

SIOUX FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Criminal Investigations Division Homicide Unit



Oct 19 — responded — RGA

320 West 4th Street • Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Telephone: (605) 367-7212 • Fax: (605) 367-8390

October 16, 2015

Dr. Richard G. Adeyemi, MD
Forensic Pathologist
Minnehaha County Medical Examiner's Office
421 N. Western Ave., Suite 200
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

RE: Case No. SFPD-2015-48801 / ME Case No. 2015-ME-0447
Decedent: MARSH, Eleanor Anne – Request for Expedited Toxicology Results

Dear Dr. Adeyemi,

I am writing on behalf of the Sioux Falls Police Department Homicide Unit in connection with the above-referenced case, in which your office is conducting the forensic examination of Eleanor Anne Marsh, deceased, discovered October 14, 2015 at 4200 S. Western Ave., Suite 712, Sioux Falls, SD.

As you are aware, this matter has been classified by the SFPD as a suspicious death under active homicide investigation. Our investigation has developed several areas of significant concern, including an unexplained building access anomaly during the hours preceding discovery, an unidentified individual who met privately with the decedent on the afternoon of October 13, and electronic communications suggesting potential financial misconduct that may bear on motive. These circumstances collectively make expedited resolution of the toxicological analysis a high investigative priority.

During a brief conversation with your office on October 15, 2015, I was advised by a staff member – I believe it was your laboratory director – that toxicology results had been completed and were described as 'clinically significant.' I understand the ME's Office has established protocols regarding the release of toxicological findings in conjunction with the final autopsy report, and I respect the integrity of that process. However, I would respectfully request the following:

First, that you provide the SFPD with the earliest possible estimate for issuance of the final autopsy report, or alternatively, an interim release of toxicological findings under a confidentiality agreement, if your office's protocols permit such accommodation in active homicide investigations.

Second, and recognizing that it may not be appropriate to characterize findings informally, I would ask whether you are in a position to advise whether the toxicological findings are consistent with or inconsistent with natural causes - without disclosing specifics - so that our investigative prioritization can be appropriately calibrated.

I am available at your convenience to discuss this request by telephone or in person. I can be reached at (605) 367-7212, extension 441, or by cellular at (605) 521-0884. I appreciate your office's cooperation throughout this investigation and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Detective Maria L. Santos

Badge No. 4471 - Homicide Unit

Sioux Falls Police Department

cc: Det. J.R. Brewer (Badge #3892)

Lt. C.A. Vasquez, Homicide Unit Supervisor

SFPD Case File 2015-48801

SFPD Homicide Unit - Case Correspondence - SFPD-2015-48801-CORR-001 - October 16, 2015