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SMALL TOWN FEEL WITH A WORLD AT ITS TOUCH

March 17, 2017

Mr. Michael J. Anderson Special Agent in Charge Federal Bureau of Investigation 2111 W. Roosevelt Road Chicago, IL 60608 9526 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD SCHILLER PARK, ILLINOIS 60176-1984 TELEPHONE 847 678-2550

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## Dear Agent Anderson:

I am writing with an unusual request and I'm hoping that once you read this letter you would be willing to open two old cases from our town and give us an independent investigation. This involves the deaths of two women, Mary Kolodziej (Fatigato) and Lorraine Michalski. Based on the reports submitted by the Schiller Park Police Department, Mary Kolodziej's (Fatigato's) August of 2000 death was ruled a suicide by hanging and Lorraine Michalski's September of 2008 death was ruled an accidental methadone overdose. Both women died at the home of Nick Caiafa at 10071 Berteau Avenue in Schiller Park and each woman was dating Mr. Caiafa at the time of her death. Detective Tom Henn of the Schiller Park Police Department conducted and closed both of these investigations.

On March 6, 2017, WGN News aired a story entitled "2 Girlfriends. 2 Deaths. 1 House. Many Questions." Specifically, the investigative report accuses the Schiller Park Police Department of "choosing sides" and a "slipshod investigation". WGN also had Sergio Acosta, a former Assistant State's Attorney and federal prosecutor, review the police reports from these investigations. Mr. Acosta stated that these death investigations require, "a lot more attention to detail and thoroughness in terms of investigation." Finally, Mr. Acosta said, "Certainly it would be a better practice to maybe have someone else do some of the follow-up investigation to make sure there were no questions raised later regarding the quality of the investigation."

Since the WGN investigation, both families of the deceased women have asked that the Village to request an independent evaluation of the work originally done by the Schiller Park Police Department.

I have now reviewed the police reports, and I agree that more could have been done with these investigations. In my opinion, I believe that an outside agency must conduct these investigations for several reasons. First, the Schiller Park Police Department has a clear conflict of interest; Specifically, the owner of the home and boyfriend of both deceased women, Mr. Nick Caiafa, is a member of the Schiller Park Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and was a member at the time of the second death. As a member of the board, Mr. Caiafa has the power to hire, suspend, and fire Schiller Park Police Officers.

In addition, it is a known fact that Mr. Caiafa is good friends with many of the police officers involved in the investigation as well as the police chief. In fact, at the time of the first death, his alibi was a police officer. Thus, any investigation by the Schiller Park Police Department, no matter how thorough, will always be clouded with uncertainty and biased. March 17, 2017 Page 2

As Mayor of Schiller Park, I feel it is my responsibility to give the families of Mary Kolodziej (Fatigato) and Lorraine Michalski peace of mind and the closure they never received originally. (When you read the reports, you will learn that neither of the families were notified of the deaths or interviewed by any investigative officer.)

Toward that end, I am personally requesting that the FBI conduct a full investigation into the circumstances of these tragic deaths.

As Mayor, I can assure you that I will do everything in my power to help facilitate these investigations. You will have unfettered access to all Schiller Park Police personnel and records in order to conduct a thorough evaluation.

I look forward to speaking with you at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Piltaver, Mayor

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