



Nederland Police Department

60 Lakeview Drive, Nederland CO 80466

Office: 303-258-3250 • Dispatch: 303-441-4444 • Fax: 303-258-7519

Report Type: INCIDENT Case Number: N06-616

Reporting or Primary Officer: Larry Stern

Additional Officers/Agencies: RIK HENDRIKSON, BSO #561; KEN ROBINSON, N-1; RICK DIRR, 5661; SUSAN NICHOLS CORONER'S OFFICE

Statute or Municipal Code Title:SUICIDE Number:

Date Occurred: 8/28/06 Time: 800 between Date: 9/15/06 Time: 857
Date Reported: 9/15/06 Time Reported: 857

**Location:55 KINGS PL,
Town of Nederland, County of Boulder, State of Colorado**

Synopsis: THIS REPORT WILL DETAIL A SUICIDE THAT OCCURRED SOMETIME BETWEEN THE MORNING OF 08/28/06 IN THE A.M. AND 0857 ON 9/15/06 WHEN DAVE [REDACTED] AND TED [REDACTED] WERE REMOVING CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FROM ONE OF THE BAYS OF A THREE BAY GARAGE at 55 KINGS PL., AND DAVE WENT TO THE STUDIO ABOVE AND FOUND A BODY; BELIEVED TO BE ERIC ZAPALA HANGING IN A STORAGE ROOM AND DROVE TO THE Nederland Police Department TO REPORT THE INCIDENT.

Narrative/Details: DAVE EXPLAINED WHAT HE FOUND TO DIANNA PITZER, POLICE CLERK AND CHIEF KEN ROBINSON, WHO THEN CALLED DISPATCH TO HAVE LT. STERN COME TO THE P.D. ALSO AT THE P.D. WAS DEPUTY RIK HENRIKSON, #561 WHO CHIEF ROBINSON ASKED TO ASSIST LT. STERN IN THE INVESTIGATION.

LT. STERN ARRIVED AT THE P.D. AND WAS ASSIGNED THE INVESTIGATION BY CHIEF ROBINSON WITH DEPUTY HENRIKSON TO ASSIST. LT. STERN WAS INFORMED THAT IF ASSISTANCE WAS NEEDED DUE TO A POSSIBLE CRIME, TO NOTIFY BCSO DETECTIVES FOR HELP. LT. STERN AND DEPUTY HENRIKSON FOLLOWED DAVE TO THE SCENE AT 55 KINGS PLACE WHERE A THREE BAY GARAGE WITH A SECOND FLOOR STUDIO WERE OBSERVED; IN A SEPARATE BUILDING FROM THE DWELLING. ALSO PARKED IN FRONT OF THE GARAGE WAS A GRAY HUNDAI WITH TEMP TAGS 672610D, VIN #KMHDN45D93U678955, BELONGING TO THE VICTIM.

AN OUTSIDE METAL STAIRCASE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING WAS USED TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE STUDIO. LT. STERN FOLLOWED DEPUTY HENRIKSON UP THE

STAIRWAY AND HERIKSON ANNOUNCED OUR PRESENCE BEFORE ENTERING THE UNLOCKED DOOR. UPON ENTRY, THE BODY WAS FOUND HANGING NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO AN UNFINISHED STORAGE ROOM, FROM A 2" X 2" CEILING RAFTER APPROXIMATELY 37" FROM THE RAFTER TO THE KNOT AT THE VICTIM'S NECK. THE BODY WAS FULLY CLOTHED, WITH JEANS, BOOTS, A JACKET, AND A HAT. THE BODY WAS FACING THE CLOTH ENTRY WAY, AND IT WAS LATER FOUND OUT THAT DAVE HAD PROBED THE BODY WITH A BROOM HANDLE AND THAT THE BODY HAD BEEN FACING AWAY FROM THE ROOM ENTRANCE WHEN DAVE FOUND IT. A STOOL WAS FOUND LAYING ON THE FLOOR, CLOSE TO THE HANGING BODY.

THERE WAS BLOOD DRIED ON THE VICTIM'S SHIRT AND PANTS; AND IT APPEARED THAT THE BODY HAD BEEN HANGING IN THIS POSITION FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS DUE TO THE SKIN COLOR AND "RIGOR" SHOWING. FIRE CHIEF RICK DIRR HAD ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AND AT 0907, CONFIRMED THAT THE VICTIM WAS DEAD .

