

# Office of Law

Nancy McCutchan Duden, County Attorney

County Executive Steven R. Schuh

Anne Arundel County Office of Law  
2660 Riva Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 6675  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Phone: 410-222-7888 (main)  
Phone: 410-222-4209 (direct)  
Fax: 410-222-7835

Philip E. Culpepper  
Senior Assistant County Attorney  
pculpepper@aacounty.org

February 5, 2015

Marguerite Morris  
45985 North Greens Rest Drive  
Great Mills, Maryland 20634

**Re: MPIA Request of 1/9/15**

Dear Ms. Morris:

Anne Arundel County, Maryland is in receipt of your Maryland Public Information Act ("MPIA") request dated 1/9/15. I am responding on behalf of the Custodian of Records for the Police Department. Your request has been reviewed by the Custodian in compliance with the MPIA. You requested: 1) a list of persons that served on a particular panel; 2) meeting times, places and dates from those meetings; 3) any and all minutes from those meetings; 4) physical evidence the panel reviewed; and 5) confirmation that a person requested by the NAACP was invited and participated in the meetings.

A search for records responsive to your requests was conducted. Please be advised that the MPIA only requires the Custodian of Records to produce actual records that exist at the time of the request. It does not require the Custodian to answer questions posed. However, Major Hasenpusch of the Police Department indicates that the Cold Case Review Committee was an informal group headed up by Mr. Michael McQuillan and met to discuss your daughter's case on November 15, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at police headquarters and on February 3, 2014. The meeting minutes and notes from that meeting are presumably in the custody of Mr. McQuillan (who I understand is not a County employee). These items are not in the custody of the Police Department and therefore cannot be produced.

The Custodian's search for other responsive records turned up the enclosed documentation. We reproduce it for you at no cost. Redactions of personal information of individuals have been made in compliance with the mandates of the MPIA. You are permitted to seek judicial review of the Custodian's response to your request pursuant to § 4-362 of the MPIA. At this time the Custodian will consider your request fulfilled to the extent that it can be fulfilled. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Culpepper  
Senior Assistant County Attorney

Enclosures

cc: Christine Ryder [w/o enclosures]  
Sarah Beardsley [w/o enclosures]



Police Department  
8495 Veterans Highway  
Millersville, Maryland 21108  
(410) 222-8500  
(410) 987-9167 fax



Kevin Davis  
Chief of Police

October 3, 2013

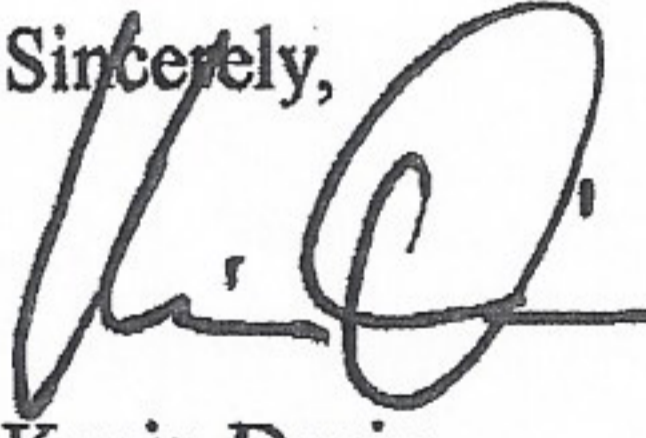
Major Michael Straughan (ret): \_\_\_\_\_  
Lieutenant Michael McQuillan (ret): \_\_\_\_\_  
Lieutenant Ken O'Berry (ret): \_\_\_\_\_  
Sergeant Tom Jensen (ret): \_\_\_\_\_  
Sergeant Bob Simpson (ret): \_\_\_\_\_  
Detective Steve Ricker (ret): \_\_\_\_\_  
Detective Dave McDonald (ret): \_\_\_\_\_

As a former homicide detective, you are undoubtedly painfully aware of the frustrations associated with unsolved murder investigations. These investigations become cold cases before we are ready for them to leave our primary sights, and detectives are compelled to focus on the next red ball that challenges their capacity to juggle multiple cases with equal vigor.

