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July 12, 2016

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Derek W. DeVine was appointed special prosecutor for Sandusky County in April 2016 to review the death of Lee Naus. Mr. Naus had died on October 1, 1999. The death had initially been investigated by the Fremont Police Department in 1999. It was re-investigated in 2015 and 2016 by the Fremont Police Department.

The investigation was presented to the Sandusky County Grand Jury today. The Grand Jury has issued a report which is attached hereto. Special Prosecutor DeVine said, "I have thoroughly reviewed the entire investigation and there is no evidence to support a murder charge. We have rumors of a prank, but even if they were true the potential charge would be negligent homicide. The statute of limitations has long ago run for such a misdemeanor charge."

"The Grand Jury was presented the entire investigation and they have reported that they have conclusively agreed that no criminal charges are appropriate in this matter. They have also reported that they have concluded that there is no evidence of any "cover-up" by the Fremont Police Department. I concur in this assessment. Due to the passage of time it is unclear if Detective O'Connell did not document his entire investigation or if the computer records are inaccessible," said DeVine.

"When I was appointed Special Prosecutor the Fremont Police Department provided me access to the entire investigation and asked if there was any additional investigation that was needed. They also offered to bring in another agency, such as BCI, to work the case at my discretion. After reviewing the entire matter, including meeting with Detective Oddo and others at the Fremont Police Department it was clear to me that the matter had been

investigated thoroughly and that there was no conflict of interest that necessitated an independent investigatory agency.”

DeVine concluded, “This is the end of the criminal investigation into the death of Lee Naus. I hope that the family and friends of Mr. Naus find some solace in knowing that the investigation is over.”

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

2016 JUL 12 AM 11:06
TRACY H. OVERMYER
CLERK

IN RE: REPORT FROM THE SANDUSKY COUNTY
GRAND JURY REGARDING THE
DEATH OF LEE NAUS

Case # _____

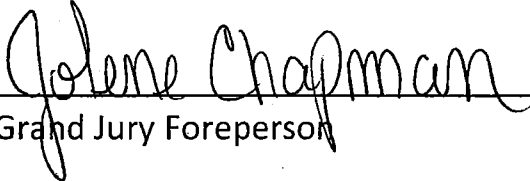
On July 12, 2016 the Sandusky County Grand Jury meet and heard a presentation of evidence from the Fremont Police Department regarding the October 1, 1999 death of Lee Naus. The grand jury finds as follows:

1. The evidence does not establish that the death of Lee Naus was a criminal act by any person or persons.
2. The evidence presented did include rumors that one or more persons had placed Lee Naus in the dumpster as a joke. We found this evidence unreliable to charge a person or persons with a crime. Based on an explanation by the Prosecuting Attorney we understand that this rumor testimony would not be admissible in court. We found no admissible evidence supporting the rumors.
3. If, hypothetically, such a joke was perpetrated on Lee Naus, criminal charges of murder would be inappropriate. The applicable statute of limitations for negligent homicide (or another lesser charge) has elapsed.
4. We have reviewed the evidence from the initial investigation of this matter by the Fremont Police Department from 1999 and have concluded that additional documentation should have been made to the investigative file at that time. We also have concluded that based on the passage of time and the inaccessibility of prior computer files that there is an uncertainty as to whether more documentation was produced and is merely unable to be located or was never produced. Under either scenario, we have conclusively agreed that there is no evidence of any "cover up" by any law enforcement officer regarding this investigation.

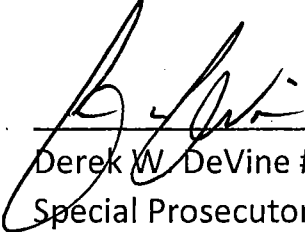
5. We have reviewed the investigation undertaken by Detective Oddo in 2015-2016. We have concluded that he has interviewed every conceivable witness and has pursued every known lead in this investigation.

So reported by the Sandusky County Grand Jury on this the 12th day of July, 2016.

Vote approving this report: 9 - 0
In favor Opposed


Grand Jury Foreperson

Approved:


Derek W. DeVine #0062488
Special Prosecutor