

Transcript of Mock DUI Video

Good morning everyone. Are you excited about homecoming?

<Crowd reacts>

Well first I want to say thank you to the Seminole County School Board for allowing us, the Community Safety Traffic Team, to come out here this morning and share a little safety message with you. It's an important message and I hope each one of you walk away today realizing what the message was and how important it is because it all boils down to decisions; decisions of each one of you, and choices that each one of you, will have to make and probably make this weekend and the rest of your lives. The presentation that we're going to do here the mock DUI crash that centers around homecoming is not to scare you, it's not to intimidate you, but the purpose is to inform you, educate you, and to make you aware of the realities, of the consequences that go along when you make the decision to drink and drive. We're going to take you into our world as emergency response workers for about 30-45 minutes. But what I want you to recognize with wrong decisions, this too can become your world of reality. Smart people learn from other people's mistakes; they don't repeat them. I'm going to share some statistics with you this morning. I won't bore you with them. But I want you to think about them. The number one cause of death for young people like you is car crashes. 71% of teens drivers that are killed in crashes die because they're not wearing their seatbelts. A simple decision, a simple choice of buckling up that nylon strap when you get into a vehicle, whether you're driving or whether you're a passenger, can make a big difference of whether you survive a crash or not. Buckle up and be safe. The good news is that recent statistics also tell us that across our great nation teen-related drinking and driving has gone down. And you ask why it has happened, well I like to attribute to incidents like today, events that we're putting on to educate you. But I also want to give you credit. It's also because people like you that are making the right decisions that are responsible and accountable. So throughout this homecoming weekend, let's continue to help make those statistics decrease.

We're not actors out here this morning. There are probably going to be things that happen that are funny and it's okay to laugh. Just be appropriate in your laughter but the most important thing is to walk away with the proper message and reply to your life. Thank you.

<Applause>

Now as you can see, the homecoming date is coming around the corner to pick up his girlfriend who he'll be taking to homecoming. Niko, 18 years old is on his way to pick up Kendall who is 17.

<Crowd noise as car drives around the track, as Niko walks to the door, as Kendall's parents greet and meet Niko. The four engage in small talk about when Niko will bring Kendall home from the dance.>

What Kendall's parents don't realize is that Niko and Kendall really aren't going to a dance. They made a decision that they are going to a party. To a party like many home-comers

do: with alcohol, drugs, and bad decisions. As parents, I'm sure they're thinking to themselves, I hope my daughter is going to be safe tonight but they also recognize the reality that things do happen. Parents have no idea of the reality that is going to happen tonight with their daughter.

<Crowd noise as car drives around the track, then out of sight. Without warning, the sound of a car breaks screeching, then a car crash. Two cars, in a crash, uncovered in the middle of the football field. Smoke rises. Two individuals appear, check on the car occupants, and screen "Call 911.">

What is happening is that these bystanders who have driven by and who have seen the crash have dialed 9-1-1. 9-1-1 calls are something us emergency responders receive every day. What the callers are telling the dispatcher is exactly what they see. They see smoke. They see blood. Bones. Glass. They don't know if people are alive or if people are dead. But in short time, the dispatcher is going to dispatch the Fire Department and Police Department. When you hear the sirens, that's going to signify hope. Hope that help is going to be on the way that hopefully the emergency workers can practice their skills and save lives but unfortunately, there are times when that does not occur. But the sirens, rather than just hope, also signal paralysis, dismemberment, death. Serious burn injury. And also that life for someone will probably never, ever be the same.

<Police on motorcycle appears. Siren sounds. Police car appears. Siren sounds. Additional emergency help on motorcycle and in vehicles appear. Sirens silenced. Crowd noise.>

There is some lag time folks of when law enforcement and the fire department arrive on scene. We're going to try to do this in real-time for you. This is not like TV. Everything doesn't get better. The hospital doesn't treat the patient and they recover in a 30-minute segment. What you're going to see is the Law Enforcement Officer to their job of investigating the serious, possibly fatal crash that involves alcohol. You're going to see the Fire Department respond to try to help the victims using the Jaws of Life to extricate them, to remove them from the vehicles. What you're going to see is every single Emergency Worker that responds to a terrible tragedy like this has a specific job to do.

<Police officer questions the driver about his alcohol use. He asks the driver to perform field sobriety test. He gives the driver instructions on how to perform the test. He demonstrates the test.>

These field sobriety exercises that the Officer is making Niko take is to determine his impairment, whether he's impaired to the point where he should not have been driving a motor vehicle. I think it's pretty obvious by the way that he's performing that he is impaired. Niko's life is going to change. Niko had aspirations of going to university to play football. Now he will be arrested with a felony crime of DUI manslaughter or vehicular homicide or DUI with serious bodily injuries, the chances of him having a college football career are over. Life with never be the same for him nor for the victims.

