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September 29, 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: **DEATH OF MURRAY COHEN**  
**FDLE: ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION REQUIRED**

Dear Governor Scott:

Please be advised that I have the privilege of representing Steve Esdale and his family in connection with the death of his father, Murray Cohen. I am asking that you personally review this letter and its attachments and provide your assistance accordingly.

Last week the Orlando Sentinel reported on this very tragic story, so I am bringing this matter to your direct attention. (See Exhibit "A").

Over the course of the past several years, I have been representing Steve Esdale in connection with the death of his father, Murray Cohen. Over this term, I have communicated frequently with your office, the office of Governor Charlie Crist, the office of Bill McCullum, FDLE and the Sarasota Sheriff's Office. After years of relative hopelessness, in November 2010, Ken Tucker with FDLE finally agreed to open an investigation and review relative to our complaints in this matter. I am enclosing my previous letter to Governor Charlie Crist, which outlines our allegations and concerns in connection with the death investigation of Murray Cohen. (See Exhibit "B").

As background, Murray Cohen was a 71-year-old Jewish veteran living in Sarasota, Florida. He married 47-year-old Maria Amurrio Cohen three weeks before his death, however, on January 13, 2003. Ms. Amurrio Cohen was a Bolivian woman, and a former narcotics agent in Bolivia. Mr. Cohen left behind an estate worth 1.3 million dollars to his new wife, who became the sole beneficiary of his estate after their marriage. Initially, no autopsy was requested or performed by the Sarasota Medical Examiner, Dr. William Anderson, and Mr. Cohen's death was ruled to be by natural causes. Following his death, my client's own investigation revealed that poison was found at the death scene, which was not recognized by the Medical Examiner.

Unfortunately, although FDLE did open an investigation, despite clear evidence of death by foul play and a new plea from the Medical Examiner responsible for examining the body of Murray Cohen that the body must be exhumed immediately, FDLE abruptly closed their file in July 2011. I have attached a copy of the July 2011 FDLE final report documenting their actions in their entirety. (See Exhibit "C"). I cannot explain why the investigation abruptly ended. I do know that during the duration

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of the investigation, I personally spoke with Detectives Warren and Uebelacker as well as Chief Francisco Hidalgo and I believe they were all surprised by the abrupt change in position in connection with the investigation. Chief Hidalgo told me that the investigation was shut down by someone above his "pay grade." I have enclosed the letters that I sent to both of them following these communications. (See Exhibit "D").

By review of the attached, it is abundantly clear that the only way justice can be served is to follow the clear instruction of Dr. Anderson, the original Medical Examiner. As such, I am requesting that you execute an order for exhumation and autopsy in connection with this death. I see no other means available at this point given the lack of cooperation of the Sarasota Sheriff's Office and its prosecutor.

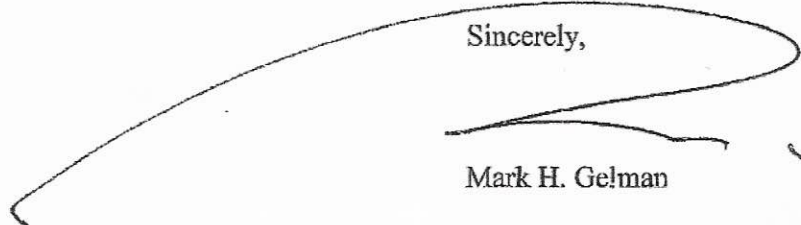
I would point out that immediately following completion of this FDLE Report and its closure, Ken Tucker was suddenly promoted to become the Corrections Secretary through your office. Additionally, and even more curiously, FDLE Detective Uebelacker just last week received a position to lead a fraud unit for the Sarasota Sheriff's Office. Whether or not these are merely coincidences, it certainly calls into question whether the Esdale family has received a fair shake by Florida law enforcement.

In an effort to seek justice and closure of this matter, I would ask that your office err on the side of caution and order exhumation immediately. Frankly, my only concern at this point is justice for my client. Only you can provide that assistance. If you require any more encouragement, please review the videotaped deposition of Mr. Steve Beninati, who was a witness to this horrific event. (Exhibit "E").

I will be happy to meet with you and your colleagues to explore this matter in greater detail.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



Mark H. Gelman

MHG /lcf  
Enc.  
cc: Steve Esdale