

FW Death Investigation. Sarasota.txt

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-----Original Message-----

From: Picolo, E.J.

Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 8:50 AM

To: Sanderson, Scotty

Cc: Emerson, Steve; Develasco, Ed; Berlinger, Tom

Subject: Death Investigation. Sarasota

Scotty,

We have been fielding questions from a FOX reporter out of Tampa, regarding a death investigation done by Sarasota SO. The case involves the death of an older Siesta Key gentleman, who had married only a month earlier, a hispanic woman in her 40/s. She called 911 to report he was dead, EMS responded, and man ultimately died of what was diagnosed as a heart attack. Appears no post was done by ME. SSO investigated, and has ruled a natural death. Son of deceased has mounted a campaign against SSO, disputing findings, charging coverup, saying his dad was "murdered" by wife, saying he could hear in background of 911 call, is dad pleading for wife to get help. Dispute centers on timing, in that she says he died in his sleep, when on call, according to son, he is alive. As you might image, the Estate of the Man is in dispute as well. Son sent tape of call to enhancement business in NY who agrees w/ him, fbi apparently also reviewed, their opinion unknown to me.

He has gotten the ear of the Fox reporter, who has done story on this issue, SSO will not speak w/ them, considers case closed. To this point we have not been asked by SSO to get involved, two of our agents did prelim review of tape, including enhancing, and do not agree they can hear anything in background.

Sending this to you as background in that the Reporter is "demanding" we get involved, and your office may get a call. . My position is SSO is perfectly capable of handling this issue, and IF (not saying there are) , there are any unresolved issues , can certainly handle cleaning them up. The reporter spoke w/ Larry Long yesterday, was rather short w/ him, and indicated he would be calling FDLE headquarters and perhaps the Governors office to make the same demands. My position is the same, see no reason for us to involve ourselves, absent a request from the SO to assist, which we haven/t had. EJP

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From: Develasco, Ed
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 10:12 AM
To: Siemers, Chris
Subject: FW: Death Investigation. Sarasota

-----Original Message-----

From: Sanderson, Scotty
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2004 10:24 AM
To: Berlinger, Tom; Picolo, E.J.; Ramage, Michael
Cc: Emerson, Steve; Develasco, Ed
Subject: RE: Death Investigation. Sarasota

Of course, we would not want to sway from the fact that we support investigations conducted by other LE agencies. One question EJ, I do see your point of no post being conducted, this fact can be problematic with getting away from any conspiracy theory that is in the works. If, in fact, this victim was under direct medical care then we are in a better position not to become involved.

Mike,
Would you please give Rocky a heads up on this?

Thanks Scotty

-----Original Message-----

From: Berlinger, Tom
Sent: Thu May 06 09:07:43 2004
To: Picolo, E.J.; Sanderson, Scotty
Cc: Emerson, Steve; Develasco, Ed
Subject: RE: Death Investigation. Sarasota

FYI

I fielded the call that came into HQ from this reporter late yesterday afternoon. He basically wanted to know the 'procedure' for getting an outside, independent agency (FDLE) to formally take a look at the situation. I told him that short of an order from the Governor that I could see no basis for FDLE involvement. I have no doubt that he's going to contact the Governor's Office.

While he was initially rather aggressive, after I told him that the Gov would have to order us to get involved, he thanked me for my advice, was pretty friendly, and hung up.

Tom Berlinger
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