

REPORTING OFFICER NARRATIVE

Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

OCA 2001-001152
Date / Time Reported Thu 03/22/2001 17:06

Victim MAROCCHI, MARY PROVIDENCE	Offense MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLA
--	--

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

VICTIM: Mary Providence Marocchi DOB: 02-11-16
 Sunrise Assisted Living Center SSN: [REDACTED]
 194 E. Lee Street
 Warrenton, VA 20186
 Phone: [REDACTED]

SUSPECT: Gerald J. Wood W/M; DOB: 10-07-47
 Loudoun Hospital SSN: [REDACTED]
 Behavioral Medicine Unit
 224 Cornwell Street
 Leesburg, VA
 Phone: [REDACTED]

NATURE OF CASE: Homicide

On the 22nd of March 2001 at approximately 1100 hours in the afternoon, this detective was contacted by Dr. Ralph Robinson of Fauquier Hospital and advised that while performing his duties as a County Medical Examiner for Fauquier County, he was examining the remains of an elderly female who had reportedly been injured at the Sunrise Assisted Living Center and subsequently expired due to her injuries.

Dr. Robinson went on to explain to this detective that the victim in this case, Mary Marocchi, had been admitted to Fauquier Hospital on the 19th of March 2001 at approximately 1:53 in the afternoon after she'd reportedly been injured after falling from a wheel chair. Dr. Robinson advised this detective that the information he had received from Dr. Joseph David, who is the attending physician for Ms. Marocchi and also the physician for the Sunrise Assisted Living Center, was a resident at the facility had become angry and in the process had pushed three (3) residents from their chairs in the main living room and caused the injuries to Ms. Marocchi as noted.

Dr. Robinson further explained Ms. Marocchi was admitted to the emergency room with a history of a contusion and a laceration over the left eye, a laceration to the left wrist. Further radiological examination showed Ms. Marocchi had a fracture of the left humerus at the junction between the humeral neck and the ball of the humeral head. Dr. Robinson then explained that over the next two (2) days Ms. Marocchi continued to have a degradation of a respiratory status, which caused concern with hospital staff. Ultimately it was determined Ms. Marocchi would need a CAT scan performed on her head. In the process it was discovered there was a large frontal hematoma, which Dr. David felt was directly attributable to the injuries she had received during this assault incident at Sunrise Assisted Living Center. Ms. Marocchi's condition continued to decline and ultimately Ms. Marocchi expired on the 21st of March 2001 at approximately 8 o'clock in the evening. Dr. Robinson called this detective to advise him of the circumstances because he wanted to know whether or not our office felt an autopsy was appropriate. This detective advised Dr. Robinson that he was completely unaware of this incident or of Ms. Marocchi's death. I felt an autopsy was most certainly appropriate and that we would begin an investigation into the situation.

This detective then contacted Capt. Pfeiff of the Criminal Investigation Division and advised him of the circumstances as they were relayed to me by Dr. Robinson. Capt. Pfeiff agreed that an investigation would be

REPORTING OFFICER NARRATIVE

Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

OCA
2001-001152
Date / Time Reported
Thu 03/22/2001 17:06

Victim	Offense
MAROCCHI, MARY PROVIDENCE	MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLA

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

initiated and whatever information we could learn would be brought to bear.

This detective then made contact with staff members at the Sunrise Assisted Living Center. Upon advising them we were looking into the incident leading to Ms. Marocchi's death, we were advised by staff they would assist us in any way and we were invited to come to the facility to start doing interviews and whatever else work was necessary. Prior to leaving for the assisted living center, this detective contacted Ms. Sandra Mercer of the Adult Protective Services of the Department of Social Services for Fauquier County and advised her of the circumstances of Ms. Marocchi's death and the injuries from Sunrise Assisted Living Center. Ms. Mercer advised this detective she was already aware of the incident and she had been notified by the Sunrise Assisted Living Center staff on Wednesday, the 21st of March, in the evening. It was agreed that myself, Det. Durica, and Ms. Mercer would go to the Sunrise Assisted Living Center and begin our initial investigation. During this initial coordination phase, this detective was contacted by Dr. Robinson and advised that a post mortem examination would be conducted on Ms. Marocchi on Friday, the 23rd of March, at approximately 0830 in the morning.

