

NOVEMBER 10, 1992

MEMBERS OF GOAL:

ON JULY 6th, MARSHA P. JOHNSON WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE RIVER AT THE FOOT OF CHRISTOPHER STREET. THE VERY NEXT DAY, THE MEDICAL EXAMINER ISSUED A DEATH CERTIFICATE CALLING HER DEATH A "SUICIDE."

THERE WAS NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF SUICIDE. DET. ABRIEU, THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER, HAD SPOKEN TO ONLY TWO PEOPLE. MARSHA'S BROTHER, ROBERT MICHAELS, AND MARSHA'S ROOMMATE- YOURS TRULY, RANDY WICKER.

I HAD INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS MARSHA, WHO WAS GOING INTO A MENTAL BREAKDOWN WHEN LAST SEEN, MIGHT HAVE HALLUCINATED & WALKED INTO THE HUDSON RIVER WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT SHE WAS DOING--AN ACCIDENTAL DROWNING.

LATER, DET. ABRIEU PERSISTENTLY TRIED TO GET HER BROTHER ROBERT TO SAY THAT SHE WAS "DEPRESSED"--SOMETHING HE HAD NOT NOTICED SEEING MARSHA THE LAST TIME A FEW DAYS BEFORE HER DEATH & HE TOLD THEM HE REALLY COULD NOT SAY THAT SHE WAS.

NEXT, DET. ABRIEU CLAIMED THAT HE HAD "SPOKEN TO THE PSYCHIATRIST WHO WAS TREATING MARSHA FOR DEPRESSION"--WHICH WE SHORTLY DISCOVERED WAS A BALDFACED LIE. THE MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC IN HOBOKEN WERE FURIOUS BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT EVEN CONFIRMED THAT MARSHA HAD BEEN RECEIVING TREATMENT THERE, MUCH LESS PUT THE INVESTIGATORS IN CONTACT WITH ANY PSYCHIATRIST.

ON JULY 19th, ABOUT 50 OF MARSHA'S FRIENDS, FURIOUS ABOUT THE LABEL "SUICIDE" AND THE NON-INVESTIGATION OF HER DEATH MARCHED ON THE 6th PCT. PROTESTING THE DEATH CERTIFICATE & DEMANDING THEY DO A LEGITIMATE INVESTIGATION. NEWSDAY COVERED THE STORY BUT AT A LATER MEETING WITH DET. ABRIEU & SGT. MULLALLY (HIS SUPERIOR) THEY REFUSED TO SIMPLY CALL THE MEDICAL EXAMINER WHO HAD TOLD US SHE "WOULD BE HAPPY TO ISSUE A NEW DEATH CERTIFICATE LISTING THE CAUSE OF DEATH AS 'UNKNOWN' IF THE POLICE WOULD JUST CALL HER AND SAY THEIR WAS REASON TO DOUBT THE EARLIER 'SUICIDE' DESIGNATION."

IN LATE SEPTEMBER, A WITNESS CAME FORWARD SAYING HE HAD SEEN 4 MALES, WHOM HE KNEW TO BE DRUG DEALERS & MUGGERS, HARASSING MARSHA THE NIGHT OF JULY 4th AT THE FOOT OF CHRISTOPHER ST. HE POINTED OUT THE SPOT UNAWARE THAT IT WAS LITERALLY A FEW FEET FROM THE POINT THAT MARSHA'S BODY FIRST WAS SIGHTED AFTER COING UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER. HER MEMORIAL, WHERE HER BODY WAS DRAGGED ASHORE WAS ABOUT 150 FEET FURTHER DOWN THE RIVER.

I ACCOMPANIED HIM TO THE 6th Pct. AND WE MADE A DEPOSITION. BY THIS TIME, DET. ABRIEU HAD CLAIMED THAT THE HOTEL & WITNESS WAS NOT AT THE ADDRESS GIVEN--LATER CLAIMING HE HAD 351 West. 23rd St. INSTEAD OF 350 W. 23rd. ST.

SINCE THEN, NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE. COMMISSIONER KELLY WROTE TO ANDY STEIN'S OFFICE SAYING "THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE HAS RULED THIS A SUICIDE AND THE CASE IS CLOSED."

NEARLY A THOUSAND PEOPLE, MAINLY FROM THE 6th PCT. HAVE SIGNED A PETITION ASKING THIS LEAD BE INVESTIGATED. NOW, ONE FINAL MEETING IS BEING ARRANGED (I BELIEVE BY TOM DUANE'S OFFICE) BETWEEN LEADERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE WITNESSES POLICE QUESTIONED (BROTHER ROBERT & MYSELF) IN WHICH THE 6th PCT. IS GOING TO GIVE A PRESENTATION DOCUMENTING WHY & HOW THEY ARRIVED AT THE "SUICIDE" DETERMINATION.

THE FIRST THING WE WANT TO DO IT REMOVE THE UGLY STEREOTYPE OF "SUICIDE" FROM MARSHA'S DEATH CERTIFICATE. THEN , OF COURSE, WE WILL WANT THEM TO AT LEAST QUESTION THE FOUR SUSPECTS WHO ARE QUITE POSSIBLY MARSHA'S MURDERERS.

I HAVE PURPOSEFULLY AVOIDED PUTTING OFFICER RODRIQUEZ, THE 6th PCT. GAY OFFICER, ON THE SPOT IN ALL OF THIS. I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH HIM IN THE PAST BUT I FEEL THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE A NASTY FIGHT BEFORE IT IS ALL OVER AND HE WOULD JUST BE A SACRIFICIAL LAMB CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE.

TONIGHT, I WOULD ASK THAT GOAL ADOPT A SIMPLE RESOLUTION: "THAT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON BE REOPENED AND AN APPROPRIATE "CAUSE UNKNOWN" DEATH CERTIFICATE BE ISSUED TO HER FAMILY.

I COULD BURY WITH DOCUMENTATION OF ALL OF THIS AND WILL BE HAPPY TO SUPPLY ANYONE INTERESTED WITH A FULL PACKET OF ITEMS.

I ALSO THINK IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR GOAL TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE OF TWO TO THIS MEETING. ALTHOUGH I'M NOT THE ONE IN CHARGE, I'M SURE YOUR RESPRESENTATION & INPUT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

RANDY WICKER, 506 HUDSON ST., NYC, NY 10014

Randy Wicker