



**WILLIAM F. BALKWILL, SHERIFF**  
**SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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CMRE  
28

March 15, 2004

Mr. Steven J. Cohen Esdale  
1363 Springside Drive  
Weston, FL 33326

Dear Mr. Esdale:

This letter is to inform you that the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office has completed its investigation into the unfortunate death of your father. We have also included herewith a copy of the complete investigation.

As you will see in our close-out supplement, we have concluded that the circumstances surrounding your father's death have revealed no evidence of criminal conduct, and that he died due to natural causes. I hope that the investigative packet gives you some measure of closure in these unfortunate circumstances

The men and women of this Office are committed to protecting and serving the citizens and visitors of this county, and to investigating and solving crimes that are committed against them. While we certainly sympathize with your great loss, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and its employees cannot be subjected to offensive and abusive language and behavior. Numerous threatening telephone calls, messages and faxes have been received (and retained) by this Office, and we have consulted with the State's Attorney's Office regarding our possible courses of action should these continue.

Therefore, I am hereby informing you to cease and desist making telephone calls and sending faxes concerning the investigation of your father's death. These calls and faxes serve no purpose but to try to intimidate and threaten our employees into changing their conclusions about this investigation. While it is our wish that we not have to take



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Mr. Steven J. Cohen Esdale  
Page 2  
March 15, 2004

drastic measures, if you do not immediately stop contacting our Office and employees,  
we will pursue any and all civil and criminal legal remedies available to us.

Respectfully,

William F. Balkwill

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gabrielle Taylor".

Gabrielle Taylor, Esq.  
General Counsel

GT/tlg  
Encl.

CC: William F. Balkwill, Sheriff  
Major Kevin Gooding  
Captain Jeffrey Bell