

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey Commissioner

Ft. Myers Regional Operations Center 4700 Terminal Drive, Suite 1 Ft. Myers, Florida 33907 1-800-407-4880 www.fdle.state.fl.us Rick Scott, Governor Pam Bondi, Altorney General Jeff Atwater, Chief Financial Officer Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture

DATE:

October 31, 2013

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

SA-73-0393 Case File

FROM:

SA Carl J. Shedlock SA Chris Siemers

SUBJECT:

Case Summary Memorandum

This memorandum summarizes the facts revealed from the investigation into the death of Sheena Morris. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) investigation was based on recommendations to follow up on specific leads that came from the Specialized Multi-Agency Review Team (SMART) Panel that met and reviewed the initial death investigation. The investigation includes interviews, document analyses, inspections of subpoenaed electronic information and medical records, lab/forensic analysis, fingerprint comparisons and fingernail clippings.

In the early morning hours of January 1, 2009 two officers from the Bradenton Beach Police Department (BBPD) responded to a domestic disturbance at the BridgeWalk Resort and spoke with Sheena Morris, a 22 year-old female and the only occupant of room 525. Police shortly thereafter cleared the call, changed the call from "domestic disturbance" to "disturbance." That afternoon, Morris was found dead, hanging by the neck attached to a blue dog leash from a shower fixture in the same room. BBPD requested Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Crime Scene Unit and the District 12 Office of the Medical Examiner (ME) to respond and process the scene. BBPD Detective Sergeant Lenard Diaz responded, as well.

The resulting death investigation was conducted by the BBPD with the assistance of the ME and MCSO.

The MCSO and ME processed the interior of the shower for latent fingerprints, documenting with photographs the body and scene and conducting interviews. Fingerprints were found in the shower and submitted for analysis/comparison. An autopsy was performed by Suzanne Utley, M.D. from the District 12 ME. It was noted that there was a small scratch on Morris' neck, but no further injuries were found on her neck (other than the compressed area where the dog leash was around the neck), body cavity or internal organs. Toxicology reports showed blood alcohol level of 0.77 gm/dl, no illegal drugs. Morris' fingernails were "unbroken and unremarkable."

ME and BBPD reports both reference interviews in January 2009 with Morris' mother, Kelly Osborn, who spoke about Morris' past to include a prior overdose, a diagnosis of bi-polar disorder and mental issues due to friends committing suicide in the past.

The ME report presented the cause of death as suicide ("hanged self with dog leash.")

A year and a half later in July 2010, at Osborn's request, noted New York pathologist Dr. Michael Baden exhumed Morris and performed a second autopsy. Baden reported no injuries, other than the ligature mark on the neck. Cause of death was determined as and manner of death was undetermined.

In February 2011, Osborn came into contact with Michael Berkland, D.O., former ME for the 1st District in Pensacola and private consultant. He reviewed reports and photos of the investigation. He authored an affidavit that said, in part, "... in my opinion as a forensic pathologist and senior crime scene analyst, the case represents a death in which the crime scene was altered to simulate a suicidal hanging." The affidavit further states that it was a "Staged Crime Scene" and "One of the most common instances in which staging is encountered is in a domestic homicide in which a spouse or significant other is murdered at the family residence." He reported numerous observations seemingly in support of his claims. Two other crime scene consultants also authored affidavits in which the operative language subsequent is almost identical. Their affidavits state Berkland contacted each and asked that they review the case.

Based, at least partly, on the analysis provided by Berkland and his associates, Osborn concluded that Morris' fiancé, Joe Genoese killed Morris. Osborn recanted her earlier reports of a prior suicide attempt, prior overdose or prior diagnosis of depression or bi-polar disorder with Detective Sergeant of the BBPD and ME Investigator Simrack in separate interviews.

Osborn presented the consultants' affidavits to the District 12 Chief Medical Examiner, Russell Vega, M.D. Based on the affidavits, the cause of death was changed to undetermined. The ME encouraged law enforcement to conduct further investigation to help resolve the matter.

Osborn initiated a public campaign in an attempt to have the case reinvestigated. Accusations of misconduct were leveled against the BBPD and Genoese was accused of the murder. She requested that a state or federal agency investigate Morris' death.

Media began coverage of the claims of the consultants and those of the Morris family.

In October 2012, the case was profiled over two episodes of the Dr. Phil television show. During the show Genoese submitted to a polygraph exam. The examiner reported that Genoese was deceptive on two questions regarding Morris' death.

The FDLE Sarasota Field Office opened a case to assist in the investigation in October 2012.

The investigation eventually revealed that Genoese had left the resort prior to Morris' contact with the BBPD and he arrived in Pinellas County by around 2:13 AM, still communicating with Morris via phone/text.

Medical records revealed that Morris had reported numerous prior

Following are summaries of the investigation put into categories that highlight the relevant facts. More detailed information comprise the case file to include more than 60 Investigative Reports, documents saved as Related Items and data saved as Investigative Updates.

### SMART PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

In October 2012, in response to a request by the BBPD, the FDLE convened a panel to review the case. The panel was comprised of law enforcement veterans from different agencies, which included police investigators, crime scene personnel, prosecutors and medical experts. The panel issued 15 recommendations to be completed. The FDLE Sarasota Field Office opened a case on the SMART recommendations in October 2012, in order to assist the BBPD in the investigation.

### Forensic Suggestions:

- Maintain known DNA standards and fingernail scrapings of Sheena Morris in air conditioned storage.
- Submit fingernail clippings/scrapings to FDLE for analysis.
- Obtain DNA standards for Joseph Genoese.
- Check the status of the print from showerhead submitted to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office laboratory, and compare print found on showerhead to Sheena Morris and Joseph Genoese.

### Investigative Suggestions:

- Conduct a comprehensive background on Sheena Morris and Joseph Genoese in order to create detailed profiles on both. (see attached profiles)
- Identify and contact the individuals who Joseph Genoese spoke to or texted after he left Bradenton Beach on January 1, 2009.
- Obtain subscriber and call detail records for Sheena Morris' phone. Identify and contact the individuals who Sheena Morris spoke to or texted prior to her death.
- · Identify and locate friends of Sheena Morris to interview for better profile.
- Overlap text messages and cell phone calls from Joseph Genoese to ensure that Genoese was potentially out of the area on January 1, 2009.
- Establish timelines for both Joseph Genoese and Sheena Morris based on cell phone activity, gate code access, Sun Pass toll logs, etc.
- Determine if Sunshine Skyway tolls were suspended on New Year's Eve.
- Obtain CAD logs from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office to determine the arrival and departure time of BBPD officers who responded to the disturbance call at the Bridge Walk Resort on January 1, 2009.
- Obtain audio recording from Manatee County Sheriff's Office of the 911 call placed by Sheena Morris on January 1, 2009 before it was transferred to Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

- Obtain audio recording from Manatee County Sheriff's Office of the 911 call placed by tenant(s) who notified BBPD officers of the disturbance involving Sheena Morris and Joseph Genoese.
- Identify Kelly Osborn's friend "Dan" who identified himself as an ex-homicide investigator from Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Once identified, interview him to obtain any additional information regarding this investigation.
- Obtain medical records for Sheena Morris reference to the diagnosis of Bi-Polar Disorder and hospitalization records reference the previous suicide attempt of Sheena Morris.
- Obtain personal files/work records from Oz and Dolls, both gentlemen's clubs.
- Determine if Sheena Morris is left or right handed.
- Identify the person who was named as the beneficiary on Sheena Morris' life insurance policy.
- Determine who paid for the room at BridgeWalk Resort; how the room was paid for and how many nights Sheena Morris and Joseph Genoese were scheduled to stay.
- Once all of the additional information has been obtained, have a meeting with the Medical Examiner, Doctor Russell Vega, to discuss the information provided to the panel.

The remainder of the summary addresses the SMART recommendations.

### SUMMARY OF BRADENTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION

On January 1, 2009, at approximately 1:23 AM, BBPD officers Tsakiri and Bazell were dispatched to a domestic related disturbance taking place at room 525 at the BridgeWalk Resort. Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records revealed that officers arrived within minutes signing out at the BridgeWalk at 1:23 AM and 1:25 AM, respectively. Officers walked up to room 525 on the third floor of the resort on the north side of the building. Officers later note in their reports that after making contact with Sheena Morris inside the room and determining the nature of the incident that they had likely observed Joseph Genoese in the parking lot as they were coming up to the room.

Officers interviewed Sheena Morris. They reported, in sum, that Morris was "extremely emotional" upon first contact but noted that she was "rational and calm" during the interview; they reported that Morris did not appear intoxicated.

Officers reported that Morris claimed to have called the police saying that she "just needed someone to talk to so she called the police" (Bazell). Morris showed officers the mark on her neck, but according to both officers, Morris would not definitively explain its cause; they reported that Morris claimed that Genoese was "flinging" his arms around during the argument and that his watch may have hit her. Morris reported the details of the argument and stated that it involved a disagreement about going back out for a drink and money that Genoese took out of her purse before leaving. Morris advised that \$100 of the money taken had belonged to her and that it had been a gift from her father. Morris declined a BBPD offer to call her family to have them respond to the resort to pick her up.

According to the BBPD, Morris did not report domestic violence and did not complete an affidavit with respect to the incident. Other than the noted mark on Morris' neck, they reported observing no injuries to Morris and "no signs of violence" in the room. Officers reported that Morris made several statements during their contact with her. They included:

- That her father had given her a signed \$100 bill for Christmas with the promise to double it if she still had it the next time they saw each other.
- She was a trust fund baby and owned her own house in Tampa.
- She received one of her dogs as a gift when she was hospitalized regarding a seizure; her mother had given it to her.

When asked if they could call family to come get her Morris informed the Officers that she would call a friend because:

- · Her father lived 3000 miles away, and
- She had not spoken with her mother in ten (10) years.

BBPD officers departed the room and cleared the call minutes later. MCSO CAD records indicate that officers cleared the call via dispatch at 1:47 AM and changed the call classification from a "domestic" to a "disturbance" at that time. BBPD reports indicate that officers Tsakiri and Bazell completed the call at 1:50 AM and 1:51 AM, respectively.

Later in the day on January 1, 2009, at approximately 2:17 PM, the BBPD received a call for service from BridgeWalk Resort owners. The purpose of the call was to evict Morris and Genoese. Resort employees had responded to the room to initiate the eviction for the disturbance earlier that morning and it was determined that dogs were inside the room. Resort policy dictates that a request for police assistance be made in the event dogs are found inside a room.

At approximately 2:19 PM, BBPD Officers Gill and Higgins arrived at the BridgeWalk, met with resort personnel and then responded to room 525 to initiate the eviction. After knocking on the door and receiving no response, officers entered the room. They observed a female, later identified as Sheena Morris, hanging in the shower. Officers checked for a pulse, finding none, and contacted emergency management services (EMS). At approximately 2:46 PM, EMS personnel pronounced Morris deceased.

Officers notified BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz and requested his response. Requests for assistance were also made to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit and the District 12 Medical Examiner's Office. Over the next several hours, the scene was processed and the BBPD interviewed BridgeWalk Resort witnesses, including the two couples that were staying in the rooms adjacent to Morris'. The witnesses were identified as Michael McClanathan and his girlfriend Lisa Frith (AKA Michelle Szabo), and Robert and Laura Bennett. Detectives determined that the three rooms, 524, 525 and 526, were adjoining with common doors between them.