THE BODY WAS EXAMINED FOR OTHER POSSIBLE OBVIOUS CAUSES OF DEATH AND NONE WERE FOUND. THE STUDIO WAS CHECKED FOR POSSIBLE FORCEABLE ENTRY AND SIGNS OF A CRIME BEING COMMITTED AND NO SIGNS WERE OBSERVED.. FOUND WERE THREE LARGE ENVELOPES ON A TABLE CONTAINING "IMPORTANT PAPERS", VEHICLE INFORMATION, AND OTHER INFORMATION THE VICTIM HAD SAVED. A BACK PACK WAS LEFT ON A CHAIR WITH A JACKET AND A TOWEL. EXAMINATION OF THE BACK PACK REVEALED AN ADDRESS BOOK AND OTHER MISC. ITEMS.

A BLACK BILLFOLD/KEY HOLDER WAS LEFT ON A TABLE. INSIDE WERE: A DRIVER'S LICENSE BELONGING TO: ERIC ANDREW ZAPALA, # [REDACTED], 26VALLEY VIEW, P.O. BOX 1622, CLASS R, ISSUED 10-15-2002. D.O.B. 11-15-61; 5' 8" WT. 145 BLU EYES, EXPIRING 11-15-2012, AND A "VISA" CREDIT CARD BELONGING TO ERIC ZAPALA.

THE CORONER'S OFFICE WAS NOTIFIED, AND WITNESSES DAVID TREVINO AND THEODORE WAGNER WERE INTERVIEWED BY DEPUTY HENRIKSON WHILE LT. STERN TOOK PHOTOS OF THE STUDIO AND VICTIM. WITNESS DAVID [REDACTED] WAS BROUGHT TO THE SCENE TO SHOW US WHAT HE FOUND.

MR. [REDACTED] WAS "SHOOK UP" AND WAS ADVISED A "VICTIM'S ADVOCATE" WAS AVAILABLE TO HIM. MR. [REDACTED] WISHED ONLY TO GO TO WORK AND HAVE SOMEONE CALL HIM LATER AND HE WOULD ADVISE IF HE NEEDED ANY HELP. MR. [REDACTED] SHOWED STERN AND HENRIKSON WHERE HE HAD TAKEN THE PLASTIC BROOM WITH A WOODEN HANDLE AND HAD PROBED THE BODY, CAUSING THE BODY TO TURN AROUND. MR. [REDACTED] STATED THE BODY WAS FACING THE REAR OF THE ROOM WHEN HE FOUND IT, AND AFTER PROBING WITH THE BROOM HANDLE, WAS FACING THE ENTRANCE.MR. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT MR. ZAPOLA HAD LIVED IN THE STUDIO FOR APPROXIMATLY TWO YEARS, AND THAT HE KNEW HIM BECAUSE DAVE'S SISTER OWNED THE PROPERTY AND RENTED THE STUDIO TO MR. ZAPALA.

SUSAN NICHOLS, CORONOR'S OFFICE ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AT 1055, BEGAN TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEASUREMENTS FOR HER INVESTIGATION. SUSAN WAS ADVISED OF THE INFORMATION WE HAD FOUND INCLUDING: IDENTIFICATION, PAPERS, ADDRESS BOOK, AND THAT MR. [REDACTED] HAD TOLD US THAT THE LAST TIME HE HAD SEEN MR. ZAPOLA ALIVE WAS ON THE MORNING OF 8/28/06.

N06-616

AFTER THE CORONER'S OFFICE HAD COMPLETED THEIR INVESTIGATION, NEDERLAND FIRE PERSONNEL ASSISTED IN CUTTING THE ROPE TO THE BODY, BAGGING, AND REMOVING DOWN THE STAIRS TO THE "PICK-UP" VAN. ALL PERSONNEL CLEARED THE SCENE. DEPUTY HENRIKSON DREW A DIAGRAM OF THE STUDIO, AND A DIAGRAM OF THE BODY POSITIONING. WITNESS STATEMENTS WERE COLLECTED FROM DAVE TRAVINO AND TED WAGNER.

CASE PENDING UNTIL: ALL NOTIFICATIONS, DETERMINATION OF TIME AND CAUSE OF DEATH WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE CORONER.