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February 8, 2004

To Sheriff Balkwill:

I brought to your attention three months ago the fact that my Father was murdered by his Wife Maria Cohen. I also informed you of my concerns about Detective Scott, Major Gooding and Deputy Eve, and I told you that I strongly believed that they were covering up my Dad's murder.

When we first met face to face in November, you looked me in the eyes and said to me " Look, I am not going to tell you that some things my guys did are not troubling to me, and I have launched my own investigation". You also said to me, "There was more involved to my Dad's death than I realized". You also told me that you spoke to the Prosecutor's Office and they told you if you brought them probable case, they would arrest my Dad's killer, Maria Cohen. You also told me that you wished I could have enhanced the tape on my own. Well I did and I gave you my the best witness which was my Father talking as he was being killed. After giving you what you told me you needed, instead of helping me, you stopped communicating with me.

I believed you when you told me that you would get to the bottom of it. For some reason you refuse to talk to me for the last six weeks. When I called to speak to you, like a robot, your Secretary tells me " I am to refer you to Major Gooding". Major Gooding has been the problem from the beginning and now you let the problem deal with me. I really don't believe that the Sarasota Sheriff Department has any intention of putting my Dad's murderer in jail. I believe the reason why you have run me in circles for fourteen months is because everyone was trying to buy time to cover up what I have uncovered.

At the time when you said to me that there was more to my Dad's death then I realized I did not know what you were talking about. Now I do. Let me spell it out as clear as I can for you what I know now.

1. When Deputy Eve and Detective Scott arrived at my Dads house the night he died, and saw him dead on the floor with dirty hands, they knew my Dad did not die in his sleep.
2. When Deputy Eve and Detective Scott arrived at my Dads house the night he died, and saw him dead on the floor, and his hands were clenching furniture, they also knew he did not die in his sleep.
3. Detective Scott altered the copy of the 911 call in regards to my Dad's death in an attempt to cover up Maria Cohen ordering my Dad to "Give up" so that I would not hear it when I listened to the tape.
4. Sarasota Sheriff Department and the Sarasota Medical Examiners Office have refused to exhume my Dads body in a timely matter to make sure that whatever Maria Cohen gave my father to cause him to die disappears.
5. The toxicology that supposedly done on my Dad was a joke. The hair sample doesn't get sent out for almost a year. The blood samples listed in the report I am told is a mistake because there was no blood to be tested and then the vitreous fluid is rendered useless because my Dad

was embalmed against his wishes and against his religion. What toxicology was really done for my Dad?

How can the Sheriff's Department and the Medical Examiners Office rule my Dad's death a natural death sixteen weeks after he dies and claim toxicology did not yield any wrong doing when you didn't even send out the hair sample for ten months? What is called toxicology in my Dad's case is nothing short of a farce. Is this the same treatment that your loved one would have received? How come Murray Cohen's family couldn't get the swift justice that was given to Carlie's family?

I have tried the respectful way to get help from the Sarasota Sheriffs Department and I realize that another dirty trick that the Sheriff's Department plays is that you try to frustrate the person to the point that they finally say how they feel and then you turn around and use that to justify why you don't help. I have let you sucker me for fourteen months and I am now going to do all that I can legally and possibly do to expose everyone who participated in my Dad's death and the injustice given to him and my family. I would like to know if this happened to your Father, or Major Gooding's Father, or Deputy Eve's Father, Detective Scott's Father or Detective Hallisey's Father would the same treatment be afforded to them.

I continuously tried to let the Sarasota Sheriff's Department out of the corner and would of preferred to just get the treatment that an average citizen expects from the police, but as we both know that is not the case. Therefore, coming from the Son of Murder Victim Murray B. Cohen, I will with my last breath expose the wrong doing and get justice for my Father. I will see that Maria Cohen is held accountable for murdering My Father.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Cohen Esdale  
1363 Springside Drive  
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cc: Judge Nancy Donnellan  
Governor Bush  
Senator Wasserman-Schultz (Broward County)  
Jim Lutton (FDLE)  
Julian Pecquet, Herald Tribune  
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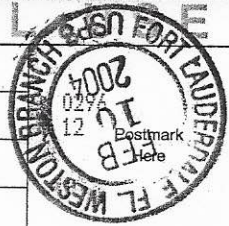
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