### McClanathan and Frith

BBPD reported that both McClanathan and Frith claimed to have heard a disturbance earlier that morning during which a female was yelling and the male involved was responding to her in a "low" voice. They reported calling 911 and advised that police had arrived and made contact

with the female who spoke with them in a "calm" manner. They reported that they overheard the female speaking on the phone as soon as the police left.

### **Robert and Laura Bennett**

BBPD reported that both Robert and Laura Bennett claimed to have heard a disturbance between a male and a female at approximately 1:30 AM during which the female was "yelling and being extremely loud". They reported that the male involved was speaking in a "monotone" voice and that they did not hear "anything physical, just noise related commotion".

### Scene Investigation

MCSO Crime Scene Tech (CST) Jason Smith and District 12 ME Investigator Mehgann Simrack responded to the scene. They examined, photographed and documented their observations and reported that Morris was found hanging by the neck, partially suspended, with her feet on the shower floor. Morris' back was to the shower wall and her buttocks were approximately six to eight inches off the shower floor. A blue nylon dog leash was observed tied to the pipe leading to the shower head; the leash had been looped around her neck. Morris was wearing a hooded shirt, a t-shirt, a bra, long pants, panties and her feet were bare. CST Smith noted that Morris' "clothing items were in their correct position".

CST Smith and Investigator Simrack observed and noted Morris' jewelry which included a clear stone bracelet on her right wrist, a clear stone ring on her left ring finger, clear stone earrings and two silver necklaces. A pair of white flip flops was observed on the bathroom floor in front of the sink next to the shower and a partially smoked cigar was observed inside a plastic cup sitting on the side of the garden tub in the bathroom.

CST Smith collected swabs of a yellow stain on the shower floor near Morris' legs and bagged her hands and feet. Morris' body was removed from the shower and placed on a clean sheet on the bathroom floor. He photographed and processed the interior of the shower for fingerprints collecting six latent cards. CST Smith noted that he observed "no swipes or marks consistent with Morris attempting to get up or a second person bracing themselves" inside the shower.

An examination of the remainder of the room revealed the following:

- Morris' suitcase, open but apparently packed, on a stand next to the bed. Clothing and her laptop computer were among the items found inside the suitcase.
- Morris' red leather purse, open, and numerous other items, including a lighter, cigarettes and a money wrapper on a table next to a chair near the bed.
- A pair of white flip flops and a pink nylon dog leash on the floor in front of the same chair.
- The bed was unmade with the comforter partially down. A bed pillow was on the floor under the front corner of the bed.
- A T-Mobile cellular telephone, an ashtray, a plastic cup, energy drinks, a bottle of vodka and a blue nylon dog harness were observed on a counter in the main room.
- A Casio digital camera. (Both the phone and camera were later determined to belong to Sheena Morris.)

On January 1, 2009, upon the request of the BBPD, a death notification was made to Morris' family in Tampa by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). Shortly thereafter, Detective Sergeant Diaz contacted Morris' mother Kelly Osborn via telephone. Detective Sergeant Diaz reported that Osborn had made the following statements during the call:

- Morris had attempted suicide "many years ago" via overdosing on pills; she had been hospitalized as a result of the attempt.
- Morris had possibly been diagnosed as "bi-polar" and had been medicated.
- Osborn and Joseph Genoese had recently discussed "Baker Acting" Morris due to her anger issues. (The Baker Act is an involuntary committal for safety due to mental health reasons.)
- Osborn had told Morris in the past that Morris "needed help".
- Morris had a close relationship with her father, David Morris, but Morris was mad at him after seeing him in New York.
- Osborn claimed that she felt that Morris had "mental issues" due to a few of her friends committing suicide in the past; Morris had attended the funeral of a friend the week prior.

On January 1, 2009, shortly after speaking with Kelly Osborn, BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz spoke with Joseph Genoese via telephone. Detective Sergeant Diaz reported that Genoese declined his request to respond to the BBPD to be interviewed, claiming that "he was to upset" (sic). Diaz reported that Genoese was "very upset" during the call, "but was able to talk with (Diaz) for a few minutes". Diaz reported that Genoese had made the following statements during the call:

- Genoese and Morris had argued at the BridgeWalk earlier that morning. The argument concerned Genoese calling his children and wishing them a happy New Year.
- · Genoese and Morris had watched fireworks earlier that night.
- They agreed to stay inside the room following the argument, but Morris later got up and wanted to go back out.
- They argued again resulting in them deciding to leave the resort and go home; they
  packed their belongings with the intent to leave.
- After packing, Morris advised that she wanted to stay. Genoese claimed that he told Morris he was leaving with or without her; he left shortly thereafter.
- Genoese claimed that he spoke to Morris via telephone as he drove home.
- Genoese claimed that Morris had been "depressed lately and that she had a history of drinking a lot".

On January 2, 2009, Medical Examiner Investigator Simrack contacted Kelly Osborn via telephone. Investigator Simrack reported that Osborn had made the following statements during the call:

- Morris was treated for an apparent drug overdose as a teen.
- Morris had subsequently been diagnosed as having bi-polar disorder and prescribed multiple medications.
- Morris stopped taking the medications upon another doctor's recommendation.
- Morris had several friends who had recently committed suicide and she had attended the funeral of one of those friends the week prior to her death.

On January 2, 2009, at approximately 11:45 AM, District 12 Medical Examiner Suzanne Utley, M.D. conducted Morris' autopsy at the Manatee County Medical Examiner facility in Bradenton. MCSO CST Jason Smith attended the autopsy.

The Summary of Autopsy Findings reported Hanging (Cerebral Edema), Blunt Impact to Neck and Extremities (Cutaneous excoriations and contusions), Status-post Bilateral Mammoplasty and Recent Intoxication with Ethanol. Toxicology noted blood alcohol: ethanol at 0.077 gm/dl. Urine drug screen; alcohol at 0.105 mg/dl, caffeine and nicotine detected.

Additional toxicology (February 2010) indicated Volatiles Blood: Ethanol Positive 65 mg/dl and Volatiles Urine: Ethanol Positive 69 mg/dl. Comprehensive blood and urine drug screen were negative. No Chloral Hydrate: Trichloroethanol, Fentanyl or Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate was detected.

Cause of death was reported as



Manner of death was reported as Suicide (hanged self with dog leash).

Prominent petechiae were reported in the conjunctivae and skin around Morris' eyes. Her fingernails were intact and unremarkable. The external genitalia was atraumatic. Dr. Utley reported that "The neck, chest, back, and abdomen are unremarkable".

Injuries reported included those to Morris' neck associated with the hanging ("a nearly circumferential area of compressed, dried, red-tan, parchment-like skin ranging from 3/8 to 5/8inch in width") and "no internal injuries accompany the external ligature mark". Blunt impact to Morris' neck and extremities reported included a"1-inch in length shallow linear excoriation", two small red contusions to the skin of the medial aspect of the right antecubital and a "1/8-inch in length shallow excoriation over the proximal knuckle".

MCSO CST Smith received numerous items of evidence from ME Dr. Utley including Morris' fingernail clippings, clothing, pulled head hair, the blue dog leash, Morris' jewelry and the bags utilized at the scene for Morris' hands and feet.

Dr. Utley reported that the date death occurred was January 1, 2009 and estimated the time of death between 1:50 AM and 2:46 PM. The report was provided to the BBPD and SAO on January 27, 2009.

(The revised autopsy report was submitted by Dr. Utley on April 20, 2011. The cause of death was reported as an and the manner of death was reported at "Undetermined".)

January 3, 2009 Officers Tsakiri and Bazell filed reports of their response to room 525 at the BridgeWalk resort and interview of Morris.

On January 5, 2009, BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz interviewed Joseph Genoese and Morris' father, David Morris, at the BBPD. Diaz reported that Genoese reported "the same story as the night we made notification of Sheena's death". Diaz questioned David Morris about statements Sheena had reportedly made to BBPD officers Tsakiri and Bazell the morning of her death and noted previously concerning the \$100 bill, Sheena Morris being a trust fund baby, receiving a dog when she was hospitalized for a seizure, her father living 3000 miles away and not speaking to her mother in ten (10) years.

David Morris informed Detective Sergeant Diaz that none of the statements were accurate and could not explain why Sheena had reported that she had not spoken to her mother in years.

Detective Sergeant Diaz noted that he spoke with Genoese for approximately thirty minutes during the interview and that "David did not have many questions at all as to my investigation".

On January 22, 2009, BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz interviewed Genoese at the BBPD. He reported that Genoese made the following statements during the interview:

- Morris and Genoese went back to their room at the BridgeWalk after watching the fireworks
- They argued after Genoese called his children to wish them a happy New Year; he
  claimed that they would "often" argue about him calling his kids and that "Sheena
  was very selfish about their time together".
- Genoese claimed that Morris would get "very confrontational" and would get "right in his face yelling and screaming". He stated that Morris was "so close to his face that (she) was spitting in his face"; the argument resulted in them deciding to stay in the room for the remainder of the night.
- Later in the night, Morris got out of bed and wanted to go back out; Genoese told her that it was too late; a second argument ensued and Morris began yelling and screaming at him.
- Genoese claimed that during the argument, Morris grabbed "all the money they had" from her purse and started to run out of the room. Genoese grabbed her on the balcony and retrieved the money. They returned to the room and continued to argue.
- They decided to leave the resort and started packing their suitcases. When they were done packing, Morris changed her mind and wanted to stay. Genoese stated that he was leaving with or without her and did so shortly thereafter.
- Genoese advised that he left Morris approximately \$100 \$150 and reported that Morris accused him of taking \$100 that belonged to her.
- Genoese left the room. He noted that as he walked down the stairs he observed two police cars parked beside each other in the parking lot of the resort.
- Genoese claimed that he maintained contact with Morris via telephone/text as he drove home.

BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz noted in the report that he had spoken to Genoese on "other occasions and his story remains the same every time".

On January 27, 2009, the ME report stating "suicide by hanging" was submitted to the BBPD and State Attorney's Office (SAO).

BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz reported that he closed the case after reviewing the evidence, interviewing Genoese and Osborn, and receiving the ME report ruling Morris death a suicide. He noted that the investigation did not reveal that "foul play" was involved in the death. The report was approved on February 13, 2009.

Detective Sergeant Diaz reported that approximately two (2) months after Morris' death (unknown date) Genoese responded to the BBPD "unannounced". Diaz reported that Genoese was concerned about how Kelly Osborn was treating him; she suspected him of being involved in Morris' death. Diaz reported that Genoese cried during the meeting as he stated how much he loved Morris and claimed that he would never had done anything to her. Diaz noted that Genoese "appeared confused and still very upset about his fiancé's death".

In March 2009, BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz met Private Investigator Daniel Grossi at the BBPD. Grossi informed Diaz that he was reviewing the personnel files of BBPD officers Tsakiri and Bazell as a favor to Kelly Osborn and that he had not seen anything in the files or in the report that looked suspicious. Grossi stated that he (Diaz) "was dealing with a grieving mother in denial". Diaz noted that Grossi "was stunned" to learn that Osborn had reported that Morris had been diagnosed as bi-polar and claimed that Osborn was "just listening to all her friends who felt (that) Sheena could (not) commit suicide". Grossi advised that the family would want to meet with Detective Sergeant Diaz one last time for "final closure".

On April 7, 2009, BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz met with Kelly Osborn, her husband Kevin Osborn and Daniel Grossi at the BBPD. He reported that he briefed them on the investigation.

