?
- A. It all depends on whether I was outside the vehicle or inside the vehicle as he was coming. I could have been outside the vehicle. And if that is the case it -- well, the passenger side door would be closest to me.
 - Q. Okay.

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- A. Right. The closest.
- Q. Okay. So you spotted Mr. McCaskey in the vehicle approaching the toll booth, and what prompted you to make this stop?
- A. Well, I could clearly see that there was no shoulder harness going across his torso. I spotted his -- I made note of his shirt that he was wearing, and then I pulled him over and parked over to the right in front of my vehicle and I did the inspection.
- Q. And do you recall what color of shirt he was wearing on that day?
- A. He had a green short sleeve shirt and a black safety belt that went across his torso.
- Q. Okay. So when you approached Mr.

McCaskey did you see the safety belt on him at that time?

- A. No, I did not.
- Q. And the notes on this inspection report, those were made either during the stop or immediately thereafter?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Contemporaneously?
- A. It was made at the same time of the inspection. It was completed before I even gave him his copy, because I try to do things in order to make sure things are fresh in my mind and I put them down when the inspection is done.
- Q. Then you just handed him the inspection report?
- A. And he signed it and went on his way.
- Q. Then from there how does the inspection report get -- or are you familiar with how it gets transmitted to the Staff of the --
- A. We upload it at the end of our day to save it.
- MR. O'ROURKE: I think that is all I have for this witness, your Honor.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

By the Attorney Examiner:

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- Q. Trooper Collins, do you remember -you indicated in response to Mr. O'Rourke, was
 there from the toll booth or something that
 obstructed your view? I believe the answer to
 that was there was no such obstruction object.
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Was Mr. McCaskey, do you recall, was he entering to toll booth and say another tractor-trailer, you know, pulling in at the same time on the one side of him, something like that?
- A. No. I had a clear view of him as he approached me. And like I say, I don't know exactly where I was positioned, if I was inside the car or outside the car talking to a collector.

But when I did view the violation I documented what he had on, his shirt and the belt that was not seen. So, there was no obstructions at all.

O. And this was 3:33 as well?

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A. In the afternoon.
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- Q. Approximately 3:00 to 3:30 in the afternoon. And do you recall what the weather conditions were like that day?
 - A. May, probably bright and sunny.
 - Q. Not raining or anything like that?
 - A. I don't believe so.
 - Q. You are not certain of that?
 - A. No, I am not certain.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. Mr.

11 McCaskey, do you have any questions?

MR. MCCASKEY: No, not at all. And

13 thank you for your service.

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Actually I had a

15 few other questions just to clarify this thing.

I think you probably already made it clear, but

17 I will check just to make sure.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

By the Attorney Examiner:

- Q. Apparently then so you watched Mr.
- 21 McCaskey as he was approaching the toll booth.
- 22 So, therefore, he was driving the vehicle?
- A. He was operating the vehicle.
- Q. So the engine was on, the vehicle
- 25 was moving obviously?

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A. Yes, sir.

Q. And he was behind the steering
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A. Yes.

wheel?

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER: I just want to make sure because that is what the federal law requires is whether the driver is -- whether the operator is driving the vehicle or not.

I have no more questions at this time. You are still under oath, so I may have some other questions later.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Mr.

McCaskey, you said you have no questions either.

MR. MCCASKEY: Thank you very much.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. Take your seat. And, Mr. McCaskey, if you would like to come up to the witness stand, or if it's easier

19 for you to speak from there.

MR. O'ROURKE: Your Honor, I do have an additional witness.

22 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: I am sorry. My

23 mistake.