In the absence of a cold case unit, I respectfully invite you to become a volunteer member of the Anne Arundel County Police Department's Cold Case Review Committee. We will meet quarterly at AACOPD headquarters each November, February, May, and August. Our inaugural meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 8 at 11:00am. Lunch will be provided.

I greatly respect your credentials as an accomplished homicide detective, but value your integrity and character even more. Please consider joining this unique group. It requires nothing more than your thoughts regarding potential investigative strategies for my homicide detectives. Justice delayed, after all, is justice denied.

Please RSVP to [policechief@aacounty.org](mailto:policechief@aacounty.org) or at 410-222-8500 at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,  
  
Kevin Davis  
Chief of Police

KD/sr

*Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

Recycled Paper

Anne Arundel County Police Department  
Millersville, Maryland

Inter-Office Correspondence

February 7, 2014

To: Chief Kevin Davis  
Chief of Police

Via: Chain of Command

From: Sergeant J. Poole #1442 JP; JSD; JCHH *pkw*  
Criminal Investigation Division

Subject: Katherine Morris Suicide Review Summary

Message:

Katherine Morris Suicide Review  
2012-716431

Per the request and recommendations of the Cold Case Review Committee the following points/facts were re-examined and reviewed regarding the Katherine Morris Suicide:

- Obtain particulars on the surveillance video activity capturing Ms. Morris' vehicle as she committed suicide and answer Mrs. Margarite Morris request regarding "missing" footage.
- Attempt to establish if Katherine Morris purchased the disposable charcoal grills utilized as the method to commit suicide.
- Forensically examine the packaging of the disposable grills, nighttime sleep aid pill bottle and lighter recovered from within Ms. Morris' vehicle to ascertain if any foreign fingerprints are present.

Based on the above requests Homicide Detectives filed Court Orders looking into the financial records of Ms. Katherine Morris. It was found she had one (1) credit card in her name. A Court Order was served on "Barclaycard Company" requesting detailed purchase and billing records for said card covering the time period March 17, 2012 through May 16, 2012 (the date of the suicide was May 6, 2012). The requested statement returned, "No Transaction Activity at This Time" and "Account had a balance during the time period noted, however no transactions came through". Indicating Ms. Morris had not made any purchases in the time frame examined with said credit card.

Homicide Detectives also met with representatives from Wal-Mart in order to establish if tracking the grills purchased was possible through their internal inventory controls. Wal-Mart did recognize the product and acknowledge selling them in their stores. However, due to the item being "seasonal" in nature their sales are not tracked.

The Evidence Collection Unit also attempted to process the recovered grills, pill bottle and lighter for latent prints. All items were both Cyanoacrylate Fume processed and dusted with black powder. There were no viable samples obtained.

The video originally obtained of Ms. Morris' vehicle parked near the community college where she committed suicide was recorded and captured by Anne Arundel Community College security cameras. Mrs. Margarite Morris expressed concerns that portions of the video were missing or the video had been disturbed. This is most likely due to the fact there are several hours of footage where there is no motion on the screen and it appears as if the recording is "paused". The video is motion activated and will only record if the cameras observe movement within the recorded area. Homicide detectives spoke to the Director of Public Safety for the Community College Mr. Gary Lyle who offered to write a letter to Chief Kevin Davis regarding the functionality and integrity of the footage captured. Said letter should already have been received by the Chief's Office. Mr. Lyle advised he has previously been deposed regarding this matter by Mrs. Margarite Morris' attorney at which time he stated same. Mr. Scott McDaniel who works for Earth Security and is the person responsible for the installation and maintenance of the security cameras was spoken to and also verified the cameras only record when motion is detected.

All of the above facts and findings were presented to the Cold Case Review Committee on Monday, February 3, 2014 and it is their opinion this case displays no evidence of anything other than a suicide.