

fax cover sheet

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To : [REDACTED]

From : Robert C WitbolsFeugen

Company :

Company : The WitbolsFeugen Family

Fax Number : [REDACTED]

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Pages including this cover page : 3

Subject : Anastasia E WitbolsFeugen

Message :



An open letter from Anastasia's family

October 20, 1998

Dear Friends of Anastasia,

It is with heavy hearts that we reach out to you today. Almost one full year after Anastasia's murder, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department is still unable to confirm under what circumstances she died. JCSD seems to use the reasoning of the ignorant when they say the event of her death " is more than likely a murder-suicide case but that investigators may never be able to prove it," convincingly acknowledging that there may be a link between her murder and the death of her boyfriend, Justin Bruton. Indeed, they must have worked very hard this past year to make that connection, because initially they were unwilling to even acknowledge that he was a suspect, or that there might have even been more than a coincidental association between the two deaths.

Aside from the responsibility of the murderer and those who have maintained their silences about the factual events of that day, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department has maintained sole responsibility for answering the question of who murdered our daughter and our sister, Anastasia. JCSD has announced several times that "the case is still open, the case is still being investigated and no one has been ruled out as a suspect." There is evidence, critical to this investigation, which to this day has never been collected and much more that could be pursued if it were not for the lack of enthusiasm by the investigating officer or because it was just too much effort to get search warrants or subpoenas. Important decisions are postponed due to 'fear of failure', and the embarrassment it would bring to the Department if they were wrong yet again. It is difficult to imagine a more compelling situation for the appointment of an entirely independent investigation team to be introduced into this matter, who would oversee an attempt at righting this case.

The theories concerning of Anastasia's death has seldom included the concept of a random murder, but they do include scenarios ranging from a tragic accident to a willful and malicious singular act and also to that of a conspiracy involving many. It is not our place to contribute to this mystery but rather let everyone know that we have seen and heard significant evidence, that is based in both testimony and borne out with facts. We do not have the authority to direct actions of this investigation, as has been directly and pointedly stated on several occasions by the JCSD detective who, to this date, does have that distinction. We know that to speak out brings its own issues, but as you also know, there are others who are as disheartened as we are, who are biting their tongues, searching for way to walk upright again. We are aware what has occurred to many is that Anastasia's father have been portrayed by JCSD as frustrated and disgruntled, willing to attempt any ploy to get them to show some response. Even to the point that they view his actions as suspicious enough to continue to warrant his status as a "potential suspect".

Sergeant Gary M. Kilgore has consistently refused to seek the assistance of outside law enforcement professionals since the beginning of this investigation. As evidenced by statements from the JCSD, they had no clue to Anastasia's identity, until a private citizen stepped forward with leading information about her identity. Despite the fact that her body was discovered within a few hundred feet of the two adjacent law-enforcement jurisdictions, JCSD did not attempt to expedite the identity of the victim by contacting them. Her father had contacted both Kansas City and Independence Police soon after her disappearance the night before, and though no official written record was made at either jurisdiction, the officers he spoke with were still on duty at the time her body was discovered.

Those initial errors could have been forgiven if then the evidence had been pursued with vigor. However, JCSD will never regain the potential momentum lost in those initial hours. Again, in the most recent public statements they still have been unable to rule out any suspects. Granted it is impossible to hear Justin's testimony, but his actions may have already spoken louder than words.

Why did Justin buy the gun the morning after he reported Anastasia as missing and before it became public knowledge that Anastasia was dead? Justin's stepfather has speculated privately that "he may have done that for self-protection." Did Justin plan a stand off with the police or were his actions less directed? Mr. Bruton later hired a private detective to gain answers to some very unusual and disturbing facts surrounding Justin's death. That detective discovered additionally that avoidable errors committed by a rookie Johnson County Deputy contaminated the crime scene. Vital information may have been obliterated that may have led investigators to a far different conclusion about the circumstances of Justin's death. JCSD has said that it is not charged with searching for the possible explanations of Justin's death; however, they currently link the "coincidental" deaths in a likely murder/suicide scenario. It is unfortunate that JCSD would have to admit that possibility without any supporting testimony or facts, except for the testimony of some that claim to have last seen them together. They have provided the story of an argument that except those that say they were last seen together, leave her standing by the roadside. A separation then followed by hours of time and a distance of miles. If anyone knows why that scenario is invalid, then you should call the TIPS Hotline because you could claim the reward offered by both families.

It is not widely known that Anastasia's father (along with a few others) has openly and officially complained about the Jackson County Sheriff's Department's failure to execute their jobs in a professional and ethical manner. Those who have had first hand knowledge of JCSD's tactics and lack of professionalism agree that the voluntary cooperation they claim to desire is more often met with their contempt than appreciation. Indeed, they have done everything contrary to the encouragement of cooperation and placed more than one individual's rights in jeopardy. Additionally, they have exclusively pursued their own pet theories, ignoring facts and testimony that did not support the assumptions they made. They have been deceptive and untruthful under the direct light of scrutiny of their investigative procedures, even when honesty would not have directly compromised the confidentiality of the investigation.

It is extremely frustrating to be kept in the dark about the progress they may be making. When viewed with the additional knowledge of past errors and admissions of shortcomings, it seems a charade of justice to believe they are on a path that will soon resolve this case. This is only part of the reason why we have repeatedly requested they invite the Metro Squad to review the evidence. The facts of this case and the needless mystery surrounding it should make it as newsworthy as any seen in the national media recently, but instead has faded into the background. Because JCSD has so haphazardly handled the facts and the investigation is so precipitously positioned, we are in danger of losing all we have worked so hard to contribute to if further efforts are not carefully placed to bear on the shoulders of a supporting agency. Unfortunately all our eggs seem to be in one basket. As we have noted before, only JCSD has the authority to direct the activity of this investigation, and apparently answers to no one.

**We ask you to participate in protest for justice by sending your message or this letter to the**

**Jackson County Sheriff's Department %Sheriff James D Anderson 3310 N.E. Rennau Drive  
Lee's Summit, MO / 64064 / PH# 816-524-4304 / FAX # 816-524-4340**