This detective and Det. Durica then responded to the Sunrise Assisted Living Center located at 194 E. Lee Street in Warrenton, VA. Upon meeting with Ms. Mercer, we spoke with Melody Snow-Brown, who is the Executive Director of the facility and advised her of the investigation needs. Ms. Brown agreed to assist this detective in any way and interviews were conducted with Ms. Snow-Brown and with other staff members concerning this incident. What was relayed to this detective was different than what had originally been relayed to hospital staff, in that the suspect in this case, Gerald Wood, had been staying in the facility for approximately one (1) month after being transferred there from Pine Brooke Hospital. On the 19th Mr. Wood was seated in the living room, along with several other residents, most of whom were Alzheimer patients and not mobile. Ms. Marocchi was not an Alzheimer patient but because of her neurological conditions was essentially wheelchair bound. A nurse by the name of Sue Elliott was in the main hallway just outside of the living room when she heard what appeared to be a commotion going on in the inside of the living room. Ms. Elliott turned the corner in time to see Mr. Wood holding a female resident by the name of Regina Hall over his head, by her waist, and appearing, in the words of Ms. Elliott "getting ready to throw her down to the ground". Ms. Elliott then ordered Mr. Wood to put Ms. Hall down, to which he complied. Mr. Wood then turned and faced Ms. Elliott and she immediately became aware of the fact that his face was a deep red in color, in her words "his neck veins were engorged and he looked as if he was in a rage".

Ms. Elliott stated to this detective her immediate response was to back up several steps because she felt he was going to be coming after her next; but Mr. Wood then sat down, giving Ms. Elliott the chance to look around the room and in her words, she viewed a "war zone". Ms. Elliott described she saw three (3) residents laying scattered throughout the room on the floor. One resident by the name of Crissy Delaney was on the floor next to a chair by the entrance leading into the living room. The next was a patient by the name of Selim Zigiri, who was strapped to a wheelchair in the corner. He was on his side, as apparently the wheelchair had been flipped over with him still secured in it. The third victim she noticed in the room was Ms. Marocchi, who was laying face down in the center of the room approximately five (5) feet away from any chair or other piece of furniture near her. Ms. Elliott would later go on to tell this detective that when she went to check on Ms. Marocchi she noticed her left arm appeared to be angled away from her body at an odd position and she could see Ms. Marocchi bleeding from one eye. Ms. Marocchi was able to speak to her, but in her words "she had a look of great fright in her face".

REPORTING OFFICER NARRATIVE

Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

OCA
2001-001152
Date / Time Reported
Thu 03/22/2001 17:06

Victim	Offense
MAROCCHI, MARY PROVIDENCE	MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLA

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Ms. Elliott went on to describe that staff members would take Mr. Wood down to the office area and one of the nurses, Ms. Idela Marshall, asked Mr. Wood what had happened and what he did. Mr. Wood would explain to her later that he wanted to stop that man (and we believe that was Mr. Zigiri) from spitting on the floor. Apparently Mr. Zigiri was recovering from a severe case of congestion and Mr. Zigiri, who is an Alzheimer patient, would just spit on the floor. Apparently this enraged Mr. Wood, who subsequently went across the room, turned Mr. Zigiri over and then started grabbing other residents in a rage and picking them up and throwing them to the floor.

Other staff members came to the room and began giving care to the different residents in the room. It should be noted that there were other residents in the room who Mr. Wood apparently did not otherwise attack or assault. It is noted that in speaking with staff and where they recall the different people seated or sitting before this event, they were all sitting somewhat close to and clustered around Mr. Zigiri prior to this event occurring.

This detective then requested to receive more information concerning Mr. Wood and Ms. Snow-Brown was able to advise this detective Mr. Wood had been admitted to their facility after he was released from Pine Brooke for aggression and apparently what was described to them as "him having an uncharacteristic episode" at another facility in Charlottesville. No other information was available to them at the time as to what this uncharacteristic episode might have been. Ms. Snow-Brown advised this detective that after this incident occurred and Ms. Marocchi was transported to Fauquier Hospital by EMS personnel, she arranged for Mr. wood to be transported to the Behavioral Medicine Unit of Loudoun Hospital for isolation and medication adjustment as part of their normal protocol. Ms. Snow-Browne advised this detective that Mr. Wood is suffering from a condition called Huntingtons disease, which is described as a neuromuscular condition in which the patient loses function and control of their musculature and nervous system, followed by a loss of the ability to speak and difficulty in swallowing, which in later stages also affects cognition and mental ability. Ms. Snow-Browne and other staff members were able to tell this detective Mr. Wood was able to move and walk about the facility and he would require assistance only to maintain balance, but at times he was seen walking and moving on his own. Mr. Wood is also able to speak and understand language, is able to respond to commands and is able to respond to questions and so forth when placed to him by different staff members.

This detective attempted, along with the assistance of Det. Durica and Inv. Mercer, to speak to the different individuals who were in the room at the time that this event occurred; but due to their varying stages of dementia was not able to get any responses from any of the people in the room at the time as to what happened. Specifically Ms. Delaney, Mr. Zigiri, and Ms. Hall were questioned about what they could remember of the event and none of them were able to respond to any questions in any format about understanding what had occurred.

During interviews with other staff members this detective had an opportunity to speak to a Ms. Judy Brown, who is one of the housekeepers at the facility. Ms. Brown was able to describe to this detective how when she heard the commotion she had entered the room and had seen Mr. Wood now sitting down, but extremely agitated and in her words, "hyperventilating and that his adrenaline was up", as she put it. She stated he appeared to be very agitated. When Ms. Brown asked another resident what had happened to Mary Marocchi, the resident, who was identified as Gladys Sidewell, looked at Ms. Brown and said, "he picked her up and he threw her". Now this comment was given to Ms. Brown immediately after the incident, when apparently Ms. Sidewell's short-term memory was functioning properly. But subsequent discussions with this detective with Ms. Sidewell proved to be fruitless.

