

**Donald J. Lee, Jr.**

**Chief of Police**



**Key West**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

05/16/2017

Ms. Eliska Latalova  
Moravska 433  
Mikulcice, Czech Republic 69619  
[Latalova.eliska@gmail.com](mailto:Latalova.eliska@gmail.com)

Ms. Latalova,

I am in receipt of the complaint you filed with the Citizen's Review Board in reference to the traffic accident you were the victim of on March 12, 2017. Let me first extend my apologies for having gone through such a horrific crash as you did. I am glad to hear you are recovering but am sure there is still a long road ahead.

As to your complaint, I will do my best to address each issue you have raised the best I can. In order to answer your questions, I reviewed the investigation, evidence and spoke at length with the Traffic Unit Supervisor, the Investigating Officers and the Public Information Officer. After my review this was what I learned:

First, you are correct this is not a, "regular traffic accident" and this is why a specialized team of Traffic Crash Investigators were called out at the time of your crash. These Investigators are fully sworn Police Officers who have gone through additional schooling to specialize in traffic accidents and investigations such as yours. They are the best and most experienced in investigating cases such as yours.

- As to the cameras, Officers checked every camera for several blocks in an attempt to get a video of the vehicle. They were able to get an image of a vehicle, which was in the area at the time of your crash. However, there is no positive way to identify the vehicle as the license plate cannot be seen or any other unique identifying features. Furthermore, no one can positively say this was the vehicle that struck you, as no damage is visible and it simply happened to be in the area at the time of your crash. Regardless, a BOLO was composed and disseminated mere hours after your crash with a picture of the vehicle, pulled from the cameras, to attempt to identify it. In addition, a photo of the vehicle was also placed on the Police Department's Facebook page with the crash details requesting anyone with information to contact the Police Department. We also did two separate press releases asking for anyone with information to please contact the Police Department. As well, Chief Lee spoke about it on an FM radio show asking for the public's help.



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Key West Police Department 1604 N. Roosevelt Blvd. Key West, FL 33040 (305) 809-1111  
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- The cameras at the residence in front of which you were struck were not operational. The Investigators checked with the owner that night, who was also the person that called 911.
- As to interviewing you, it was relayed through your boyfriend, in several conversations, that you did not recall anything from the crash and have no specific information about the vehicle. Due to these facts, a direct interview with you would not provide the Investigators with any further useful information, which is why they chose not to interview you. If you do have any information, the Investigators will be happy to interview you.
- Officers canvased the area and there were no witnesses to your traffic accident. The Investigators did speak with the 911 caller who was in bed at the time of the crash and only heard the crash. He could provide no information as to the vehicle that hit you and confirmed he saw no one else in the area who may have seen the crash.
- The journalist who, "heard several people saw the car." This lead was investigated, and it was learned the vehicle involved was in a completely unrelated crime and in no way involved in your case.
- As to paint transfer on your bike from the vehicle that hit you, there was none. The Investigators examined your bike for any type of evidence which might be used, including paint transfer and unfortunately there was no paint transfer.

I hope I have been able to address each of your individual complaints/questions related to your crash. I did have the Traffic Crash Investigators complete a supplemental report to detail each of these items. I will be happy to forward you a copy of the report if you would like. Our Traffic Investigators will continue to follow any new viable leads which may arise in your case.

Based on my inquiry into this complaint, it is clear the Investigators have done a thorough job in their investigation. Therefore, as to your complaints, we will not be conducting any further investigation into this matter. If I can be of any further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Randy Smith  
Professional Standards Commander  
305-809-1035  
[rsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:rsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)



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