<The field sobriety test continues. The officer gives Niko instructions.>

Folks, if you'd take a look at the windshields of the vehicles, it's pretty evident that the passengers of these vehicles were not wearing their seatbelt. Had they been wearing their seatbelt, you wouldn't see the imprints on the windshields with blood, and hair, and bone. They would have been restrained. It doesn't mean they would not have been injured. But when your head strikes the windshield at the speed that your vehicle is going, chances are it's going to be a fatal injury.

<Niko is still performing the field sobriety test.>

What you're seeing now is the Fire Department is triaging the victims in both of the cars. They're going to determine what patients can they save, what patients are priority, who do they work on first. Normally, when you see a yellow blanket come out on a crash scene like this, the yellow blanket is an indication of a fatality. When you arrive on a scene, as a Law Enforcement Officer, or as the Emergency Response person, you see that yellow blanket and you know that it's a tragedy.

<Niko is still being handcuffed.>

We begin using the Jaws of Life to cut into the middle of the cars to try to free the injured victims. They can't rush at doing this. There could be spinal injuries. They have to be very methodical and very careful of removing the patients from the cars and getting them to the hospital. There's a thing called the "golden hour" that we work around that law enforcement and the fire service. The golden hour begins when the crash happens. Statistics have shown that if we can get a patient to the hospital, to the operating table, within one hour of when the crash actually occurs, the chance of survivability is much greater. So time is ticking away right in the golden hour.

While these fire fighters are trying to save lives, Niko who was drunk, who was driving, and who caused this serious and fatal crash, is now sitting in the back of a police car, arrested, being charged with a felony. His life, never to be the same again. But also, don't forget the victims in the car. Don't forget the parents. Don't forget the friends and loved ones. Their lives will never be the same again either. As Kendall's parents sit home, they're happy for their daughter. This was supposed to be good homecoming night. They have no clue where their daughter is right now and what has happened to her.

Good Morning, my name is Paul Sanchez. I'm an Assistant State Attorney. My purpose here today is to tell you about once Niko gets handcuffed and put in that car, what will happen to him. As you heard the Chief say, he's being charged with a felony. But not just one. In fact, when I get the file on this, or when anyone in my office gets the file on this, he's going to be charged with four crimes- all felonies. Now I want you to understand what I'm talking about here because it's very important. I was sitting exactly where you're sitting about 12 years ago when I was a senior here at Lyman. I had friends who were very exciting about going to homecoming and things like that. And we try to take this message to heart because these consequences are real – not only for Niko but for everyone in these cars, everyone involved in this. No one will be the same after this. No matter how much training and experience these firefighters have, these police officers have, the images that they're taking in right now will not

be forgotten. It's going to leave an imprint on them. So for the purposes of the legal ramifications of what Niko has done, he's been handcuffed, he's been taken to Seminole County Jail. He's going to be advised that he can either voluntarily provide a sample of his breath and blood – that's the nice way of putting it – because if he refuses to give that to us, we're going to take it anyway. We going to hold his arm down and extract a sample of his blood to determine what he has in his system – alcohol, drugs, any sort of medications, prescribed or otherwise. That's going to be sent off to Florida Department of Law Enforcement where it will be analyzed, and I'll get those results. Everything that's being done here is being photographed and recorded; all the statements that are being taken – I'm going to get all of that.

I'm going to comb through it, I'm going to look at every piece of evidence, I'm going to look at every photo. I'm going to talk to every single one of the people here to talk about what they saw, what they smelled, what they experienced. All of the exercises (field sobriety tests) that Niko did on the side with the Officer Price were probably recorded. I'm going to get that tape; I'm going to talk to the Officer Price. I'm going to nitpick everything single thing he did wrong with those exercises and I'm going to attribute to whatever those results are from his blood and breath samples. When it's all said and done, he's going to be charged with DUI manslaughter, which is a second degree felony. He's going to be charged with vehicular homicide, which is a second degree felony, and he's going to be charged with driving under the influence causing serious bodily injury, which is a third degree felony – he's going to face two charges of that. So the total is he's going to face four charges. With regards to the DUI manslaughter, because that's a second degree felony, he's going to be facing 15 years in the Department of Corrections. That's not 15 years in Seminole County Jail down the street. That's 15 years upstate. He's going to be facing a \$10,000 dollar fine. He's going to lose his driving privileges for the rest of his life. So at 17 or 18 years old, he won't be able to drive again. Then he will be facing vehicular homicide. And for that, and the DUI manslaughter, what I have to prove is that while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, to the extent that his normal faculties were impaired, or while having a blood or alcohol level over the legal limit, that he drove a car that caused or contributed to the death of anyone involved. When I say anyone involved, I don't mean just the people in the vehicles. Unfortunately, sometimes these accidents happen when people are walking down the street or other cars are around. Anyone of those people gets hit with a piece of debris, or has to dive out of the way and gets hit by another vehicle – anything like that happens, even though they weren't necessarily in the car, Niko is responsible and going to be held accountable for that death. If it's a pregnant woman and she loses her child, he's going to be charged with that death.