REPORTING OFFICER NARRATIVE

Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

OCA 2001-001152
Date / Time Reported Thu 03/22/2001 17:06

Victim MAROCCHI, MARY PROVIDENCE	Offense MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLA
-------------------------------------	---

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Early interviews conducted with various staff members essentially gave the same information as previously noted in this early report.

Based on all this information this detective reported back to Capt. Pfeiff of the Criminal Investigation Division advising him of the nature of the case, and it was decided that the best course of action would be to title this case as a homicide as indicated and continue with the investigation.

On the 23rd of March 2001 this detective, along with Inv. Mercer from Adult Protective Services, attended the autopsy of Ms. Mary Marocchi at the Northern Virginia Medical Examiners Office in Fairfax, VA. During the subsequent post mortem examination, it was found that Ms. Marocchi was suffering from a impacted fracture of the left humerus, a laceration with hematoma over the left eye, and a significant laceration over the left wrist. Internal examination disclosed heavy bruising and contusion along the left chest wall, upper arm and shoulder region, including the musculature around the chest wall and shoulder. Dissection of the brain showed a marked and impressive hemorrhage of the subarachnoid area, which included blood flowing into the gyres of the brain and concurrent pinpoint hemorrhages in the brain stem and cerebellum. For more specific details on the autopsy, please refer to the post mortem examination report contained within this case file. Dr. Fields agreed with this detective and with Dr. David's impression that the cause of death was due to the significant cerebral hemorrhage in the front region of the brain, as well as in the brain stem and in the cerebellum, most likely from Ms. Marocchi's impact with the floor. When this detective advised Dr. Fields that the initial report was that Ms. Marocchi fell from her chair, Dr. Fields responded that these trauma's would not be consistent with a fall of that short a distance and that the other information given by witnesses as to her possibly being thrown to the floor were much more consistent.

After returning to the Criminal Investigation Division this detective advised Capt. Pfeiff of the findings of the post mortem examination. It was decided the next course of action would be to attempt to speak to Mr. Wood at the Behavioral Medicine Unit of Loudoun County Hospital. This detective then contacted a representative of that facility for the purposes of arranging to meet with Mr. Wood. This detective spoke to a staff member there by the name of Judy, who is a social worker with that facility. This detective was surprised when he was told there was a Power of Attorney in place from the brother of Gerald Wood, stating that any and all communications with Mr. Wood would be handled through their attorney in Charlottesville. This detective then again attempted to clarify the position of the facility with our office and asked the question that if this detective were to go to that facility to try to speak to Mr. Wood about this incident, would he be refused access. The staff member just simply replied that they had an obligation to protect the privacy and the rights of their patient and would have to follow the direction of the Power of Attorney and direct me to speak to counsel for Mr. Wood.

With this information this detective spoke with Sheriff Higgs, Col. Jenkins and Capt. Pfeiff. Several scenarios were examined and evaluated concerning the best course of action to follow. It was determined any action at this point could wait until Monday when appropriate logistical support might be available to further determine whether Mr. Wood should be taken into custody and brought to this facility.

Later on the evening of the 23rd this detective received a faxed letter from Mr. William C. Scott IV, who acknowledges he is legal counsel and represents Mr. Wood. In the letter from Mr. Scott, Mr. Scott states that Mr.

REPORTING OFFICER NARRATIVE

Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

OCA 2001-001152
Date / Time Reported Thu 03/22/2001 17:06

Victim MAROCCHI, MARY PROVIDENCE	Offense MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLA
-------------------------------------	---

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Wood hereby asserts his fifth amendment right against self-incrimination and that in his opinion any interviewing of Mr. Wood would be involuntary and in violation of those fifth amendment rights due to his diminished mental capacity. Mr. Scott went on to say that he would ask that any interviews that were done with Mr. Wood would not take place without himself being present. He also advised us that due to Mr. Wood's mental and physical conditions he needed to remain at the Loudoun facility in the care of his psychiatrist and other personnel. If we had any questions we could contact him accordingly. This information, of course, was relayed to Capt. Pfeiff and Sheriff Higgs.

Based on this information and other concerns and issues, it was felt that our best course of action was to continue with the interviews of all staff members, documenting whatever circumstances could be obtained from other medical records, until such time we had a better picture of Mr. Wood's clinical and psychological conditions before deciding what course of action, when we take him into custody, concerning this case.

Numerous other interviews are in the process of being conducted in this case, as well as the obtaining of medical records and other records documenting this case and other circumstances around both Mr. Wood and Ms. Marocchi. As those reports and interviews are conducted and completed they will be further reported on in supplements to follow and documented within this case file.

CASE STATUS: Active/ongoing investigation