MR. O'ROURKE: Staff calls Tom

25 Persinger.

| | | 23 | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | (WITNESS SWORN) | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | |
| 3 | THOMAS PERSINGER | | | | | |
| 4 | called as a witness on behalf of the State, | | | | | |
| 5 | being first duly sworn, testified as follows: | | | | | |
| 6 | DIRECT EXAMINATION | | | | | |
| 7 | By Mr. O'Rourke: | | | | | |
| 8 | Q. Mr. Persinger, can you state your | | | | | |
| 9 | full name and business address? | | | | | |
| 10 | A. My name is Thomas Persinger. My | | | | | |
| 11 | business address, PUCO, is 180 East Broad | | | | | |
| 12 | Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. | | | | | |
| 13 | Q. By whom are you employed? | | | | | |
| 14 | A. The Public Utilities Commission of | | | | | |
| 15 | Ohio. | | | | | |
| 16 | Q. Any particular division? | | | | | |
| 17 | A. In the Transportation Department, | | | | | |
| 18 | Compliance Division. | | | | | |
| 19 | Q. How long have you worked there? | | | | | |
| 20 | A. Approximately two and a half years. | | | | | |
| 21 | Q. And have you had an opportunity to | | | | | |
| 22 | review the inspection report that is at issue | | | | | |
| 23 | here today? | | | | | |
| 24 | A. Somewhat, yes. | | | | | |
| 25 | Q. Okay. You are generally familiar | | | | | |

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with why we are here today?
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- A. Correct.
- Q. And did your office, you or any one of your colleagues, cause any documents to be transmitted to Mr. McCaskey putting him on notice as to any forfeiture that was going --
 - A. Yes.

MR. O'ROURKE: May I approach, your

9 Honor?

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10 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Yes, please.

MR. O'ROURKE: Your Honor, I am

12 handing the witness what has been marked as

13 Staff Exhibit 2. I have copies for everyone.

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

15 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR THE PURPOSE OF

16 IDENTIFICATION)

- Q. Mr. Persinger, have you seen Staff
 Exhibit 2 before?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And is that a document that is customarily kept in the Staff's business?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. I don't want to take up too much time with this, but I think it would be helpful for Mr. McCaskey at the very least.

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Determination. What is the significance of this?

A. When a Notice of Preliminary

Determination is sent that indicates that the inspection was done, a notice was sent out reflecting the violation and any applicable forfeiture, fine attached with it, as well as a conference was attempted to resolve the violation on the inspection report.

And settlement could not be reached between the member of the Compliance Division and the Respondent. Therefore, Notice of
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Q. And I see there is a \$100 civil forfeiture identified on there. How was that calculated?

Preliminary Determination was sent out to the

the fine or request an administrative hearing.

Respondent with instructions to either pay

- A. Based off our fine schedule.

 MR. O'ROURKE: May I approach, your
- 23 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Yes.

Honor?

MR. O'ROURKE: Your Honor, I am handing the witness what has been marked as

- Staff Exhibit 3. And this is the fine schedule that was just alluded to.
- 3 (EXHIBIT HEREBY MARKED FOR
- 4 IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES)
- 5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.
- Q. Mr. Persinger, have you seen Staff
- 7 Exhibit 3 before?
 - A. Yes.

8

- Q. And what is it?
- 10 A. It is the fine schedule for
- 11 violations of FMCSA regulations.
- 12 Q. And this is the document that you
- 13 alluded to earlier?
- 14 A. Correct.
- Q. Who prepared this?
- 16 A. The Compliance Division in the
- 17 Transportation Department.
- 18 Q. So, explain how the \$100 value is
- 19 calculated based upon what is set forth on this
- 20 schedule.
- 21 A. Depending on type of violation that
- is found on what are mostly \$300 level
- violations, which are mechanical, driver
- 24 violations, depending on the type of violation a
- 25 particular fine is determined for it.

- Q. Okay. And the fine at issue here was what?
 - A. The fine at issue here was a seat belt violation.
 - Q. And the dollar amount of the forfeiture that is associated with that?
 - A. Is a \$100 fine.
 - O. How do we know that?
 - A. Because it is listed on page 2 of the schedule in the Group 4 violations.
- Q. Okay. And that is about how many columns down in that Group 4?
 - A. I would say about two-thirds of the way down.
 - Q. Okay. And you are referencing not using seat belt, and then you move from left to right and it says \$100; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.