On April 7, 2009, BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz interviewed Genoese via telephone at the request of Grossi and Kelly Osborn. He reported that he questioned Genoese about his route home from the BridgeWalk on January 1, 2009, a "second (BridgeWalk) room key" reportedly found at the Osborn residence (that the family believed that Genoese kept allowing him to reenter the room upon his return), his luggage and his knowledge of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office website. Diaz reported that Genoese's responses were consistent with information he had previously given: Genoese had returned home via the Skyway but could not recall if he used his Sun Pass to pay the toll; he denied having the "second key" and claimed that other members of Morris' family were going through her belongings on January 5, 2009 and one of them could have placed the key on the counter; Genoese had purchased a suitcase at Beall's in Bradenton and had taken it with him upon his departure from the BridgeWalk on January 1, 2009; he learned about the MCSO website concerning dispatched calls via the recording on the MCSO main telephone line; Genoese denied returning to the BridgeWalk on January 1, 2009.

On August 17, 2009, Detective Sergeant Diaz interviewed Marcos Claudio via telephone at the request of Kelly Osborn. Diaz reported that Claudio stated that he saw Genoese at his Indian Rocks Beach residence between 2:30 AM and 3:00 AM on the morning of January 1, 2009. Claudio reported that Genoese was "upset" and advised that he and Morris had and argument. Genoese told Claudio that he was going to stay at the house.

In October 2009, at the request of Kelly Osborn via the Hill Ward Henderson Law Firm in Tampa, Detective Sergeant Diaz subpoenaed Genoese's cellular telephone tower (cell site) records for January 1, 2009. The specific request (noted in a July 29, 2009 letter from Hill Ward Henderson) was for the BBPD to subpoena "Mr. Genoese's cell phone carrier to determine the cell phone tower locations for calls after he left the motel and his text messages between 2:28 AM and 2:55 AM on January 1, 2009 – to help determine if Mr. Genoese did leave the area and go to his home in Indian Rocks Beach).

The cellular records revealed that Genoese had returned to Pinellas County via the Skyway Bridge and maintained contact with Morris via telephone as he traveled north on Interstate 275. The records indicated that Genoese's cellular phone began communicating with towers in Pinellas County at 2:13 AM and continued communicating with towers as he traveled north. A call made by Genoese at 9:33 AM later that morning was communicating with a tower in Indian Rocks Beach.

### **FDLE INVESTIGATION 2012 – 2013**

FDLE agents inspected room 525 (Morris' room) at the BridgeWalk Resort. The adjacent rooms, 524 and 526 were also inspected. On January 1, 2009, they were occupied by the couples interviewed by the BBPD as noted previously; Michael McClanathan and Lisa Frith, and Robert and Laura Bennett.

Accompanying agents during the inspection was Barbara Rodocker, CEO of Silver Resorts, the owner of that hotel. Rodocker claimed that the rooms had not been changed in the last 11 years, including the alarm clocks.

Rooms 524, 525 and 526 are on the third floor of the building. They are accessed via a common walkway/balcony on the north side of the building that overlooks the resort parking lot; the front door faces north toward the parking lot. Room 525 is single story with a main room, a bathroom near the front entrance and a screened lanai, accessed by a sliding glass door on the south side or back of the room. The lanai overlooks Bridge Street and is fully screened from floor to ceiling; it has been so continuously for the last 11 years.

The room is tiled throughout with 12x12 ceramic tiles, dark in color with lighter colored grout. The shower is tiled with white tiles, white grout and a gray marble raised threshold leading into the enclosure. The bathroom has a white garden tub and darker in color granite countertops. There are adjoining doors between rooms 524 and 525, and on the opposite wall, between rooms 525 and 526. The voids between the rooms are filled with Styrofoam panels cut the size of the doorways. Rodocker advised that the panels were installed in 2010 to 2011 because she received so many complaints of noise transmittal between the rooms; the panels were installed after Morris' death.

The head of the bed in room 525 rests against the east wall separating 525 and room 526. An alarm clock, the original Timex, model T267B clock radio, sits on the night stand next to the bed against the same wall. A test performed by Rodocker determined that the alarm shuts itself off automatically one half-hour after being triggered, if it is not manually turned off.

A sink, refrigerator, television and microwave are located on the west wall directly across from the bed. The west wall separates room 525 from 524, where the Bennetts were staying.

In the shower enclosure, agents observed a soap/shampoo dispenser attached to the east wall at approximately shoulder height. The pipe leading from the wall to the shower head is only several inches long and is attached so firmly to the wall that agents were unable to get it to move, even when it was forcibly pushed and pulled.

Room 526 is located to the left side of the Morris room (525) when viewed from the walkway/balcony on the north side of the building. The head of the bed in 526 rests against the west wall of the room separating the room from 525. The room was occupied by Michael McClanathan and Lisa Frith on January 1, 2009.

### **FDLE INTERVIEWS**

The SMART Panel recommended that a comprehensive background be conducted on Morris and Genoese as well as identify, locate and interview friends and family of both Morris and Genoese. Agents identified Morris' and Genoese's social contacts.

### Joseph Genoese

Joseph Genoese was interviewed in person and by telephone by FDLE agents as the investigation progressed and questions arose.

Genoese reported that he met Sheena Morris in 2006 at Thee Dollhouse where she was employed as a dancer. They began to date at that time. The relationship progressed with some break-ups to August 2008, when the couple got engaged after a reconciliation. They planned to be married in April 2009.

Genoese, who was divorced, had children who he was close to. Morris was described as being jealous when Genoese spoke and spent time with his children. This frequently caused arguments. Genoese lived with Morris in her Tampa apartment during the week, but stayed in his Indian Rocks Beach house on weekends when he had visits with the children.

The couple would argue when Kelly Osborn would get involved between the couple. Genoese and others interviewed in this investigation, said that Osborn was very involved in Morris' life to the point of "meddling." This was reported to infuriate Morris to the point of excluding Osborn from contact with Morris. In fact, this was the case over the holidays in 2008 where it was reported that Morris had cut Osborn out of her wedding planning and that they were not on speaking terms.

Genoese and others reported that Morris sometime acted erratically and had an explosive temper and anger issues. Her outbursts became so extreme that just before she died, Osborn and Genoese were having discussions about having her committed via the Baker Act.

Morris consumed alcohol daily to the point of abuse, said Genoese. Her choice was Ketel One vodka mixed with Red Bull. Genoese said she also took "blues", the street name for oxys, which is short for the prescription drug Oxycontin. He said he saw her taking the drug sometime in October or November 2008. She said to him not to worry, that she was trying to get off of them.

Genoese claimed that Morris told him that she had seven friends that have committed suicide. Genoese said that Morris also claimed to have tried to commit suicide by taking pills. Genoese said Morris was committed to an institution. She claimed she was diagnosed as bi-polar and showed Genoese a web site describing the disease. Leading up to the holidays in 2008, Genoese told agents that Morris was becoming more and more depressed. A childhood friend from the Syracuse NY area, Matt Kennedy, was found hanging in his garage in November 2008. It was undetermined if Morris knew he hung himself with a blue dog leash. (Morris was found dead hanging from a shower head with a blue dog leash.)

Genoese told agents that when he arrived at Morris' apartment after Christmas, he found her profoundly depressed. Genoese had spent holiday time visiting his children for several days. He reported that she hadn't eaten or gotten out of bed. He found the mirror in her bath with numerous pictures of her youth pasted on it and the words written in lipstick, "He's just a boy, I'll get over him." She also expressed sadness over the death of her friend, former co-worker and former boyfriend, Kyle Locke. He died in December 2007 and Morris organized and attended a one-year memorial service of his death that took place on December 29, 2008.

Genoese said he was so concerned he decided to take Morris to the BridgeWalk Resort on Bradenton Beach for a couple of days to cheer her up. The holiday was a spur of the moment trip. He bought her \$800 of clothes in Bradenton on the way. He agreed to take her two Yorkshire Terriers, even though the inn didn't permit dogs.

At the BridgeWalk Resort on New Year's Eve, they began to argue after Genoese called his children on the phone after midnight. Sometime after that, they went to bed. As Genoese started to fall asleep, Morris abruptly jumped out of bed, turned on the light and said that she wanted to go out. When Genoese said that he wouldn't because he was tired, she immediately blew up. She began to yell at him, putting her face so close to his and yelling so loudly that she spit in his face.

Genoese said he was going to leave. Morris initially agreed to leave with him, and began packing her suitcase. She changed her mind and started arguing again. She was yelling so loudly and punching the wall that Genoese figured someone would call the police. When he said he was leaving, Morris grabbed a roll of cash he had and tried to run out the door. Genoese grabbed her sweatshirt, pulled her to him and took the money.

Genoese left and went home to his house in Indian Rocks Beach. Morris called and texted him numerous times. Genoese told Morris that he was going to the Tuscany Bay (Tampa) apartment to get his clothes. Morris replied that she would call the police if he went to her apartment. The call was ended and Morris called 911 in Hillsborough County to warn the police that Genoese was going to her apartment to damage it. Morris called Genoese back to inform him of the 911 call. Genoese told agents that he decided to go directly to his Pinellas house because of this. Genoese also said he told Morris that he was done with her. One of Morris' last communication was "If I can't have you, I don't want to be here."

Genoese denied taking Morris' purse or returning to the resort.

### Rebecca Anaya

In October 2012, agents interviewed Rebecca Anaya who had been identified as one of Morris' closest friends by Genoese, Morris' employer and other friends. Anaya said she met Morris while they were both employed at Oz Gentlemen's Club. Anaya was a hostess and Morris was a dancer. They grew closer as friends, and Anaya said they got very close in the last year-and-a-half before Morris' death. Anaya also knows Joe Genoese as she was a friend and socialized with them as a couple.

Anaya advised that Morris told her she was suffering from depression. She told agents that she had helped with Morris' prior periods of depression, as Morris helped Anaya with hers. Anaya told agents that it was clear to her that Morris was going to "that dark place." Anaya said Morris' depression started to take more of a hold after Kyle Locke's one-year memorial service of his death in December 2008. He was a co-worker and friend of theirs, who had dated Morris. Anaya reported that he died from complications related to substance abuse.

In December 2008, Morris began to give Anaya some of her possessions. This was odd, said Anaya, because Morris was not the type of person to give away her prized possessions. She was not working and was dependent on Genoese for support. The gifts included shoes and dresses which Morris clearly said that she was giving these to Anaya to keep. She even wrote her a \$100 check, hiding it in Anaya's purse. Morris called Anaya after a week and urged Anaya to cash it, saying that Anaya needed it more than she did. Morris splurged on Christmas gifts for Anaya's daughter, which was not normal behavior for her. Morris even gave Anaya a key to Morris' apartment, saying it was for "just in case anything ever happens." Anaya said she

believes that Morris committed suicide and that it was clear to her that Morris was in an everdeepening spiral of depression. She said Genoese still grieves about the loss.

Anaya claimed Morris was a heavy vodka drinker, saying Morris drank large amounts of vodka daily.

Anaya has heard Genoese's version of the events of the argument and his leaving. That is entirely consistent with her experiences with the couple. She could see Morris getting very angry and Genoese leaving to avoid the fight.

