

Supplement

Managerial Review by Maj. Jay Hanson 10-21-2021

On February 15, 2021, Chief Lineberry ordered a managerial review of this investigation. I began by speaking with Sarah Lee, the mother of Brandon Embry. Ms. Lee detailed several concerns she had with the investigation and offered theories as to what happened. In multiple subsequent emails sent by Ms. Lee, numerous additional theories were suggested. Ms. Lee expressed concern that Mr. Embry had been poisoned with antifreeze and suffered chemical burns in his mouth. She stated that he had been struck in the head with a toilet tank lid and a pipe wrench leaving him with significant injuries. She claimed that Mr. Embry's spine was broken. She maintained that Mr. Embry had an internal bruise on his lung, which was visible from a crime scene photo. Ms. Lee also insisted that he had an extremely deep cut to his wrist and that there "was arterial spray coming out of the back of my son's head." As part of my review, I spoke directly with Dr. Lauren Scott, the medical examiner who performed Mr. Embrey's autopsy. Dr. Scott refuted the notion that an internal bruise on the lung would be visible in a photograph. In fact, she noted only one small, superficial bruise on his lung, and not of enough significance to be an inciting factor for pneumonia, as claimed by Ms. Lee.

Dr. Scott also stated that, due to concerns posed by Ms. Lee, she ordered tests to determine if Mr. Embry had traces of antifreeze in his system. Dr. Lee stated that those results were negative. In addition, she described how crystals will form in the kidneys of person suffering from antifreeze poisoning. No such crystals were observed in Mr. Embry's kidneys. In addition, Dr. Scott did not observe any type of chemical burns in or around Mr. Embrey's mouth.

During my interview with Dr. Scott, I asked if Mr. Embry's head injuries were consistent with being struck by a pipe wrench or the lid to a toilet tank. Dr. Scott noted that the injuries to Mr. Embry's head were all superficial. She stated that he had no skull fractures and no internal bleeding.

Ms. Lee previously alleged that her son lost a lot of blood. Dr. Scott refutes this by citing his hemoglobin level at the time he was admitted to the hospital. Dr. Scott noted that Mr. Embry's level was 13.9, while 14 is considered normal. She stated that the extremely minor deviation from normal indicates that he had not lost much blood. Dr. Scott also stated that she discovered no severed arteries during the autopsy.

Dr. Scott stated that she noted a superficial cut on Mr. Embry's wrist. She stated that this was an incised cut, made by a sharp object. She indicated that this minor cut was not consistent with being made by a handcuff, as a handcuff does not have a sharp enough edge. Dr. Scott stated that she manually felt all of Mr. Embry's vertebrae and felt no fractures, nor were any observed. Dr. Scott concluded by stating, "at this point, I don't necessarily see evidence for a homicide." While her final cause of death is listed as undetermined, leaving the door open to a change if additional credible evidence is obtained, autopsy evidence does not support a ruling of homicide.

It should also be noted that there was no evidence of forced entry, no evidence of theft or burglary, and no concrete motive for someone to have committed a homicide. Based upon the totality of the evidence reviewed, I concur with the finding that this incident is unfounded.