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- MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. I think that is all I have.
- ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. I
 have no questions. Mr. McCaskey, do you have
 any questions for the witness?
- MR. MCCASKEY: No, not at all.
- 25 Everything is very familiar to me over the past

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28
     decades.
 1
 2
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. Thank
 3
     you. You may take your seat.
 4
                  Mr. McCaskey, actually it's your
 5
     opportunity to --
 6
                  MR. MCCASKEY: Where is the $10,000
      fine? There is one here somewhere. I don't see
 7
 8
      it, but I have been told about it. It has been
9
     explained to me by a Trooper in detail on
     occasions. Because I haul hazardous materials.
10
11
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Would you like
12
     to --
1.3
                  MR. MCCASKEY: So thank you very
14
     much for this. And it's all very familiar.
15
     May I submit just --
16
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Mr. McCaskey, I
17
     need to swear you in. And, secondly, if you
18
     would like to take the witness --
19
                  MR. MCCASKEY: I will take the
2.0
     witness stand.
2.1
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER:
                                       Great.
     you like to come up, please? And bring your
22
23
     materials with you.
2.4
                  MR. MCCASKEY: I only have one
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credential. To whom shall I give it?

29 1 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Why don't you 2 come up here first and we will swear you in. 3 MR. MCCASKEY: Thank you. ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. 4 5 (WITNESS SWORN) 6 7 GARY S. MCCASKEY 8 called as a witness on behalf of the Respondent, 9 being first duly sworn, testified as follows: 10 MR. MCCASKEY: Thank you for the 11 opportunity to be here and allow my appeal to 12 progress to this point. 13 EXAMINATION 14 By the Attorney Examiner: 15 0. And if you could describe your 16 perspective on the alleged violation. And then 17 I may have some questions for you or Mr. O'Rourke. 18 19 And you say you have a document with 2.0 you that you will enter, possibly introduce into 2.1 evidence as well. 22 Α. Just my credential that I brought. 23 0. Well, why don't you state your 24 perspective first and then that could be

introduced later unless you feel it's important

to introduce that right now.

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A. Okay. Okay. That is an open question. I agree with all of the motor carrier vehicle enforcement officials whom I have met and from whom I learned for the past 19 years.

And so, this disagreement is minor, but every allegation is resolved usually on the scene, on the site, and it can be from formal paperwork to a Trooper just giving a verbal warning, which is firm and direct and clear, and make sure it doesn't happen again, get out of here.

So I have been yelled at, and maybe yelled at lately for not moving it quickly enough, can't you see I am directing traffic here? Yes, sir, thank you, sir.

So, thank you for your service and all that you do, especially around toll plazas because of the workers who are there, who get busy counting their change and it's one of the most hazardous places because of the workers and the speed limits.

And I am in favor of even more enforcement where it's 10 miles per hour, then I would like to see some speed cameras there so

trucks that go through 25 miles per hour then they get a speeding ticket through there, plus a reckless driving. And Ohio drivers nationally are well mannered, but when you get to north Jersey and these guys go through there at high rates of speed I would like to see them get maximum penalties so that when they get back to their container shipping point they are given 4 points and the next time you are fired.

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- Q. Mr. McCaskey, thanks for those comments, but how about giving, we are on a time line here with paid by the day I guess because we have a court reporter, and you paid for your parking by the day.
- A. Thanks. I agree with everything here. And this is just a minor disagreement of perception on how drivers, commercial drivers, deal with merging traffic. And it's of special importance when things come together and cars are merging too quickly or trucks are going through too fast and everybody needs to be more careful.
- So, I agree with the law enforcement, especially at a toll plaza.
 - Q. What about this particular day? The

inspector has written that you came through the toll booth without wearing your shoulder harness. And what is your response to that?

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A. My first words were it is inconceivable. Now, when crossing a narrow passage, a 70 foot commercial vehicle, special care must be taken when going through the weigh stations. A driver needs to impress the weigh master and his inspector who is with him to show that everything about your tractor and trailer is fine, you are paying attention, and if you don't get all your wheels on his static scale you are cordially invited to go around and try it again until your practice is good enough.

Then you may talk to the inspector. Going through a plaza is everything he described. You have got people working there, and cars merging haphazardly. And so at that point the driver needs to broaden his perspective 360 degrees.

Weigh masters have never scolded me for pulling the seatbelt out and looking around to make sure that my rearmost wheels cross.