There is no longer a relationship between Anaya and Kelly Osborn, whom Anaya said is "evil." Anaya believed Osborn would not accept the fact that Morris did commit suicide because Osborn was not there for Morris when she (Morris) needed her. Osborn and Morris fought frequently and during the holidays leading up to her death, Morris was not speaking with her mother. Anaya said that Osborn will not accept that she was a partial cause of Morris' depression. Morris complained that her mother meddled in her relationship with Genoese. When Morris and Genoese were having troubles, Osborn called and texted Genoese, which infuriated Morris.

### Justina Jones, Aka Judiee

Jones was identified as one of Morris' best friends from childhood. She was interviewed by telephone several times. Jones, who resides in the Syracuse NY area, lived with Morris in Florida from April to August 2008. Jones was named as the beneficiary of Morris' life insurance, although it was not paid out as the death was ruled a suicide.

Jones reported that she had never seen or heard of violence or threats from Genoese.

She did not know the circumstances surrounding Morris' suicide attempt in New York in 2001 and did not believe Morris suffered from depression.

Jones reported that on one occasion in 2008 Morris stayed in bed for three (3) days following the death of one of her dogs. Jones stated that Morris was not depressed, however; she was just mourning the loss.

Jones didn't see Morris after Thanksgiving 2008 and claimed she had little contact leading up to Morris' death.

Jones told agents that she believed that Morris wasn't excited about her engagement.

In a subsequent phone call to Jones, agents pointed out apparent inconsistent information provided in a previous interview; she had claimed not to know where Morris worked or how she met Genoese, even though she lived with Morris and dated one of the managers of the gentlemen's club where Morris worked. In response, Jones said she must have misunderstood the question.

### Lee Ann Blackshear

Blackshear said she met Morris about seven (7) years ago when both were employed by Oz, The Gentlemen's Club. Their friendship progressed from "hanging out" to rooming together. Blackshear lived with Morris for almost one year, in 2006 to 2007. This time period pre-dated Morris' relationship with Genoese, when Morris was dating Kyle Locke, who was a manager at Oz.

Blackshear said she met Genoese only a couple of times. She did see and speak with Morris more during the time leading up to her death. Morris and Blackshear attended the Locke memorial service together. Morris had said that she was fighting with Genoese a lot and they had broken up for a time. They were planning the trip to Anna Maria Island over New Year's to fix the relationship.

Blackshear said the December 2008 suicide of Matt Kennedy affected Morris. She said Morris couldn't believe that he did it, and didn't understand why.

Blackshear described Morris as excited and stoked over her upcoming marriage to Genoese. Morris told everyone about it.

### **Ashlie Knisely**

Knisely had known Morris for about three (3) years before Morris passed. Initially, Knisely was Morris' hairdresser, but they soon became friends. Knisely also cut Genoese's hair. Knisely "hung out" and socialized with the couple frequently.

She characterized the relationship between Morris and Genoese as "pretty good." She noted, however, there were jealousy issues on both sides. Morris was upset when Genoese talked or spent time with his children. Genoese was jealous of Morris and other men. Sometimes they would have intense arguments, but Knisely never saw or heard of any physical violence. Knisely said Genoese spoiled Morris and that he adored her.

About the fights, Knisely reported that Kelly Osborn caused many of them. She was always in the middle of the couple's relationship and made Morris cry a lot. Osborn did not like them together and she fought with Morris about that frequently. Knisely said Osborn was always inserting herself and would cause Morris to "come crying to me."

Knisely watched the Dr. Phil episodes. She said she didn't believe Morris would commit suicide because "she loved herself." Knisely said watching Genoese was tough. She had never seen "that kind of stuff in Joe that was claimed in the show". Knisely said that something was weird about the whole thing. As an example, Knisely said the things Genoese said were true. The first was that Morris and Osborn were fighting a lot; "Sheena cried to me so much", related Knisely.

Knisely said that it seemed that toward the end Morris had been making a lot of changes in her life, to include changing the color and length of her hair, not talking with her mother, Morris' distancing herself from Knisely and a break up with Genoese. Morris always came to Knisely, but did not for her last haircut.

Knisely said Morris drank vodka daily, but knew nothing about drugs. Morris was still upset about Kyle Locke's death being drug-related so Knisely doubted it. She did say that Morris used Vicodin for a back injury.

Morris was "super excited, crazy excited" about her engagement to Genoese and the ring he gave her. She was actively planning for the wedding.

Knisely said that Rebecca Anaya was a trusted friend of Morris'. Knisely said she hung out with her a few times and that Anaya would have intimate knowledge about Morris.

### Rena Carideo

Rena Carideo met Sheena Morris when they were both employed at Oz, The Gentlemen's Club in 2006, where Carideo worked the front door and Morris was a dancer. They became friends.

Carideo said that during the month leading up to the 2008 holidays Morris was "pissed" at her mother. When Morris and Genoese would argue, he would secretly call Osborn and discuss things with her. Morris really resented that and her mother for participating behind her back. Carideo said that Morris e-mailed her before the holidays about Kelly Osborn, that she had had it with her.

When speaking of the images on Morris' camera, Carideo said Morris "took tons of photos, of everything." They showed that Genoese loved Morris, that it was "almost an obsession." Carideo described their courtship as "bizarre", because they would argue and break up, but "they always found their way back" to each other like it was meant to be. Carideo said the couple was in love, "so much" and that Morris was happy. Carideo said that in September of 2008 after the engagement: "God, yeah, she was excited, very, about the marriage and her ring." In fact, Carideo said when Morris was fighting with Genoese was the only time she was unhappy.

### **Kelly Holland**

Kelly Holland was Sheena Morris' best male friend, having been so since high school according to Holland and postings from Morris. They had kept in constant contact and visited each other in Tampa, New Orleans and Syracuse.

Holland said Morris seemed genuinely happy about her engagement and mentioned the couple got along well when they were not arguing. He did say that Morris had a quick temper.

Holland said that he never heard of or saw incidents of violence or threats between Morris and Genoese.

Generally, Morris did not get along with the Genoese children, and spoke of this to Holland. Morris was also unhappy with the amount of money Genoese had to give his ex-wife.

Holland did speak with Morris after the Matt Kennedy suicide. Morris was sad, remarking that Kennedy was a nice guy. She cared about the incident, said Holland. Holland could not say how much Morris knew about the incident, but mentioned how she took the Kyle Locke death. Morris was naturally curious, and even more so since Locke was a part of her life. Holland said she spent a lot of time chasing down the pertinent facts that she had to know what happened. Holland said Morris did mention once that she was curious about Kennedy, saying she wanted to know what happened and find out how he had killed himself.

### **Ashley Arney**

Arney was Morris' cousin and was texting back and forth with her on New Year's Eve 2008. Arney said Morris was excited because Arney was going into labor with her pregnancy.

Arney said she had spoken with Morris on Christmas Eve. Arney said Morris was also upset over several incidents that occurred in the recent past. First was the memorial for Kyle Locke. Arney said Morris had spent time with Locke's mother and mentioned that he was a former boyfriend of Morris'.

The second incident was the suicide of Matt Kennedy in December of that year. Kennedy lived in the Syracuse, NY area and was an old friend of Morris'. Arney said both of these affected Morris.

### **Kelly Osborn and David Morris**

Osborn and Morris are Sheena Morris' parents. They were interviewed together as they brought the results of their investigation to agents at the Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center. The meeting was more of an information exchange where the family members turned over the items they had gathered. The claims they made were not new to agents, as many claims, allegations and theories had been reported to FDLE or made public over the last several years.

Osborn reported that the most significant information obtained from her investigation came from BridgeWalk witness Lisa Frith. Osborn put that information in a report entitled "Kelly's Interview of the Woman Whose Boyfriend called 911". She provided that report to agents.

Osborn reported that Detective Sergeant Diaz's January 1, 2009 report noting that Morris had a prior suicide attempt, mental issues and being diagnosed as bi-polar was an "utter fabrication."

David Morris reported that the two specific things that convinced him Genoese's involvement were the discovery of the second room key that appeared in Morris's apartment. David Morris believed Genoese had taken Sheena's purse when he left the room initially and must have returned it later. In the 911 call to Hillsborough County, Morris reported that Genoese had taken her "entire purse."

They both denied Morris' prior suicide attempt. They claimed not to have knowledge of Morris' diagnoses from St. Josephs and Four Winds, as well as her suicide note contained in the records.

# Occupants of Adjacent Rooms at BridgeWalk Resort

Morris and Genoese stayed in room 525 at the resort on New Year's Eve, 2008. In the adjacent room, 524, Laura and Robert Bennett were the occupants. In the other adjacent room, 526, Lisa Frith and Michael McClanathan were the occupants. Both couples heard the argument before Genoese left. They heard the police respond and Morris answer the questions and Morris making phone calls when she was alone after the police left.

None of the people interviewed heard any further scuffles or arguments, McClanathan stated "The walls are thin. I would have heard that."

### Witnesses at Claudio New Year's Party

Marcos Claudio hosted a New Year's Party at the house he rented from Genoese in Pinellas County. John Ferentinos and Anthony Liparota attended that party. They corroborate that Genoese arrived at the house in the morning. Among the three witnesses, they put Genoese's first sighting there sometime between 2:30 AM and 3:00 AM. Each said Genoese got up the next morning and stayed at the house throughout the morning.

All of the men were long-time friends and associates of Genoese; he employed them in his businesses.

### Brenda Claudio

Brenda Claudio said that she was at the residence for the duration of the party but did not see Genoese until after the party, later that morning. She estimated that it was approximately 9:00 AM or 10:00 AM when she first saw him and reported that she, Marcos, Genoese and other guests that had stayed the night had coffee and breakfast at that time. Brenda reported that

Ferentinos told her that he had seen Genoese downstairs on the couch during the party but she could not recall when Ferentinos had made the comment to her; specifically, Brenda could not advise if Ferentinos had made the comment the morning of January 1, 2009 or at some later time.

Brenda advised that leading up to New Year's, Genoese was living with Morris in her Tuscany Bay apartment during the week and with the Claudios, at the Indian Rocks Beach house, on the weekends and when he had his children. Genoese moved in with the Claudios full time following Morris' death.

Brenda claimed that she initially believed Genoese's account of the events surrounding Morris' death and did not suspect that he was involved. She reported that she "liked Joe before Morris' death" and "(Genoese) was always consistent in his story" when they discussed Morris.

### Morris' Friends and Associates

Seven of Morris' friends and work associates were interviewed. Six of them described Morris as happy and excited about her upcoming wedding. Morris was only unhappy when fighting with Genoese. None had seen any violence or threats from Genoese.

### Interview of Daniel Grossi

Per SMART panel recommendations, FDLE Agents interviewed Daniel Grossi.

In January 2013, agents interviewed Grossi. He advised that he retired from the Tampa Police Department (TPD) in 2001 after a twenty (20) year career; much of which was spent in the homicide division as a detective and detective sergeant.

He was hired by Kelly Osborn in early 2009 to review and reinvestigate Morris' death.

Grossi advised that he reviewed the case, conducted interviews of Morris' family, friends and other witnesses, and inspected the scene at the BridgeWalk Resort. Grossi noted that Joseph Genoese refused his request for interview.

Grossi stated that he found no evidence or indication that Morris' death was inconsistent with a suicide and reported that finding to Kelly Osborn at the conclusion of his investigation. Grossi advised that he stands by that assessment.

Grossi adamantly denied that he gave Osborn or Morris' family indication that he suspected the scene had been staged or that Morris' death was the result of homicide. Grossi stated that he believed that he had provided Osborn with a written report of his findings, but did not preserve a copy.