So you see how these things pile up on one another. Now for vehicular homicide, I have to prove that he caused or contributed to the death of someone while he was driving recklessly. And I'm going to take everything that's being done, you saw measurements being taken – I'm going to get those reports. This accident is going to be reconstructed. I'm going to get a picture of all the alcohol taken out of the vehicle. I'm going to look at skid marks and I'm going to have people testify about what those skid marks mean. How fast was he going? What did he do? Did he apply the brakes? Did he not apply the brakes? All of that is going to contribute to me convincing six people that Niko is responsible for these deaths. Now for the people in these cars fortunate enough to survive, Niko is still going to face consequences for those. The DUI causing serious bodily injury is a third degree felony. He's facing five years for each one of those counts in the Department of Corrections. And a \$5,000 fine and he'll lose

his license for an additional three years. So again, on top of the 10 years that he's facing for DUI manslaughter, the 10 years he's facing for the vehicular homicide, he now faces an additional 10 years for the DUI causing serious bodily injury.

And serious bodily injury can be anything from a glass shard to the face, an arm that won't ever be the same, a leg that won't ever be the same, the loss of one's eyesight. Anything like that, he's going to be responsible for and my office's job is to make sure that he's held accountable. We do this with the full knowledge that nothing we do is going to bring them back, and nothing we do is going to make the parents feel any better. We do it to solely hold Niko accountable for the choices he made on this particular night when he had the opportunity to do things the right way and the responsible way. It won't be lost on us that Niko is not 21 years old. He shouldn't have been drinking in the first place. I'm going to use that to talk to the jury about how much more egregious this crime was because he made a conscious decision to break the law in the first place by drinking and being in possession of alcohol, but then he made the compounding decision to get into his vehicle, drive impaired, and cause all these deaths and injuries. So in total, Niko is facing 40 years in the Department of Corrections, \$30,000 in fines, he'll never be able to drive again, and he's going to be a convicted felon four times over.

Now I see a lot of people are in costume today, for homecoming week, for Halloween and things like that. I saw some people walking in dressed as doctors and police officers and different things like that. I want to explain to you that if you're a convicted felon, you can kiss those dreams goodbye. Niko is kissing his college football dreams goodbye and any other thing that he wanted to do that required a background check, which most jobs do today. I want you to imagine trying to get a job be a convicted felon. And that's after you spend 40 years in prison. Now for your seniors, 40 years – for everyone here – 40 years might seem like this lofty number that you can't really put your head around because you're not even 40 years old yet. Now for you seniors, I want you to think back from today to your first day as a freshman. It's essentially four years of school. Now imagine doing that 10 times over. Going through your high school years 10 times, that's how long you'll be in prison. You'll be almost 60 years old by the time you come out. You'll be a convicted felon, no prospects, probably no education aside from what you got up to the point of this incident, and really no true meaningful future. And you might think that makes me feel bad, that things like that make us feel bad in the State Attorney Office but it doesn't – because at least you're alive. These people didn't have that option. These people died and were seriously injured. Their lives will never be the same. Those parents' lives are never going to be the same. So while this is all going on, I want you to think about all the things that Niko will have to experience during this process.

He's going to be arrested, he's going to be booked, and he's going to have a booking photo. He's going to be put in jail and he'll see a Judge eventually. The Judge will maybe let him out of jail until his trial. And then he'll have to appear for court dates. He'll have to sit there and look people in the eye as they testify him, including his friends. And I'm going to call them, and make them take the stand, and tell me everything that happened that night. I'm going to find out what party he went to, I'm going to find out who knew how much he was drinking that night, who saw him getting into a car, what did he say, what did he do – all of that is going to be presented to a jury in an effort to find him guilty. We are very good at what we do. All of these people are very good at what they do. Nothing is going to stop me from getting more

information to make sure Niko is held accountable. So just keep this in mind, have a great homecoming week, but remember your decisions have ramifications. Don't make the poor decision to drink when you're not old enough but if you do, make that poor decision – don't compound it by getting into a car and driving. Your parents might be upset but believe me they much rather have you home alive and dealing with them as opposed to going through with what Niko is going through now. Thank you.

<Applause>

So what has transpired here while the State Attorney was talking is that you notice the firefighters with the Jaws of Life and other mechanical tools have removed the top off the vehicle. The reason they have to do this is in an attempt to remove the victims out of the car without causing further injury. It's easier for them to put their immobilization devices on the victims, properly remove them from the car, and get them transported and packaged to the hospital without furthering their injuries. Unfortunately, as you saw the yellow blanket, one of the victims removed was Kendall. They're working to remove her but what you're going to find is that she won't be going to the hospital, because she's dead.

The Incident Commander of the Fire Department due to the severity the injuries and that golden hour has called dispatch and requested that a medevac helicopter respond to the scene. This will get the patients transported to the hospital and in the operating room a lot faster than if they were to transport them by ground. But folks, sometimes at night, in the morning, depending upon the weather, we can call for that helicopter. But if the weather isn't just perfect, that helicopter can't go in the air, so we have to rely on that ground transport and, as I said to you earlier, that golden hour from the time of the crash.

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