They see it. You are in low gear, you are at 10 miles per hour, you are in the low range. You

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just want to make sure that you are not surprised by late arrivals.
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And so it's loosened and then when you come back out everything is set. So --

- Q. So, if I can sort of paraphrase here, if I understand you correctly, what you are saying is that as you approached the toll plaza you had been wearing your safety belt with the shoulder harness and that you, if I understand, you pulled the safety harness forward off of the your chest?
 - A. It's what drivers do.
- Q. And you did that so that you could better turn around to observe vehicles say on the left side of your tractor-trailer; is that it?
- A. It's -- or the right, far right side.
- Q. And so you are saying on both sides, but anyway you had your shoulder harness on?
 - A. Right.
- Q. And then you pulled it away from your chest because you wanted to turn?
- 24 A. No, no.
- 25 Q. Then help me out here.

A. Okay. When you are coming to a congested, slow moving area for cars merging haphazardly it's your range of vision needs to be narrow. Now, if that belt won't let you up, then you work it so a simple safety contraption does not become a hindrance to safe operation of the vehicle.

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So, if it catches, and I am not saying that is what happened, I don't care, because when you go through a weigh station you roll the window down, talk to the weigh master. When you go through tight congested areas the window comes down automatically. I don't remember doing it that day. It always does go down.

Why? Because the driving saying is it's 90 percent visual. Well, that is not good enough. The drivers roll the windows down so they can hear all the traffic around them, and give them clues if there is some tiny car with tiny horn is important. You want to hear it. It might be in your blind spot.

So, that is just standard. I don't know what happened that day, but my -- what I was always trained since 1994, when I went back

over-the-road, is roll the windows down, pay attention, be agile, and especially when the crush of cars come together.

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So, I am not saying that I know, but I know the seat belt, sometimes it snags. Just loosen it. You are down to five to ten miles per hour.

The problem is avoiding merging cars, do late changes. Trucks can't do late changes. When you come in you pick your lane, that is it. It's got to be straight. And as you go through you are also checking not just driving straight through, you have got to make sure that your trailer wheels are not grinding against the curb because it's so tight.

So, don't make mistakes at toll plazas or weigh stations or anywhere like truck stops where I saw a crash just the other night where the guy was driving around and wasn't looking in his mirror and he took off somebody's fender.

Drivers shouldn't pull through the fuel island. So, safety is firstmost and seat belt is very important. I never want to meet an air bag.

Q. Okay. So you are indicating you had moved the shoulder harness?

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A. I may have, because it's standard operating procedure if it's snagged like a good seat belt does, then you have got to work it, but you are not going to play with it because move it, so you can double or triple your vision.

You don't let it get in your way when you are down to five to ten miles an hour. The window is down, you want to hear people.

You want 360 off. You want to know where people are coming from, especially from oblique angles.

- Q. You are indicating that you moved it $\ensuremath{\text{--}}$
- A. No. I am saying that I often do, and always do when I am in tight, narrow positions where you have got cars that are merging underneath your front fender. You can see maybe some of it, but they shouldn't have done that because --
- Q. Let's back up, Mr. McCaskey. So are you saying, do you recall on this particular occasion --
- A. No. I wouldn't. I have done it so

many times it's standard procedure. Roll your windows down, and don't let the seat belt pin you back when you need to be forward. So, this is just common.

And the weigh masters see me do this all the time if it doesn't yield when I need it to yield.

- Q. Then you are saying so you don't recall this specific occasion?
- A. No. I wouldn't.
- 11 Q. But you are saying what you
 12 typically do is you will, if necessary, work
 13 with the shoulder strap?
 - A. Yes. You work with your truck.
- 15 O. And --

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- Q. Just like you would do that to allow yourself to lean forward more when the windows are down. You can allow yourself to hear, observe traffic?
- 20 A. Yes, yes.
- 21 Q. Okay.
 - A. And the training is with experience.

 This is what one must do to safely navigate

 narrow areas with four-wheeled vehicles.
 - Q. Let me ask you this. Do you

- recall -- so you are saying you don't recall this specific --
 - A. I couldn't, but let's assume I do it every time.
 - Q. Okay. So, when you do that kind of procedure you have adjusted or worked with the belt to allow yourself to lean forward?
 - A. Right.