### ANALYSIS OF CELLULAR RECORDS AND DATA

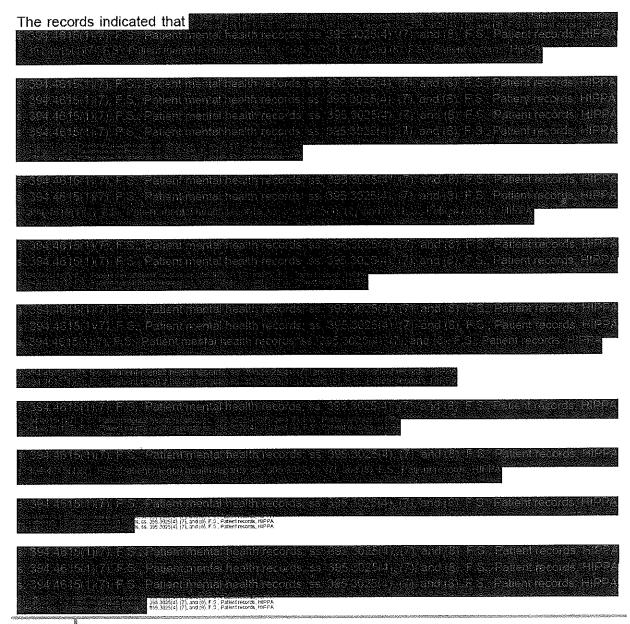
Telephone records were subpoenaed for Genoese's phone that showed what towers the phone contacted when it was used. The records were subpoenaed by the BBPD in 2009 and were limited to January 1, 2009. At 1:44 AM Genoese's phone contacted a tower in North Bradenton. During the trip to Indian Rocks Beach, nine calls were either made to or from that phone. The phone contacts trace a path up Interstate 275 northbound that corroborates the path Genoese said he took. At 2:13 AM the phone starts communicating with towers in Pinellas County. The records show the last call between Genoese and Morris between 2:22 AM and 2:26 AM.

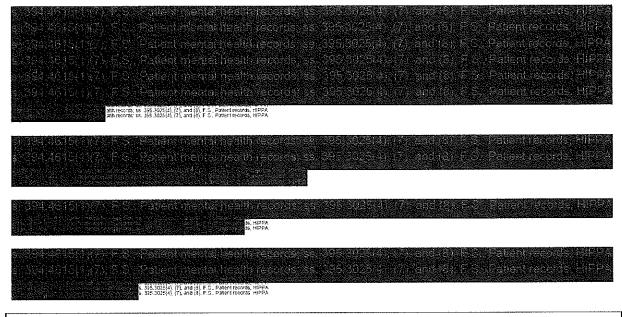
The records of the tower contacts indicate Genoese's phone was in Pinellas County at times consistent with accounts of three witnesses that confirmed Genoese's presence at the house. Further analysis reported shows Genoese's phone was in Pinellas County until well into the day of January 1, 2009. Genoese's presence there is corroborated by witness accounts.

Sheena Morris' phone was last used just before 2:30 AM when it was connected to the Genoese phone. Based on the analysis of the phone records and the witnesses at the Claudio residence, Genoese was approaching or arriving in Indian Rocks Beach at that time, approximately a one (1) hour drive away from the BridgeWalk Resort in Bradenton Beach.

### MEDICAL RECORDS

Morris' medical records were obtained from St. Joseph's Hospital, Syracuse, New York and Four Winds Hospital, Syracuse pursuant to subpoena and consent provided by Morris' family. The records detailed Morris' admission and treatment at both hospitals between May 25, 2001 and June 4, 2001.





### REVIEW OF THE CRIME SCENE REPORTS/PHOTOS

Morris was found hanging in a shower stall with a blue dog leash attached to the shower head above. Her buttocks were about six inches above the floor with her legs out in front of her. Her clothing was on appropriately and of note was an elaborate pattern created by two thin, fragile necklaces worn by Morris and the way they are arrayed over the drawstrings' knot from the hoodie around Morris' neck. The investigation showed that Morris was taking photos of the room and herself. Sometime after the BBPD left the room at approximately 1:47 AM, Morris took a photo of a scratch on her neck. The pattern or array aforementioned was photographed. That array or pattern was identical in the death scene photos taken by crime scene technicians.

Morris' tongue was protruding and there was saliva that dripped onto her hoodie.

No evidence the scene was wiped down or cleaned was observed; crime scene photos show a clear pattern of drops of water, not the streaking that is left after swiping by a towel. Additionally, crime scene reports specifically say there were no swipes or marks observed on the shower walls.

Numerous scene photos show sand on the shower floor, the threshold and bathroom floor. There is a pair of flip-flops just outside the shower.

### **EXAMINATION OF MORRIS' FINGERNAILS**

Morris' fingernails were intact and unremarkable (ME). They were submitted for analysis to FDLE in 2012. The results were that no DNA foreign to Morris was found under her fingernails. Pursuant to the SMART Panel recommendations, a DNA sample of Genoese was obtained if it was necessary, for comparison.

### **911 CALLS**

Two 911 calls relevant to the Morris investigation were made and later obtained and reviewed by FDLE.

The investigation revealed that the BBPD was dispatched to Morris' room in response to a 911 call made by Michael McClanathan and Lisa Frith who were staying next door at the BridgeWalk Resort. During the call, McClanathan reported that an argument was taking place between a male and female in room 525 and noted that the couple was arguing about money. The time of the call was approximately 1:20 a.m. and resulted in BBPD Officers Tsakiri and Bazell being dispatched to Morris' room.

Per SMART Panel recommendations, FDLE was tasked with obtaining the call for review.

Agents determined that the call had not been obtained by the BBPD in 2009 or maintained by the MCSO but a copy had been obtained by Morris' family in 2009 through their private investigator, Daniel Grossi. A copy of that recording was provided to FDLE by Kelly Osborn following her interview with agents in June 2013.

FDLE also obtained a 911 call made by Sheena Morris. The call was made at 2:05 a.m. and was transferred to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) by the Manatee County 911 call center. Morris reported the domestic dispute and that Genoese had threatened to "destroy" her Tampa apartment. She claimed that he was traveling to the apartment at that time and requested that the HCSO respond to the complex and intervene.

Review of the call revealed that many claims provided to the HCSO by Morris were not supported by witness statements, BBPD observations and reports, ME reports, Morris' cell phone records or her photographs. Despite her claims to the responding BBPD officers and the HCSO 911 dispatcher, there is no supporting evidence indicating that Morris had called the police to report the initial incident at the BridgeWalk. She called 911 approximately 15 minutes after BBPD cleared the call; as Genoese traveled to Indian Rocks Beach. Review of the call indicated that its purpose was to have law enforcement check her apartment for fear that Genoese would "destroy" it. She made no request for a police response to her location and she reported no concern that Genoese would return to the resort.

Morris alleged domestic violence and specific injuries suffered during the incident and claimed that she filed reports concerning them with the BBPD. BBPD reported that Morris had not reported domestic violence and that she would not definitively report the cause of the mark on her neck. No other injuries were noted in the BBPD reports; either observed by officers or reported to them by Morris. The description of the injuries provided to the HCSO by Morris was inconsistent with those photographed by her and later observed and documented by the ME. The couples on both sides of Morris' room overheard the argument and one of them made the 911 call prompting BBPD's response to the room. Both couples reported that they heard Morris yelling and Genoese responding in a low or monotone voice. Neither reported hearing a struggle or a physical altercation taking place; either prior to BBPD's arrival or after they had departed. Their reports are consistent with each other and with information reported by the BBPD.

Morris' claim to the HCSO that Genoese took her purse is not supported by her statements to the BBPD, the reports from the neighbors, Genoese's statements or scene photographs. There is no evidence indicating that Genoese took the purse then returned it after the BBPD departed.

# POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION

In 2013 Genoese was administered a polygraph by an FDLE polygrapher. No "emotion evoking" phrases were used, e.g. "killing." The name Sheena was used in every question to avoid overly emotional reactions only on selected questions. The results indicate that Genoese was clearly not deceptive in any answers.

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL AUTOPSY**

In June 2013, FDLE hired Dr. John Super, Ph.D., a Florida licensed and board certified forensic psychologist working in Bradenton, Florida, to conduct a psychological autopsy on Morris. Dr. Super noted in the report that "a psychological autopsy is a post-mortem investigative procedure used to identify and assess suicide risk/protective factors present at the time of death" with the goal, in this case, of determining whether or not Morris was a likely candidate to commit suicide at the time of her death. The report was provided to FDLE on August 29, 2013.

Review of the autopsy report revealed that Dr. Super reviewed BBPD, Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), FDLE and Medical Examiner (ME) reports, Morris' medical records and other documents obtained during the investigation. He interviewed numerous members of Morris' immediately family, Joseph Genoese, many of Morris' closest friends and BridgeWalk resort witnesses. Additionally, Dr. Super interviewed BBPD Sergeant Diaz, BBPD Officers Tsakiri and Bazell and FDLE Agents Shedlock and Siemers. Dr. Super's analysis detailed the investigation, Morris' background including her educational history, occupational history, medical and psychiatric history, her substance use/abuse history and summarized protective and risk factors determined relevant to Morris.

# Dr. Super concluded:

"The following suicide risk factors were identified for Sheena Morris: 1) a ten-day psychiatric hospitalization; 2) the diagnosis of Major Depression with borderline and histrionic traits; 3) contentious and episodically conflicted relationships with her fiancé and her parents (as corroborated by collateral interviews); 4) the passing of a friend by suicide via hanging on December 18, 2008; 5) the one-year memorial service (12-29-08) for the passing of an individual who she had dated; 6) being upset (relationships/abandonment) on the night prior to the day of her death as overheard by occupants on each side of her room at the BridgeWalk Resort; 7) discussions of involuntarily hospitalizing Sheena as indicated by interview data collect(ed) from fiancé (Genoese) and BBPD investigation reports of interviews with mother (Kelly Osborn); and, 8) statements she made on the texts suggesting she felt abandoned." "The Decedent, Sheena Morris, presented with multiple risk factors consistent with individuals who commit suicide. Suicide risk factors identified for Sheena Morris are opined to be more pronounced and compelling than protective factors. Historical information documented from her adolescence, the volatility of current relationships, and the moderate use of alcohol are consistent with individuals who commit suicide."

### PUBLIC NARRATIVE/POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS

There is a public narrative concerning Morris' death and the BBPD investigation that exists and appears in the press, local/ national television, radio shows and online in websites dedicated to the case. There are many specific details in that narrative, that have been presented as facts during the last several years, that have been determined to be inconsistent with information obtained during the investigation.

Specifically, substantive information made public by Morris' family, consultants hired by Morris' family, and or reported by the local and national press concerning the BridgeWalk scene, Joseph Genoese, Sheena Morris and the BBPD investigation are not supported by the investigation.

Some of the misconceptions that are circulated in the public narrative are addressed:

### BridgeWalk Scene

The two most notable misconceptions in the public narrative concerning the scene are 1) There was sand on Morris' feet but none was found on the shower floor. 2) No fingerprints were found in the shower. The claims noted by agents in most, if not all, reports and interviews concerning Morris' death, resulted in conclusions that either Morris had been placed in the shower or the scene had been wiped down or cleaned in an effort to destroy evidence of a homicide. Neither claim is accurate.

