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9-22-06

To Whom It May Concern:

I was employed at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Dept from 1971 to 1998. I spent over 14 ½ years as a Detective. During that time, I assisted in the Investigation of numerous homicides and when I retired, I worked on Cold Case Investigations, mostly unsolved homicides. During my time as a Detective, I received two personal letters of Commendation from two different Directors of the FBI for investigative Excellence and thoroughness. I have assisted on cases that had evidence I collected, appealed all the way to the supreme court and the evidence was upheld. I made it my personal quest to never tamper with evidence, to always maintain an individual's rights and to always provide factual truthful reports and also to leave no stones uncovered in any investigation.

Approx 3 months ago, a former Deputy with the Sheriff's Dept sent me an e mail link to a site that contained information about a death case in Sarasota. I looked at the site, reviewed the information, listened to the tapes, read the letter and reached the following conclusion: Based on my nearly 30 years as a Law Enforcement Officer, and nearly 15 years as a Detective, I believe the death of Murray Cohen should be reinvestigated as a possible homicide.

The discrepancies surrounding this case are numerous:

The deceased and his wife Maria Amurrio Cohen were only married a short time
The "marriage" took place outside the country

Maria Amurrio Cohen inherited Mr. Cohen's entire estate.

Fl. Law requires that a person who dies while not under the immediate care of a physician must have an autopsy unless a Medical Doctor agrees to sign the death certificate. Mr. Cohen did not have a local doctor and died suddenly, allegedly of a heart attack, yet the medical examiner did not perform an autopsy. The medical examiner relied on a list of medications for another patient by the last name of Cohen who was 10 years younger than Murray Cohen.

A recording of the 9-1-1 call Maria Amurrio Cohen made to the Emergency call Center, contains discrepancies with a later held deposition. Maria claims to be a graduate of a Law Enforcement Academy and trained in first Aid, yet she stated she needed to be told what to do to perform CPR. While listening to the 9-1-1 operator, Maria supposedly left the phone to do CPR and came back and told the operator her husband was not breathing and CPR was not working. She stated he was unconscious and non responsive and that he had a heart attack while sleeping in bed. Apparently she used the phone in the kitchen instead of the one accessible in the bedroom which made background conversation harder to hear.

During the taped 9-1-1- call, Maria is heard to make statements to a male who answers her. She can be heard to say "give it up" and the male voice says "I thought you were going to call me an ambulance" this is further supported by a sworn statement from Mr. Paul Ginsberg, an audio specialist who verifies the statements. Susan Gaide, another audio specialist also gave a statement and says there is no doubt that Murray Cohen was alive and talking when the 9-1-1 call was made.

While Maria was talking to the dispatcher and following directions on how to give CPR, she left

the phone and within seconds, returned to say it wasn't working. I am a certified CPR instructor and it should have taken up to 30 seconds to put down a phone, go to an unconscious victim and attempt to do CPR, then return to a phone.

The 9-1-1 dispatcher told Maria to take the pillows out from under Mr. Cohen prior to doing CPR and Maria stated she had already done that. The dispatcher then told Maria to put Mr. Cohen on the floor to do CPR and Maria said she would try but he was heavy. She was away from the phone for awhile then returned and said she had done that. Mr. Cohen was supposedly unconscious, non responsive and not breathing, but arriving EMT's found the victim on his stomach. If he had been pulled off the bed and landed on his stomach, then CPR would have been impossible, yet Maria stated she was trying to do CPR. Also, the way he was laying in such a small area between the bed and wall, would have totally prevented any type of successful CPR.

A neighbor gave a sworn statement that Mr. Cohen was working in his yard that afternoon. Mr. Cohen's hands still had dirt under the finger nails. This call to a friend was placed shortly after the neighbor had observed Mr. Cohen working in the yard, which proves that Mr. Cohen was alive and in his yard around 5 that afternoon.

An empty bottle of Corazol was found in the victim's bedroom. His physician later stated he did not prescribe it and had no knowledge of it. There was no prescription for it and the substance is not approved for use in the USA. Corazol is mfg. in Bolivia where Mr. and Mrs. Cohen went to get married. Corazol is used in studies with rats to cause them not to breathe and the studies are conducted to find a cure for Epilepsy.

Maria Cohen admitted in a deposition that she called a friend to ask medical advice before she called 9-1-1. Phone records indicate approx a 17 min delay between the call to a friend and the call to 9-1-1.

There is a sworn statement available in which the cousin of Mr. Cohen (Irene Petras) states Maria Cohen called her on 1-13-03 and stated Mr. Cohen came in from the yard complaining of fatigue and she told him to sit in a chair and she would bring him some coffee. Marie stated that when she brought the coffee, Mr. Cohen was dead. I find it difficult to believe that Maria told Law enforcement and the 9-1-1 operator her husband died in bed and she couldn't move him very well because he was very heavy (6-1, 230 lbs) yet told family in New Jersey that he died in the living room in a chair. I have investigated numerous sudden deaths and suspicious deaths and homicides, but never one in which the widow says the victim died in 2 different rooms under different circumstances.

Phone records for the Cohen residence do show 1 call made 17 min prior to the 9-1-1 call (the call Maria made to a friend Ronnie Rose (asking for medical advice) and another call made by the bereaved widow 1 hour later, to the Bank that Mr. Cohen did business with and also to his account with the stock brokerage firm he did business with.

Mr. Cohen's private physician is a Dr. McHugh who related that he had prescribed Viagra to his patient prior to Mr. Cohen marrying a woman half his age. Mr. Cohen's only heart condition was a heart muscle problem which was under control. Viagra is never prescribed to a patient with a serious heart condition. Dr. McHugh was aware of this and even stated that if Mr. Cohen had a heart condition he would not have prescribed Viagra at all. Only 7 tablets were prescribed and none of them were taken.

I do not have the actual monetary amount of Mr. Cohen's estate, but it was estimated at 1.3 million dollars. That alone is 1.3 million reasons for motive.

There are numerous other conflicting statements and facts that bear directly on this case. Just

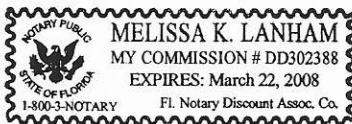
based on the above discrepancies alone, as an Investigator, I would have insisted on an autopsy, with a complete toxicology, blood screening and specific check for traces of Corazol in the victim.

There are numerous omissions, errors, and interviews never conducted by the original Detective on this case that would have pointed to far more than just suspicion in this case. A complete autopsy will provide the missing trace evidence and should serve to reopen this case for what I believe it to be, and that is a cold blooded premeditated murder done for money and greed.



Garry A. Ferguson
Former Homicide Detective (Retired)
Sarasota County Sheriff's Department

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF CITRUS
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me
this 23 day of Sept, 2006, by
GARRY A. FERGUSON
Personally Known or Produced ID



Melissa K. Lanham