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- Q. Is the belt still across your shoulder, across your chest, across your abdomen, and so forth?
- A. It's somewhere in the neighborhood because your concentration is outside of the truck. And it's there somewhere. Now, you don't want to cut -- you can't let it stop you from doing your job. When you are at that slow speed, whatever it is, you want to concentrate on getting, the drivers, all good drivers, want to get through there without any problems.
 - Q. And --
- A. Never go more than 10 miles per hour. That is the maximum speed. And, if they are more than that it's -- they should do re-educate. And cars too. That is why -- and Troopers, sometimes they sit in cars and watch

and sometimes, may I stand, Troopers will stand out there and they look around. And the Trooper is at the toll plaza, everybody must look at him to see if he (indicating) does nothing, or if he — the Trooper goes you, all commercial drivers look at that Trooper standing there and obey his commands. He is making the decisions.

And he wants that truck over, that is what is going to happen. And, yes, sir, thank you, sir. I do not disagree.

- Q. Mr. McCaskey, you described what your typical procedure is?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And you are saying that you are not certain that is what you have done on this occasion, but that is your typical procedure?
 - A. I would say typical.
- Q. And so when you adjust the belt like that, or work with the belt pulling you forward, you are indicating that again you believe the belt is still cross your chest, your shoulder, your abdomen?
- A. I believe that it's got play in it that no longer restricts (indicating) what I need to do at five to ten. That is the maximum

speed.

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- Q. And after you have done those adjustments do you recall, is the belt sitting underneath your left arm?
 - A. Oh, no, no.
 - Q. And the belt is still buckled?
- A. Yes. Because when you come out and you let the racing trucks and cars go by, you go back, it just assumes its position.
- Q. So the vehicle, you were still driving, there was probably as you indicated perhaps 10 miles per hour, so the vehicle was still moving when this was done?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. I am trying --
- A. Sometimes it snags and does its job, but it's just is now hindering so --
 - Q. And the inspection report notes, it says that came through the toll booth without wearing your safety belt. And you stated that it was across your torso. Do you want to read the statement?
- A. No. Just read it again.
- Q. Okay. Right here in the inspection report it notes --

- A. Whatever it says, it says.
- Q. So you moved it --
- A. Loosened it.

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- Q. You are indicating that you believe it was -- you loosened it, but do you recall where it was after you loosened it?
- A. No. But at all times I know what happens. I can't say what happened then because it's just an average, safe pass through. So, but it's inconceivable you wouldn't have a safety belt on because when a driver exits a truck he's got to take the belt and retract it all the way and snap it shut. Otherwise it's a tripping hazard.

Now, if a commercial driver takes off, forgets to click it, it's not going to click. It's like he can't get the belt loose because he has retracted it, and now that is a real problem.

So, before the driver gets in gear he has got everything in his tractor set, which means seat belt is properly functional, and there are -- everything he needs is within reach, and there are no loose objects which are around like bottles.

I have seen this in school, had professional drivers don't ever leave the stuff. Bottles can go underneath the brake peddle and so guys don't leave all that junk laying around. That is from early training and never forgot.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Mr. O'Rourke, do you have any questions of the witness?

MR. O'ROURKE: I guess I just have one.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

By Mr. O'Rourke:

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- Q. Mr. McCaskey, you stated that you don't recall whether the shoulder belt snagged or caught when you went to move forward; is that correct?
- A. That specific instance, no, I do not. I just know generally that you make sure that you are not obstructed (indicating).
- Q. So my question is if your memory is hazy on whether or not the shoulder belt snagged when you went to move forward, how could your memory be so clear as to whether or not the torso belt was crossing your torso and that your seat belt was locked in? There seems to be a disconnect there.

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A. There is no disconnect. It happens all the time for millions of miles. It happens all the time. You want it there, right where you need it. You don't put it away somewhere. You keep it when it locks and snags. I (indicating) didn't know whether — it's so minor, but it's so often that it's just a standard procedure that you make sure that you have the flexibility in the belt so you are not obstructed when you are — the belt trips from cars which move from oblique angles, especially from your blind side.