MCSO CST Smith specifically documented that he observed no "swipes or marks" on the shower walls during his examination of the scene.

The scene photographs, taken by ME Investigator Simrack and MSO CST Smith on January 1, 2009, clearly reveal sand and other debris, including hair, on the shower floor under and near Morris feet and on the threshold leading into the shower.

CST Smith collected fingerprints from the inside of the shower enclosure and submitted six (6) latent cards for analysis. The results indicated that the prints found on the shower head were of value but not of the quality required for entry into a national search database. A comparison of Genoese's prints to those obtained from the shower head was negative. Agents were unable to locate any prints taken from Sheena Morris.

Claims that Morris and Genoese had been staying at the BridgeWalk Resort for several days are inaccurate; they checked in sometime after 8:00 PM on December 30, 2008 and had been in the room for just over one day prior to the initial argument around midnight on New Year's Eve.

Consultants hired by Morris' family, described in the media as recognized experts in the field of forensics, made claims that are not supported by the investigation. One of the consultants reported not being convinced that the leash Morris was found hanging from was even strong enough to support Morris' weight. The investigation has revealed that Morris was likely hanging from the leash for an extended period of time prior to her discovery. The ME reported that the injuries noted on Morris' neck were consistent with the leash.

Likewise, many claims made and/or reported in the media were determined to conflict with both the scene photographs and the investigation. Media made claims (some unattributed to any specific source) that included: 1) Morris had unexplained bruising on her back that could have been caused by a knee. 2) Morris had cuts on the interior of her right hand. 3) Morris was unhappy in her relationship and had been trying for months to end the relationship with Genoese. 4) The cuffs of Morris' pants legs were tucked under her feet, indicating that she had been dragged into the shower. 5) Morris' waistband was riding low on one hip and indicated that she had been dragged into the shower. 6) A bracelet found on Morris' right wrist after her death had been placed on the wrong wrist by her killer. 7) Genoese took Morris' purse before departing the BridgeWalk and brought it back to the room prior to her discovery in the shower. None of the claims were supported by the investigation.

In regards to the claim that the waistband position was evidence of Morris being dragged into the shower; the photograph was taken after Morris had been removed from shower by responders and laid flat on the floor. The evidence supports that the final position of the waistband was a result of her being prepared for transport to the ME facility; not the result of being dragged into the shower.

# **BridgeWalk Witness Statements**

As noted in Osborn's report of her Lisa Frith interview, provided to agents was that Frith had told her that Morris had twice yelled "get your hands off my neck" during the argument with Genoese. Frith informed agents that she heard the argument and advised that Morris had stated "Look what you did to my body!" Neither Frith nor the other witnesses in the adjoining rooms reported to FDLE that they heard Morris yelling "get your hands off my neck" or her making any similar statement.

Osborn reported that Frith told her that Morris' room was quiet between 3:00 AM and 4:00 AM and that she heard the door to Morris' room open "sometime in the night". Osborn added that Frith told her that she heard the dogs bark for a moment when the door opened. Osborn concluded, as noted in a report to FDLE, "The dogs only barked a second so they must have been familiar to the person who re-entered the hotel room." Osborn's indication that the person "re-entered" the room is of note and is consistent with her theory that Genoese had returned. The investigation has revealed that there is no evidence that Genoese returned to the room.

In regards to the door to Morris' room opening and the dogs barking: Frith informed agents that she had heard the rear sliding door (leading to the room's third story, fully screen enclosed balcony) close sometime between 2:30 AM and 3:30 AM and she had not heard anything next door until the alarm sounded between 6:00 AM and 7:00 AM. Frith advised that she had not heard the front door open or close after the BBPD departed. Furthermore, Frith advised that she had not heard dogs barking at any time and did not know there were dogs inside Morris' room until the following afternoon as the BBPD investigated the death.

The other witnesses in the adjoining rooms reported the same information to FDLE; they had not heard dogs barking and did not know there were dogs in the room until the following afternoon.

All of the BridgeWalk witnesses reported that they had not heard a second disturbance in Morris' room after the BBPD officers left; the time was approximately 1:47 AM. Morris was alive at that time evidenced by both the witness statements and her cellular telephone records. Morris' outgoing phone activity stopped after she sent a text message to Genoese at 2:27 AM.

Osborn reported that Frith told her that Morris' alarm went off at 5:00 AM and it "went on and on". Osborn further noted that the BBPD also reported that it sounded at 5:00 AM and that it "was momentarily shut off". Frith informed agents that the alarm had remained on for an extended period of time but had initially sounded sometime between 6:00 AM and 7:00 AM.

Review of BBPD reports revealed no indication that the alarm sounded at 5:00 AM or that it shut off moments later. Review of District 12 ME Investigator Simrack's report revealed that she had noted that BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz had told her via telephone (January 6, 2009), that a witness had reported that the alarm sounded at 5:00 AM and that it shut off moments later. The witness was not identified however and the information is inconsistent with that provided by both Frith and McClanathan.

At the conclusion of the agents' interview, they provided Frith with a copy of Osborn's aforementioned report. After reviewing it, Frith commented that much of what Osborn had written was "exaggerated and untrue."

### Joseph Genoese

Commonly reported information concerning Genoese included his alleged involvement in drug trafficking and organized crime. The resulting claim was that Morris was killed by Genoese for something she had discovered concerning that activity or that she was killed by someone criminally associated to Genoese; either at his direction or as retribution.

The FDLE investigation revealed no evidence that Genoese was involved in drug trafficking or associated to any organized criminal groups.

No witness interviewed, including friends and family of Sheena Morris, claimed knowledge of Genoese being involved in criminal activity leading up to Morris' death.

A common narrative concerning Genoese is that he left the BridgeWalk, but returned after the BBPD officers departed the scene. The evidence typically cited in support of the claim is Genoese's E-Pass records which do not indicate he paid a Skyway Bridge toll for his northbound trip to Indian Rocks Beach in the morning hours of January 1, 2009. Genoese claimed that he had traveled north via the Skyway Bridge, but could not recall if the E-Pass was utilized or if he paid the toll in cash.

Determining if the tolls were suspended on New Year's was a SMART Panel recommendation.

The investigation revealed that the payment of tolls was not suspended on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day 2009. The Florida Department of Transportation reported that it was entirely possible that an E-Pass or Sun Pass transponder could pass through the toll booth and not be automatically charged. An analysis of Genoese's cellular telephone tower data supports his claim that he had in fact traveled north across the Skyway Bridge and that his phone began communicating with towers in Pinellas County at 2:13 AM. The time frame is consistent with Genoese's statements to both the BBPD and FDLE and with statements made by several alibi witnesses that place him at a residence in Indian Rocks Beach between 2:30 AM and 3:00 AM that morning.

Media have made claims that Genoese physically attacked or threatened Morris during their relationship. The investigation has revealed no evidence of either and to the contrary, Morris' family and friends informed FDLE that they had never seen or heard of any violence taking place between the two.

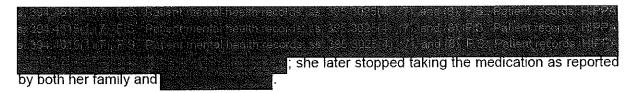
Media have made or reported claims that Morris had been compiling evidence implicating Genoese in criminal activity (drugs and organized crime) and that she maintained the information in boxes of files in her apartment. The claim is not supported by information obtained during the investigation and is inconsistent with Morris and Genoese getting engaged and planning a wedding after she had allegedly obtained the information.

Morris' family members and friends reported that Morris was employed for a short time in late 2008 by Genoese, and this was confirmed by him. Genoese said that Morris was employed as a marketing representative for his drywall/stucco business and she had marketing materials related to her job that she kept at her apartment.

### Sheena Morris

Commonly reported information concerning Morris is that she had never been diagnosed as having depression, had never been medicated for psychiatric issues and had not previously attempted suicide. The resulting claim was that Morris would not have committed suicide following the January 1, 2009 breakup with Genoese.

Records obtained by FDLE revealed that Morris was hospitalized as a fourteen year old,



### **BBPD** Investigation

Commonly reported information concerning the BBPD investigation included, 1)That responding BBPD Officers Tsakiri and Bazell passed Genoese in the stairwell as they were walking up to the BridgeWalk room. 2) Genoese was not interviewed by the BBPD for 22 days after Morris' death. 3) David Morris was never interviewed by the BBPD. 4) BBPD Detective Sergeant Diaz fabricated the information reported concerning Morris' medical history provided to him during his interview of Kelly Osborn on January 1, 2009. None of the claims are supported by the investigation.

In regards to Osborn's claims that in the Detective Sergeant Diaz report concerning Morris' medical history and background was an "utter fabrication". As noted, both the BBPD and ME independently reported consistent statements made by Osborn. The information is supported by the medical records, interviews and the investigation. Osborn's statements to the BBPD and ME with respect to Morris' medical history are also consistent with information provided to FDLE by other witnesses. Genoese recalled conversations involving Osborn and other family members and friends on January 1st and 2nd, 2009 (prior to being notified of Morris' manner of death) during which Osborn voiced her belief that Morris had killed herself. Genoese advised that there was speculation about how Morris had died but he claimed that Osborn concluded, and the general belief of those present at the Osborn residence, was that Morris had probably overdosed on pills and/or alcohol.

Patricia Locke, a close friend of Morris, and the mother of the late Kyle Locke noted earlier in the summary, informed agents that she had spoken to Osborn the night of Morris' death. Locke advised that Osborn was angry and told Locke that Morris had "killed herself" at the hotel.

Genoese and Rebecca Anaya were present when Osborn received the January 2nd call from ME Investigator Simrack informing her that the ME had concluded that Morris' manner of death was suicide via hanging. They advised, in sum and substance, that Osborn was extremely upset initially but calmed down a short time later and declared to them and others gathered at the house that Morris would not have hung herself. They reported that in the days following the call Osborn began voicing theories of murder that initially involved the responding BBPD officers. They claimed that her focus on Genoese and her subsequent claim that he had killed Morris was not immediate but evolved over the next several weeks.

In a 2012 interview with FDLE, Genoese advised that he and Osborn had discussed having Morris involuntarily committed just prior her death, corroborating Osborn's reported "Baker Act" statement to Detective Sergeant Diaz. Genoese also advised that Morris claimed to have had several friends who had committed suicide (one of which, Matt Kennedy, committed suicide by hanging himself on December 18, 2008). The investigation has confirmed the friendship between Morris and Kennedy and that Morris was aware of the death and circumstances surrounding his suicide. It is unknown if Morris knew that Kennedy utilized a blue dog leash to hang himself.

Morris organized and attended the memorial service for Kyle Locke on December 29, 2008. Kyle was Morris' ex-boyfriend who died from an apparent drug overdose the year prior. She

informed Locke's mother, Patricia, at the memorial service that she was having a difficult time dealing with Locke's death.

Patricia Locke advised that in the days leading to her death, Morris had lied to her about going alone to Anna Maria Island for New Years, that Morris had uncharacteristically cut and darkened her hair and that Morris had made odd (and false) claims to her including that she had been baptized in the Dead Sea and that she had found a friend of hers dead, hanging from a swing set when she was a child.

Genoese and Anaya both reported that they believed Morris was suffering from depression prior to her death. Anaya advised that she and Morris had openly discussed Morris' depression in the days prior to New Years.

The investigation has also revealed that Morris was not getting along with her parents at the time of her death; she was not on speaking terms with her mother and both reported to agents that they were not supportive of her relationship with Genoese.

