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IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA, CASE NO. 01-2018-TR-026517

Plaintiff,

v.

ADAM J MANDEL,

Defendant.

Alachua County Family and Civil  
Justice Center,  
Gainesville, Florida  
Wednesday, February 13, 2019  
Courtroom 2A, 9:20 a.m.

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TRANSCRIPT OF CIVIL TRAFFIC HEARING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE KRISTINE J. VAN VORST  
COUNTY COURT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

DENNIS RAMSEY, ESQ.  
1927 Northeast 13th Street  
Gainesville, Florida 32609  
Attorney for the Defendant

ALSO PRESENT:

OFFICER SEBASTIAN TEJADA VALENCIA, Gainesville Police  
Department

*Proceedings recorded electronically; transcript produced by  
Dylan Johnston, Digital Court Reporter  
Alachua County Court Reporting Office, Gainesville, Florida*

1 GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, WEDNESDAY, FEBURARY 13, 2019, 9:20 A.M.

2 (The following proceedings were conducted, counsel for  
3 the defendant being present.)

4 MR. RAMSEY: Next one, Your Honor, is Mandel.  
5 Adam Mandel.

6 THE COURT: 2018-TR-26517. Additionally, if you're  
7 here and you need a note for work or school, please let me  
8 know. We'll be happy to get that for you.

9 Your name, please?

10 MR. TEJADA: Police Service Technician, Sebastian  
11 Tejada with --

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

13 MR. TEJADA: -- the Gainesville Police Department.

14 THE COURT: Are there any witnesses for Adam  
15 Mandel? Thank you. And your name, please?

16 MR. BENNETT: Billy Bennett (phonetic).

17 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Bennett, you're  
18 here because of a witness subpoena?

19 MR. BENNETT: Yes, ma'am.

20 THE COURT: Thank you for complying with your  
21 subpoena and being here today. Without you being here, the  
22 Technician could not move forward with the case. So I  
23 appreciate your time very much.

24 Yes, sir?

25 MR. RAMSEY: I'd just like to ask the witness what

1 his involvement in the accident was.

2 THE COURT: Well -- sorry. If would like to do  
3 that, I'll have you step out into the hallway because I don't  
4 want to hear anything, in the event that you're going to  
5 elect an evidentiary hearing. So if you want to step out in  
6 the hallway and talk with him, I'm happy to do that.

7 MR. RAMSEY: Can we skip this one and come back to  
8 it after I --

9 THE COURT: Happy to do that. So, Mr. Bennett,  
10 Mr. Ramsey would like to talk with you about what you heard  
11 and saw, and that's fine to do. So if you would just be  
12 patient, we'll get to you as soon as we can. If you'll just  
13 step out in the hall.

14 MR. BENNETT: I was the victim in the crash.

15 THE COURT: You're the -- yes.

16 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, I'm not going to --

17 THE COURT: Okay. Hold on one second. I don't  
18 want you to talk with me about it, because if Mr. Ramsey  
19 elects an evidentiary hearing, I want to make sure I hear all  
20 of that in the context of an evidentiary hearing.

21 MR. BENNETT: Okay.

22 THE COURT: Okay. But thank you for sharing that.

23 MR. RAMSEY: And when the officer and I spoke, we  
24 didn't think there were any witnesses here, so  
25 that's -- okay.

1           THE COURT: Yeah. So Mr. Bennett is here, and  
2 we'll just ask you to be patient, and he'll be out in hallway  
3 in just a moment. And the technician will stand with you as  
4 well. Is that right? Very good. Thank you.

5           (Proceedings in recess while other matters were heard;  
6 resumed at 10:02 a.m.)

7           THE COURT: Adam Mandel, 2018-TR-26517.

8           MR. RAMSEY: Dennis Ramsey for Mr. Mandel.

9           Your Honor, I had an opportunity to speak with both  
10 the officer and the witness, and we're going to stick with  
11 our no contest plea and request a withhold of adjudication.  
12 It's my understanding that neither one of them will object.

13           THE COURT: Okay. So if I may just talk with  
14 everyone.

15           MR. RAMSEY: Sure.

16           THE COURT: Officer, do you -- do you object?

17           MR. TEJADA: No, Your Honor.

18           THE COURT: Okay. How about, Mr. Bennett.  
19 Anything you want to add or statement you want to make?

20           MR. BENNETT: No, Your Honor.

21           THE COURT: Okay. Now, Mr. Ramsey's entered a plea  
22 of no contest, meaning they're not admitting, they're not  
23 denying, but he is asking for a withhold of adjudication. Do  
24 you have any objection to that? And if you want to talk with  
25 me, you can.

1 MR. BENNETT: No, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Are you sure?

3 MR. BENNETT: Yeah.

4 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So now I'm taking a  
5 look at the citation. And -- the ticket and the driving  
6 record. I'm not seeing a figure for property damage.

7 MR. TEJADA: No, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: There was no -- okay. So Mr. Mandel  
9 has some driving history, and he is 19. Not quite 19 yet,  
10 he's 18.

11 MR. RAMSEY: Has he been to a school, Your Honor?

12 THE COURT: No.

13 All right. Four-hour driving school, \$50 added to  
14 the fine, given the age and the driving history. I'm also  
15 going to add two roadside memorials. So what that is -- I  
16 reserve that in very special cases, and given your client's  
17 age and the driving history, I think it's appropriate. Only  
18 two, usually I'm up at five.

19 Roadside memorial are the circular things on the  
20 side of the roadway where somebody has been killed because of  
21 a car incident. And so what I ask the folks to do is to go  
22 there, take a picture and then they write me a letter and  
23 they tell me what they think and feel and how they're going  
24 to avoid speeding or crashes in the future.

25 It's helpful with young drivers. I read them all,

1 and I write them a letter back. It's very interesting the  
2 responses I get, so I'm eager to hear what Mr. Mandel has to  
3 say. Doesn't have to be long, but it's got to be meaningful.  
4 Okay?

5 MR. RAMSEY: I understand.

6 THE COURT: Four-hour driving school, \$50 added to  
7 the fine, and two roadside memorials. I'll give 90 days to  
8 do all of that.

9 MR. RAMSEY: Okay. Thank you, Judge.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Anything further? All right.  
11 Thank you both for being here. Thank you, Mr. Bennett. Have  
12 a good day.

13 (Proceedings adjourned at 10:04 a.m.)

14 CERTIFICATE

15 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
16 from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the  
17 above-entitled matter.

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*Dylan Johnston*  
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Dylan Johnston  
Transcriber

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07/21/2020

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Date