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER: For the court reporter, when Mr. McCaskey said not obstructs he was leaning forward and was illustrating what --

THE WITNESS: What all experienced or drivers who hope to have their CDL long enough to become experienced, should do. And I can explain my training which caused me to do that. And I will briefly tell you what that is when I present my sole credential.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay.

THE WITNESS: How many copies?

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Well, a copy to

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44
     myself, to the reporter and to Mr. O'Rourke.
 1
 2
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Call this
 3
     McCaskey Exhibit 1.
 4
                  (EXHIBIT HEREBY MARKED FOR
 5
      IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES)
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                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER:
                                       Thank you.
 7
                  THE WITNESS: The reason I present
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     this sole credential is that on my 18th
9
     birthday, June of 1969, my father, lately
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     passed, said you are going to college, you will
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     pay your own way. So I became a Teamster, Local
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     697 out of Wheeling.
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                  And I went to work every summer as a
14
     Teamster on construction jobs. There they
15
     taught me to drive every commercial construction
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     vehicle. Speed limit was 15 miles per hour
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     maximum because Bayer handles very toxic
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     chemicals. Any mistake kills many people.
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                  So did that for a couple years.
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     Went on to whatever else I did in life through
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     college and industrial construction and
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     engineering.
                  In 1994 I went to see the west coast
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24
     and so I went coast to coast for five years with
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Collective Distribution Services coast to coast

and seen every state capital, been everywhere, done everything.

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And got my -- that was twice the mileage of this company, because you are always going across the Rockies no matter no what.

And then I started this company in 2000 and already had -- but I had been trained for two years and ran a team because I wanted to see everywhere. From '94, '95 and '96 I was two-man teams, so it didn't take but a year before I got all my 48 states visited.

And I trained with some of the most experienced drivers which allowed me to go all over the country everywhere often and learn everything I could ever want to know from the very most experienced drivers who would scold me, and I was older than they were when I started at age 42.

Read every sign out loud, don't be embarrassed. No matter what the sign is read it out loud. And to this day I still read every warning sign. High merge area, listen to myself, talk to myself out loud.

So I am proud of those who trained

me, I am very proud to have worked with this family owned company, and which has allowed me to be at home often enough to take care of my deceased father who taught me well, who was a law and order Republican.

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And I am in favor of law and order.

And the Troopers and state police and everybody
on traffic safety, which is why in my document
holder is the book Traffic. And I am reading it
again after five years to refresh myself about
how cars and people interact especially as they
merge.

And so thanks to you I have reviewed my studies of the book Traffic, which was a best seller five years ago. I am reading it again to predict how cars behave.

And once I have been told something by someone I thank them very much for telling me something that I may need to know some day.

And there are so many stupid drivers' stunts that are so predictable that should not surprise and they are not taught where you are driving along in the right lane, see a car coming up, there is an exit, there is nobody behind you.

They should have pulled behind you and then off

the exit.

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No. You can predict. They are rushing by. They stomp on the brakes right in front of your truck, and then take the exit.

Stupid drivers' stunts. Believe it, it happens. You see it. Look for it. Have your foot ready on the brake.

My team training taught me that.

And never trust any vehicle passing you especially big trucks. They are especially a problem.

So, everybody is a suspect until proven innocent when they are driving around your truck. All you want to do is have a long, safe career. And thanks to the owner-operators, the senior drivers and all law enforcement officials for teaching us what we did not know and do need to know.

And every time I go for a full inspection, level 1, everything, the Troopers will say would you like to watch me work?

Always say yes. Because when he goes around you go around and you are checking everything, he will shout it out, he will point things out and find things that the driver may not see, or

where he did not know to look.

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And placards, I have been hauling hazardous materials since 1994, and it's a very difficult regime, and I have had inspectors show me some minor details about placarding which I really did not know. Now I do after it was pointed out to me. And was not warned, but told, here on the last page in the footnotes, placards.

So I have always strived to be the very best at any job I do. Whether I continue doing this job after the end of this year is an open question. I made it this far and I am very pleased. There have been a lot of close calls and I appreciate all the inspectors who said do you want to watch me work? Yes, sir, I do.

And if you followed him around and you are going to learn something from those in the industry. So, all law enforcement, thank you for this opportunity.