The claim that Morris and Osborn were not on speaking terms at that time is consistent with information obtained from multiple sources during the investigation. The claim is also supported by Morris' cell phone records. Genoese and other witnesses interviewed by FDLE, including Morris' girlfriends Rebecca Anaya, Ashlie Knisely, Rena Carideo and Patricia Locke reported, in sum and substance, that Morris had told them that she was upset with her mother for reasons that included Osborn's lack of support for her relationship and upcoming wedding, Morris' claim that Osborn was "meddling" in the relationship and because she blamed Osborn for communicating with Genoese via text and telephone without Morris' knowledge.

### CONCLUSIONS

The FDLE was tasked with completing the SMART Panel recommendations. These were satisfied.

There was additional investigative activity in areas where it became apparent that it was a logical extension to determine facts that answered questions generated by interviews, examination of documents and evidence. Furthermore, Morris' family generated questions and claims over the years that needed to be addressed.

The investigation showed that Genoese was not in Manatee County when Sheena Morris was still alive and that he did not return. Witnesses who reported the initial disturbance reported no second disturbance after the departure of the BBPD.

The investigation showed that Sheena Morris did not suffer any injuries that could be attributed to a homicide. Two autopsies concluded that she died as a result of hanging. There was no evidence of her being incapacitated due to alcohol or drugs and no indication that she would have been unable to resist an attack and/or call out for help.

Issues and/or questions raised by the crime scene consultants were shown not to be consistent with the facts shown in the investigation. Additionally, the consultants did not address photographs that revealed information contrary to the theory of a staged homicide scene. An example is that none of the consultants noted the position of Morris' necklaces that were found to be in an identical position before and after her death; which would be inconsistent with her suffering a violent death or being dragged into the shower and hung.

Analysis of phone records revealed Morris' outgoing phone activity stopped after a 2:27 AM text to Genoese. She made no further calls or texts and did not respond to incoming texts from Genoese or her cousin.

Many of the "facts" contained in the public narrative were shown to be inconsistent with the results of the investigation.

The psychological autopsy performed concluded that Morris' suicide risk factors were more pronounced than protection factors.

Finally, the investigation shows no evidence of a homicide.

# MANATEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION FINGERPRINT COMPARISON REPORT AFIS RELATED IDENTIFICATION

MCSO CASE NUMBER: 09000119 (BBPD: 09-00002)

DATE EXAMINED: 10/18/2012 & 10/15/2013

OFFENSE: DEATH INVESTIGATION

REPORT SENT TO: DET. SGT. DIAZ, BRADENTON BEACH PD

VICTIM: SHEENA MORRIS

ADDRESS: 100 BRIDGE STREET #525., BRADENTON BEACH, FL

INKED IMPRESSIONS

PRINTS OF: JOSEPH GENOESE

FDLE SID: 07254128

DOB: 1/1/1964

DATE TAKEN: 10/3/2013

TAKEN BY: FEVERSTON, ROBERT 10000528

LATENT IMPRESSIONS

DEVELOPED BY: SMITH, JASON

DATE: 1/1/2009

TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS SUBMITTED: 6

# LOCATION OF LIFTS

L1-L2. TOP OF SHOWER HEAD

L3. BOTTOM OF SHOWER HEAD

L4. RIGHT SIDE OF SHOWER HEAD

L5, RIGHT SIDE OF SHOWER KNOB

L6. TILE WALL LEFT OF SHOWER HEAD

### RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

L1-L2. LATENT PRINTS UNIDENTIFIED. (NEED FULLY ROLLED PRINT OF SHEENA MORRIS FOR COMPLETE EXAMINATION)

L3-L6. LATENT PRINTS OF NO VALUE FOR IDENTIFICATION

NOTE: FULLY ROLLED FINGER AND PALM PRINTS WERE OBTAINED ON JOSEPH GENOESE BY UNDERSIGNED, LATENT EVIDENCE OF VALUE WAS REEXAMINED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

Robert / Leversto Sr.

LINDA MARIE/ROBERT FEVERSTON, CLPE CERTIFIED LATENT PRINT EXAMINERS



Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey Commissioner Ft. Myers Regional Operations Center

4700 Terminal Drive, Suite 1 Ft. Myers, Florida 33907

1-800-407-4880 www.fdle.state.fl.us Rick Scott, Governor Pam Bondi, Attorney General Jeff Atwater, Chief Financial Officer Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture

LABORATORY REPORT January 17, 2013

TO:

Chief Sam Speciale

Bradenton Beach Police

Department

403 Highland Avenue

Bradenton Beach, FL 34217-

0000

FDLE NUMBER:

20120605156

SUBMISSION:

1 and 2

AGENCY NUMBER:

2009-002

SUBPOENAS PERTAINING TO THIS CASE SHOULD REFER TO THE FDLE NUMBER.

ATTN:

Sgt. Lenard Diaz

VICTIM(S):

Sheena L Morris

Manatee County

Virginia L. Raker

Virginia L. Raker

Crime Laboratory Analyst

Death Investigation Biology Section

1/1/2009

### REFERENCE:

OFFENSE(S):

This report references evidence submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement on October 26, 2012 by Express Mail #EG986314992US and on November 20, 2012 by Express Mail #EI744832735US. This report may contain conclusions, opinions, and/or interpretations made by the author.

### **EVIDENCE:**

<b>FDLE</b>	Agency	Description
Item#	Exhibit#	
1	JS8	Left hand fingernail clippings and clipper
2	JS9	Right hand fingernail clippings and clipper
3	AW1	Blood staincard

### RESULTS:

Exhibits JS8 (left hand fingernail clippings) and JS9 (right hand fingernail clippings) failed to give chemical indications for the presence of blood.

STR DNA analysis was performed on samples from Exhibits JS8 (left hand fingernail clippings), JS9 (right hand fingernail clippings), and AW1 (Sheena Morris) utilizing the AmpFISTR Identifiler Plus PCR Amplification Kit.



Page 1 of 2

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FDLE NUMBER: 20120605156 Submissions: 1 and 2

A complete DNA profile was obtained from Exhibit AW1 (Sheena Morris).

No DNA results foreign to Sheena Morris were found on Exhibits JS8 (left hand fingernail clippings) or JS9 (right hand fingernail clippings).

### **REMARKS:**

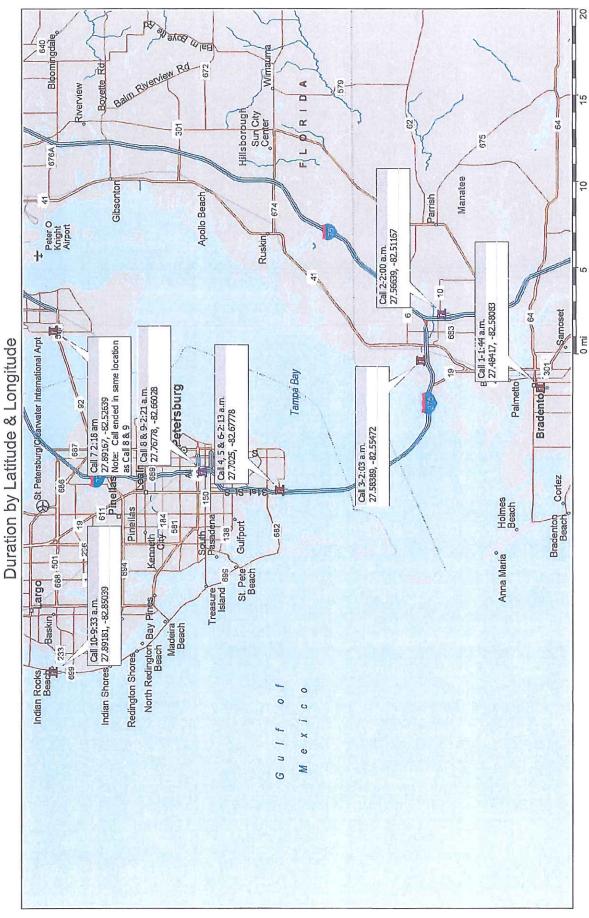
No DNA profiles were generated during analysis that met CODIS eligibility requirements.

The submitted evidence is available for retrieval or return at the earliest opportunity. This evidence includes DNA extracts. It is recommended that all DNA extracts be stored frozen.

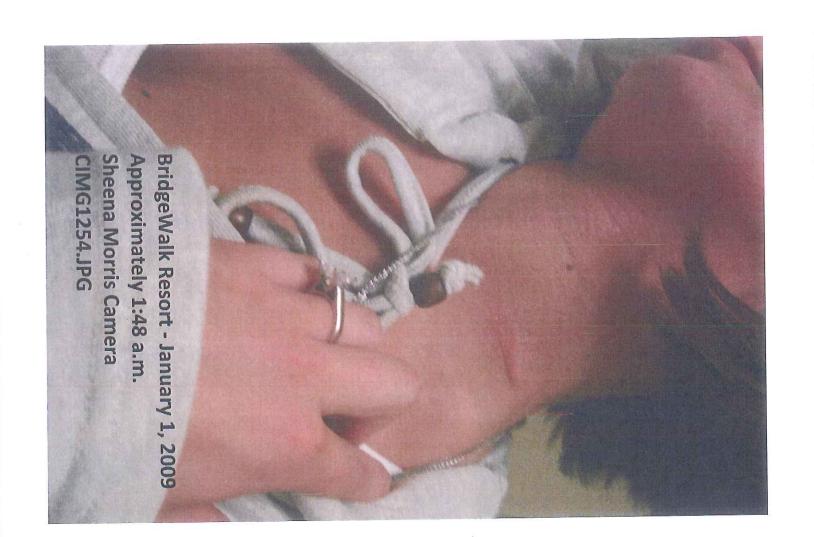
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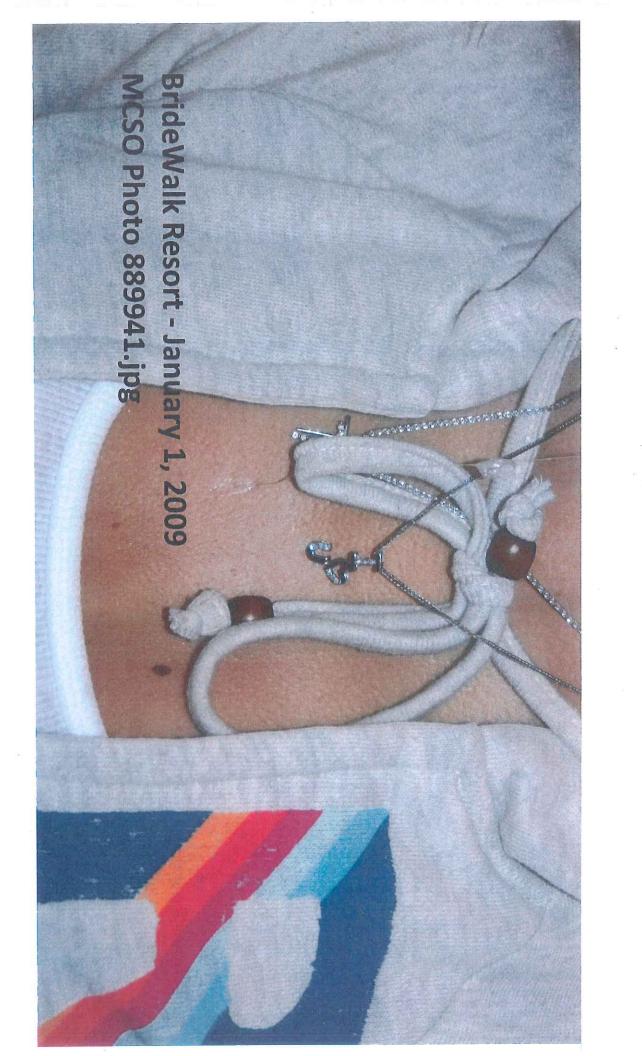
Questions regarding this report should be addressed to: VirginiaRaker@fdle.state.fl.us.

