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Subject: Meeting with Glenn and Sandra Rabon
Location: Governor's Office
When: 8/29/2016 11:00:00 AM - 11:20:00 AM
Attachments: ATT07035
ATT12306
ATT24264
ATT53191

Re: Tripp Rabon was killed in a wreck on December 23, 2015. The accident occurred around 5:00 AM on Charleston Highway, also known as S.C. 64, near Ritter Road. Four people in a Toyota 4Runner heading on a duck hunting trip. After the below article was release by News 2, Tripp's parents requested to meet with NH. Tripp attended Summerville High School.

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Note: Bert Cassell - the Treasurer's General Counsel - dates the aunt of Tripp Rabon.

News Article:

News 2 I-Team: New details uncovered in death of SHS teen

By **Rebecca Collett**

Published: July 12, 2016, 6:21 pm Updated: July 12, 2016, 10:20 pm

Through several records requests, the News 2 I-Team obtained never before seen pictures and audio recordings of eye-witness accounts from the day a local teen died on the way to duck hunt.

The investigation circles around a question of whether someone knew something that could have prevented the crash.

"I didn't know who to call, but I'd felt guilty if someone had gotten into an accident."

SC 64 is a state-recognized scenic highway. It's also the site of a crash that changed four Lowcountry families forever.

In a 911 call early December 23, 2015, a caller told the dispatcher he almost wrecked.

"My car hydroplaned real bad and went in the other lane," the driver recounted. "Water is just running across the road. They need to put up some signs or something. Somebody could die right there. I didn't know who to call, but I'd felt guilty if someone had gotten into an accident," the caller continued.

It would be a few minutes after that 911 call when the SUV with four high school friends hit the water; shot across the road; and flipped into a tree. Notes from the scene estimated some six inches of water running across the road.

On the scene, drivers helping the teens learned someone else knew about the river running down this road. Through a records request, News 2 obtained witness interviews from the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

A driver traveling early that morning stopped to help the boys. He says at the scene, deputies admitted to seeing the flooding on their way to work, too. They did not do anything to alert other drivers.

"He said that he had just come through there and seen the water piling up," the witness told the SC Highway Patrol investigators. "I was looking down and working on Mr. Tripp. I didn't even look up it disgusted me so bad," he continued later in the recorded call obtained exclusively by the I-Team.

Neighbors frustrated with flooding

But problems with the beautiful, winding road in Colleton County started long before the wreck two days before Christmas. The flooding across the road between Ritter and Featherbed Roads plagued that section of the road for at least seven weeks.

"It was building up from the other side of the highway and crossing the highway," a neighbor who didn't want to be identified told Rebecca Collett. "That would cause a large amount of water coming across the highway."

The neighbor recounted three wrecks in as many months in the same spot. The I-Team requested crash data from the Department of Public Safety. Through the data, we found there were actually six wrecks from October through December. There were only 10 in the same section of the road the entire year.

Following a wreck in early November, another neighbor made a work request to the SCDOT in Colleton County. The records the I-Team requested from the SCDOT outline his concerns. He told the SCDOT that the ditch across from his home wasn't properly flowing, and he said someone would die if the water kept flooding from the ditch onto the 55 mile per hour highway.

According to SCDOT records, it wasn't until Tripp Rabon's death that any work was done in the spot of concern.

"Once they cleaned it up, I haven't seen any water coming across the road and of course we haven't experienced any wrecks," the neighbor told the I-Team.

Email correspondence with the SCDOT, revealed crews responded to the problem area on November 3rd, which was two days before the neighbor made the request. A foreman for SCDOT was sent to assess the neighbor's concern on November 19. A spokesman told the I-Team "that everything was functioning at that time based on the work performed on 11/3/15" via email.

"Our Assistant Resident Engineer responded when we got the call on 12/23/15. It is my understanding that he recognized that the pipe was undersized. Because it was undersized, it was causing debris to collect at the pipe and block the flow of water. This pipe was not installed or approved by SCDOT, so he gave the command to remove the pipe and place it on the property behind the ditch," the email explained.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team, commonly referred to as "MAIT", wrapped up their investigation into the wreck.

Notes from their files, obtained by News 2 through a Freedom of Information Act request, noted the teens had not been speeding and identified the cause of the wreck as an obstruction in the roadway.

No charges have been filed.

A spokesman for the MAIT team said investigators are often called to testify in civil cases when criminal charges are not filed.

Living memory

In honor of Tripp Rabon, his family created a scholarship fund.

His scholarship fund raised more than \$42,000. Two \$2,000 scholarships were given to graduating Summerville High School students this year. Twenty people applied for the scholarship. Hundley McCurry and Summer Jenkins were chosen as the winners.

At the Summerville High School graduation students paid tribute to Rabon, who was a senior. His mother accepted his diploma to a round of applause in the North Charleston Coliseum. The students who gave remarks at graduation urged peers to "stay trippy".

Tripp's Obituary:

Glenn Forrest "Tripp" Rabon, Jr. SUMMERVILLE - "Tripp" Rabon, 17, passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2015 due to a terrible car accident. He was with friends doing what he loved. He was born on Father's Day, June 16, 1998 in Charleston, SC, a special day indeed. The family will receive friends this afternoon (Sunday) from 2 to 5 o'clock PM at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. His funeral service will be held on Monday, December 28, 2015 at 1 o'clock PM at the Cathedral of Praise, 3790 Ashley Phosphate Rd, North Charleston. Interment will be held at Riverview Memorial Park Cemetery, 3725 Azalea Dr, North Charleston. He is survived by his parents, Glenn and Sandra Rabon; his two sisters, Emily and Lydia Rabon; and his grandparents Forrest and Barbara Rabon of Hanahan, SC. He was predeceased by grandparents Alfred James and Emma Jean Sineath of Pinopolis, SC. Tripp was an amazing young man who was always smiling. His kind heart, enthusiasm, humor, and gentleness made him very special to all those that knew him. He was a great son, brother and friend. He made more memories in 17 years than most do in a lifetime. He was a senior at Summerville High School, an athlete, and an A student. His joys were his family and friends, Mollie, his Jeep, baseball, football, hunting, boating, ping pong, dancing, and our dogs. His smile and attitude were infectious, and would brighten any day. He is in heaven smiling upon us now. He will be missed terribly by all those who knew him. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Tripp Rabon Memorial Fund c/o Summerville High School, 1101 Boone Hill Rd, Summerville, SC 29483 or donate online at www.gofundme.com/pug8jxn8. A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at www.jamesadyal.com.