FURTHER EXAMINATION

By the Attorney Examiner:

Q. Thank you for coming. I do have a question or two that came to my mind as you were speaking. And just to follow up on Mr.

- O'Rourke, the term that you used about the seat belt snagging, are you referring to the fact that you attempt to lean forward and the belt will snag and sort of lock?
 - A. Set. They set.
- Q. It will not allow you to move forward until --
- A. It sets. That is now I know it's working. It sets.
 - Q. So, you used -- you are saying that you typically will use your hand to --
 - A. Move it (indicating).
- Q. To allow the belt to start to move again?
- 15 A. Right.

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- Q. And that enabled you to be able to move around and have a better field of vision.
- A. The only time I really grab it is when I am going across and I want to make sure, and the weigh masters grade me on my perfection, and he has his inspector ready to check something out. I want to make sure everything is right.
- So, yes. But for a simple procedure it's like (indicating) just loosens and sets and

loosens. You may never need it.

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- Q. So your perspective is you did move the shoulder harness but --
 - A. Typically.
- Q. You typically do, okay, you don't always? You don't recall this specific occasion?
 - A. I wouldn't remember.
- Q. And that your goal, typically your goal in doing so is to enable yourself to have better vision as you are approaching the toll booth area. But the belt is not underneath your left arm?
- A. No. That might be on private property inside the chemical plant where it's 10 or 15 miles per hour. You just want to make sure it's available in getting in and out of the truck. And you are swapping trailers and this.
 - Q. And --
- A. On the road everything has got to be where you want it so that when you resume it's where you need it to be.
- Q. And you don't recall on this particular occasion whether you adjusted you

- belt. You know you were able to move forward.Was it still placed against your shoulder, chest
- 3 or abdomen?

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- A. It's always somewhere where I need

 it. It would never be put away just because --
- Q. When you say put away you mean on the side or --
 - A. Hung up.
 - Q. Hung up, or basically in the retracted position?
- This is going to take a few moments. 11 12 This is not going to take a long time to get 13 through there unless somebody really makes a 14 mistake. And the people most likely that makes 15 mistakes are large truck drivers who don't line 16 up correctly, make sure everything goes 17 extremely as well as the Trooper wants it to 18 work.
 - Q. Thank you, Mr. McCaskey.
 - A. I thank you all for this.
- 21 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. And 22 you can just stay there for a moment. I have a 23 question for the inspector.
- 24
- 25 TROOPER KENNETH COLLINS

recalled as a witness on behalf of the State, being previously duly sworn, testified further as follows:

FURTHER EXAMINATION

By the Attorney Examiner:

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- Q. I had asked you about the weather conditions. Do you recall, was there anything such as say clear sun, anything like that?

 Tinted windows on the vehicle? Anything like that?
- A. No. When I approached the vehicle I approached the driver side door. I approached the vehicle itself. That is why I didn't see the shoulder harness.
- Q. When you observed the lack of a shoulder harness, or what you say is a lack of a shoulder harness, actually you were on the side?
- A. Right. And then I walk up to the vehicle, and then I had a conversation with the driver and direct him to where I need him to go. And then he pulled over on the side of the road and then I finished the inspection.
- Q. You don't recall anything such as weather conditions hindering your vision?
 - A. No. There was no hindrance.

- Q. Your distance, you know, being too far away from the vehicle? Could you estimate how far you were? Was it --
- A. I want to say 10 feet. And even then when I walked up and I approached the vehicle on the driver side door there was no harness. I directed him over towards where I had him pull over.
 - Q. And there was no harness?
 - A. I did not see it at all.
 - Q. Did not see it?

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- A. Not at all. I didn't see it on his left shoulder, I didn't see it hanging up anywhere. It was far behind him. It wasn't --
 - O. It was not across his shoulder?
- A. No. It was not across his torso when I was at the door, and to reduce the congestion in the area I let him pull over.
 - Q. Off to the side of the road?
- A. Yes. He pulled off near my vehicle that, off the right side of the vehicle, right side.
- MR. MCCASKEY: Because he picked a nice spot. A long runway from me to get down.

 And I was over far enough and brakes are set,

engine may have been off. And I knew you were back there waiting. And it's the wise path you took.