# GENOESE CELL SITE LOCATION MAP

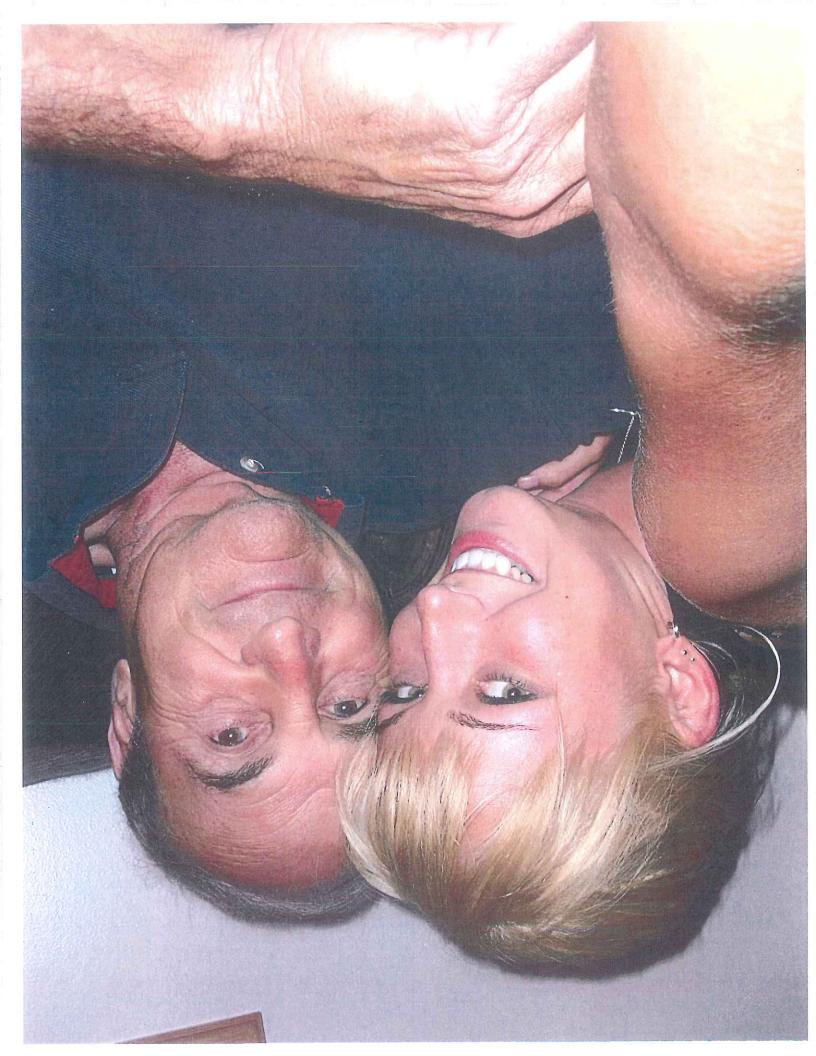


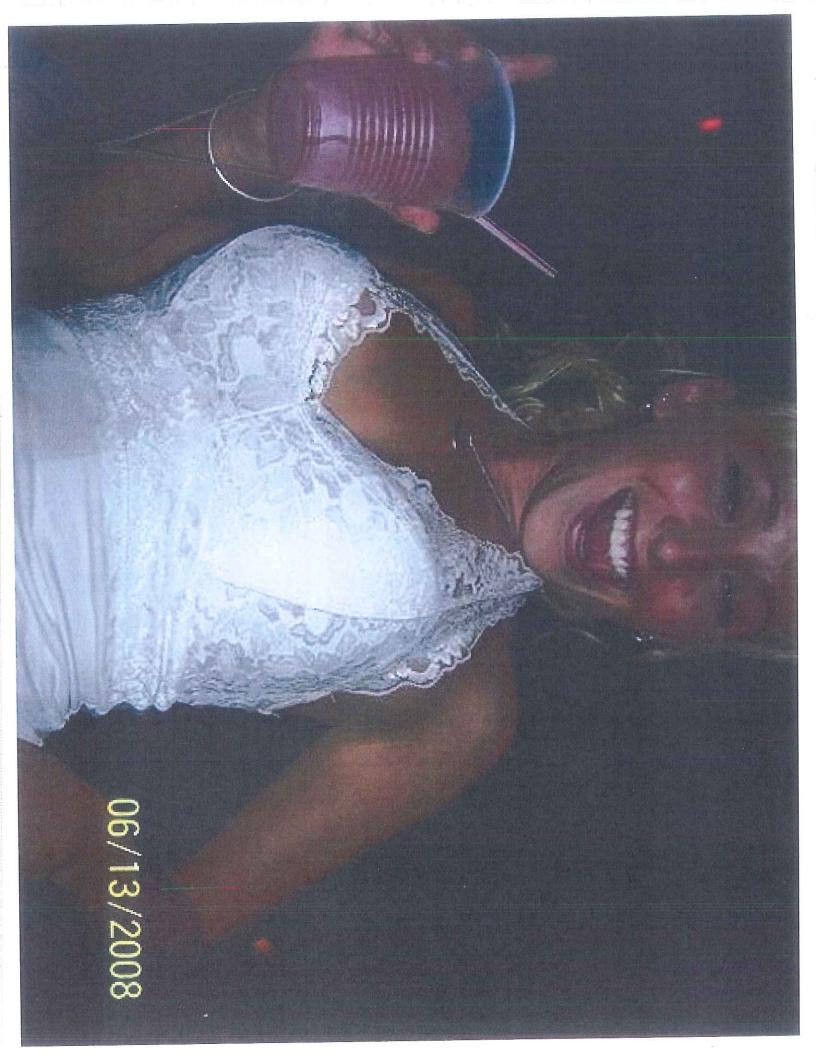
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Gerald M. Bailey Commissioner

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1-800-407-4880 www.fdle.state.fl.us Rick Scott, Governor Pam Bondi, Attorney General Jeff Atwater, Chief Financial Officer Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture

LABORATORY REPORT January 17, 2013

TO:

Chief Sam Speciale

Bradenton Beach Police

Department

403 Highland Avenue

Bradenton Beach, FL 34217-

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20120605156

SUBMISSION:

1 and 2

AGENCY NUMBER:

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VICTIM(S):

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Crime Laboratory Analyst

**Biology Section** 

**OFFENSE(S):** 

Death Investigation

Manatee County

1/1/2009

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Questions regarding this report should be addressed to: VirginiaRaker@fdle.state.fl.us.

# MANATEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION FINGERPRINT COMPARISON REPORT AFIS RELATED IDENTIFICATION

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VICTIM: SHEENA MORRIS

ADDRESS: 100 BRIDGE STREET #525., BRADENTON BEACH, FL

**INKED IMPRESSIONS** 

PRINTS OF: JOSEPH GENOESE

FDLE SID: 07254128

DOB: 1/1/1964

DATE TAKEN: 10/3/2013

TAKEN BY: FEVERSTON, ROBERT 10000528

LATENT IMPRESSIONS

DEVELOPED BY: SMITH, JASON

DATE: 1/1/2009

TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS SUBMITTED: 6

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L3, BOTTOM OF SHOWER HEAD

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L5. RIGHT SIDE OF SHOWER KNOB

L6, TILE WALL LEFT OF SHOWER HEAD

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LINDA MARIE/ROBERT FEVERSTON, CLPE CERTIFIED LATENT PRINT EXAMINERS

Robert / Tevento Si

# Michael M. Baden, M.D.

15 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 18 New York, New York 10019

Telephone: (212) 397-2732

Facsimile: (212) 397-2754

# **AUTOPSY REPORT**

Name of Deceased:

Sheena Morris (22 years old)

Date of Birth:

August 1, 1986

Date of Death:

January 1, 2009

Place of Death:

Bridge Walk Resort

Bradentown Beach, Florida

Place of Autopsy:

Manatee Medical Examiner Facility

Sarasota, Florida

Prosector:

Suzanne R. Urtley, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner

Cause of Death:

Hanging

Manner of Death:

Suicide

### **EXHUMATION**

**Exhumation:** 

Kreuger Funeral Home (from Our Lady of Peace Cemetery)

Onondaga County, New York

Place of Re-autopsy:

Albany Medical Center

Prosector:

Michael M. Baden, M.D.

Authorization:

Kelly Osborn, mother

Date of Re-autopsy:

July 22, 2010

Cause of Death:

Asphyxia due to neck compression due to hanging

Manner of Death:

Undetermined

Michael W Bade

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The remains are received in a white metal casket stamped "Astral Industries, Inc. Premium 20 gauge steel." The interior is dry and Ms. Morris' body is in an excellent state of preservation. She is dressed in a white taffeta formal dress. Her head hair is light brown and about eight inches long. Embalmer's makeup on face. Her ungloved hands lay in repose on the lower abdomen, the right over the left. Dried roses, pink and white notes and stuffed animals lay on the lower half of her body. She is wearing a right wrist tennis bracelet, clear stone pierced earrings and ring on her left fourth finger, and two thin silver necklaces, one with an attached cross.

On removing the dress, an embalmer's plastic wrap covers the chest, abdomen and lower extremities individually. There are four identification tags around the right lower leg and ankle. Sheena is about 63 inches tall, weighs about 110 pounds and is well-developed and well-nourished. Sutured thoraco-abdominal and inter-mastoid autopsy incisions are intact. A 1-1/2 inch horizontal embalmer's sutured incision is present on the anterior neck. Small professional tattoos are on the right hip and groin area (bumble bee and flower), dorsum of right foot (flower) and lower midback (Asian character). There are clear embalmer's covers over the eyes. Prominent conjunctival petechiae are present bilaterally. The nose is intact. The teeth are in good condition. There is an approximately one-half wide inch furrow about the neck that cants upward

on the left side and crosses anteriorly superior to the thyroid cartilage. Chest, abdomen, pelvis, genitalia show no significant injury.

# INTERNAL EXAMINATION

The soft tissues and musculature of the neck show no injury beneath the skin and no hemorrhage. The larynx is intact without any fracture. The hyoid bone is not present. I did speak to Dr. Utley who told me that she had retained the hyoid bone and that it was intact and without any evidence of injury.

Upon opening the thoraco-abdominal incision, the underlying muscles and soft tissues are well-embalmed. No injury is present. Bilateral breast implants are in place. The embalmed viscera are in a red plastic bag. Examination of the dissected heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys, genital organs, gastro-intestinal track and brain show all of the organs to be unremarkable and normal. Examination of the head shows no fractures of the skull or facial bones.

Toxicological examination showed a blood alcohol concentration of 0.065%, which is below the DWI level; no drugs of abuse were present.

Cause of Death:

Asphyxia due to neck compression due to hanging.

Manner of Death:

Undetermined.

Michael M. Baden, M.D.