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February 26, 2008

Thomas M. Knight, Sheriff
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
P. O. Box 4115
Sarasota, Florida 34230-4115

Re: Death of Murray Cohen

Dear Sheriff Knight:

I received yours of January 23, 2009, copy attached. I am very disappointed in your position that this case has been closed by your agency. I am enclosing my previous letter to Governor Crist outlining the problems and allegations. I have attached concerning messages to the prior Sheriff from Maria Cohen. I have also attached an e-mail composite documenting recent back and forth between myself Kurt Hoffman. None of my very basic questions were ever answered.

On a separate note, you indicate that your office does not have a bias against Steve Esdale. I am attaching your own internal e-mails, which refer to him, repeatedly, in a negative and malicious fashion. To demonstrate, David Scott refers to him as a "pain in the neck." Gary Kragenbrink refers to him as "a certified loose in the wind flake." Captain Jeff Bell refers to my client as a "nut." I also question Mr. Bell's personal relationship with Ms. Cohen, which you should explore immediately. This is very unprofessional, and clearly represents a conflict of interest.

I am not in this case for my health. I am not getting paid for my work. I am an extremely busy lawyer and do not have time for nonsense. As an officer of the court, I truly believe that justice has been misplaced.

Please do your job as Sheriff. Reopen the case. Answer my simple questions about false documents, data and investigation provided by your agency. Get the body which your own medical examiner at the time of death requested that you do, and finally, after six years, do a real investigation. Demonstrate to me that it is still illegal to murder people in Sarasota.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Gelman

MHG/lcf
Enc.

cc: Kristen Cosby, CBS - Fox 30 News(w encls.)
Susan Candiotti, CNN(w encls)
Jesse Waters, O'Reilly Factor(w encls)
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