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Did you notice when you were walking up the same side of the truck, did you look in the mirror and see my face (indicating)?

MR. O'ROURKE: Your Honor, are we going to permit Mr. McCaskey to ask questions of Trooper Collins? I am just trying to understand the procedure here, who is on direct, who is on cross.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Good question.

My mistake for not better controlling it.

MR. O'ROURKE: That is fine.

MR. MCCASKEY: I understand now.

- Q. Just a minute, please. So, you observed him coming into the toll area, towards the toll booth, you observed, Trooper, you observed the belt from your perspective was not across his torso, and then you asked him to pull to the side of the road.
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. And then you are saying when you went around to the driver side door and looked into the cab you still did not see

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the belt across his torso?
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- A. That's correct.
- O. I see.

MR. MCCASKEY: The passenger side or the driver side?

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. No more comments from you, Mr. McCaskey. Mr. O'Rourke, do you have any questions of your witness?

MR. O'ROURKE: I don't.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Mr. McCaskey, were there questions that you wanted to ask from your perspective to clarify things, or comments you wanted to make?

MR. MCCASKEY: No. I understand now because, the truck, yes, the man is in total control of my truck. It's air brakes were pulled, it's stopped, engine may be off. Probably had the flashers on. That is standard procedure.

You walked up the safe side, the passenger side. I am done. I am up, I am looking around. I looked in the mirror over here for the Trooper, what does he want me to do? Why did you stop me? I could not imagine, but whatever it is is important and you need to

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1 be addressed in every detail.
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And, so, yes. At that point I am standing up. It's parked, it's whatever you want done, that is how it's going to be.

5 Everyone, I appreciate your service.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you for your comments.

8 MR. MCCASKEY: There appears to be a misunderstanding.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. We have several exhibits here. Three introduced by Staff and one introduced by Mr. McCaskey.

Mr. McCaskey, do you have any objections to Staff exhibits being admitted into evidence?

MR. MCCASKEY: Absolutely not. And I thank you all for the opportunity to be here.

18 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

MR. MCCASKEY: Now I understand the misunderstanding.

21 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: And, Mr.

O'Rourke, do you have any objection to the document of Mr. McCaskey being entered into

24 evidence?

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MR. O'ROURKE: No, I don't.

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                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.
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     both of those -- excuse me. All three of the
 3
     Staff exhibits will be admitted into evidence.
     The document submitted by Mr. McCaskey will be
 4
 5
     admitted into evidence as well.
 6
                  (EXHIBITS HEREBY ADMITTED INTO
 7
     EVIDENCE)
 8
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you all.
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     Finally I will ask this question. Does Staff,
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     do you want to have a brief, an opportunity to
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      submit a brief? It's not required, but you can
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     have the opportunity if you wish.
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                  MR. O'ROURKE: Can I have a moment,
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     your Honor?
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                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER:
                                       Sure.
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                  MR. O'ROURKE: We are not inclined
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     to, but if the Bench thinks it would be helpful
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     to resolve the case we would be glad to submit
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     one.
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                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER:
                                       I don't believe
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     that is necessary, no. Mr. McCaskey, did you
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     want to submit a brief? It's just basically a
23
     summary of your arguments.
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                  MR. MCCASKEY: No. You have given
25
     me every opportunity. I thank you, I understand
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Proceeding
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 1
      the misunderstanding that when I am standing,
 2
      the truck is parked, it's off to the side and
      everything is secured, then, of course, I am not
 3
      in the seat so there is no seat belt. That
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 5
      explains everything.
                  ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay. Well,
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 7
      thank you very much for everyone attending. And
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      I believe that draws our proceedings to a close.
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                  MR. MCCASKEY: Thank you once again.
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                  MR. O'ROURKE: Thank you, your
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      Honor.
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                  (At 11:10 A.M. the hearing was
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      concluded)
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CERTIFICATE I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on December 5, 2013, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes. Michael O. Spencer, Registered Professional Reporter. 2.2.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 13-1955-TR-CVF

Summary: Transcript in the matter of Gary McCaskey hearing held on 12/05/13 electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Spencer, Michael O. Mr.