



Seattle Police Department Case Investigation Report

Case Investigation Report: 2019-324146

Type of Crime **Suicide**
Date of Incident **8/30/2019**
Date of Last Entry **9/13/2019**
Submitted by: **Detective Ed Garcia #5647**
 Homicide and Assault Unit
 Ed.Garcia@Seattle.Gov

UCR- Choose an item.

CMS- **Administrative Clearance (A)**

LODI-

Entities:

Suspect:
Unknown

CCN #
AFIS #
FBI #
SID #

Investigation:

1. 08/30/19 - 1500 hrs, received a phone call from patrol advising that an adult female had been pulled out of Green Lake, deceased and with a ligature wrapped around her neck. SFD had already been advised and had responded already. Det. Witmer and I responded to screen the incident in person. The victim was pulled from the water by patrol officers. The victim was fully clothed, but she was missing her shoes. She was wearing white ankle type socks. I did a preliminary visual exam of the decedent and noticed that the victim did not appear to have any defensive wounds or marks on the arms, hands, fingers, face, or legs. The ligature marks around her neck were clearly visible, but nothing to indicate defensive/struggle marks or scratches on her neck, near the ligature marks

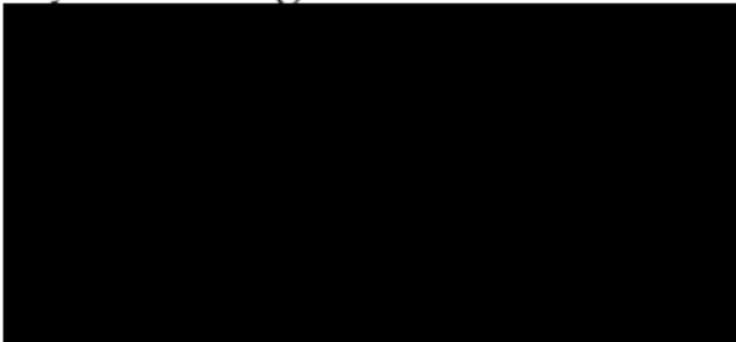


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to indicate she was fighting or resisting. She also had what appeared to be petechiae marks on the inside of her bottom lip. We also canvassed the immediate shoreline in an attempt to find drag marks or anything that might appear as if a struggle had occurred. We found nothing. During the canvass, Det. Witmer located the shoes believed to belong to the decedent. They were found in some shrubbery/brush area approximately 20-30 feet from the shoreline and they were missing the shoelaces on each of the shoes. The shoes were found within eyesight of where the victim was pulled from the water.

2. 09/03/19 – 0630 hrs, received a p/c from Everett PD Det. Corey Barrows. Det. Barrows called to advise me that he was investigating a child assault case and that Tyler Washington, (Autumn Stone's) fiancé was his suspect. Det. Barrows stated that he learned of Autumn's death over the weekend and he wanted to make I had information that might be useful in my investigation into Autumn's death. Det. Barrows also informed me that he had interviewed Tyler Washington a few times regarding his case in Everett and advised me that Tyler has been very cooperative with him. He also provided me Tyler's contact information.

Tyler Washington



Det. Barrows also advised me that when his agency learned of Autumn's death, they learned that she had written what appears to be a suicide note on the day of her death. Det. Barrows stated that he would email me a copy of the letter for my case file.

3. 09/03/19 – 1030 hrs, p/c to [REDACTED] I contacted Tyler Washington and explained the nature of my investigation. Tyler stated that he was unaware that his fiancé Autumn had died on Friday and sounded shocked at the news. It took several seconds to get him to focus on my questions after delivering the news to him. Tyler stated that he and not seen or heard from Autumn since last week and stated that he and Autumn had agreed to stay away from each other while the pending investigation into their son's injury was being investigated. I asked Tyler if he would be willing come to the SPD HQ for an in-person interview and he stated that he could be at the office within the hour.



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4. 09/03/19 – 1035 hrs, received an email from Det. Barrows containing a copy of the letter written by Autumn. I reviewed this letter and will include it with the case file. The letter was written in handwriting and is dated, August 30, 2019 10:26 a.m., in the letter, Autumn thanks God for blessing her with two children and conveys that she would do anything to ensure her kids have everything they need to ensure they have the best lives.
5. 09/03/19 – 1130 hrs, Tyler Washington arrived at HQ accompanied by his mother for the arranged interview. I escorted him up to the homicide office. Det. Witmer and I interviewed Tyler. The interview was audio and video recorded. I asked Tyler if he would allow us to forensically exam his cellphone and he consented. I typed up a consent to search form requesting permission to exam Tyler's phone and he consented by signing the form in the interview room. Before he signed, I had Tyler look at and read the form and I also read it to him out loud. Once Tyler signed the form, Det. Witmer walked the phone over to Det. Sugai and handed it to him to begin the "phone dump" process. In brief summary, when questioned, Tyler stated that the last time he saw his fiancé Autumn was last Thursday 08/29/19 near the Everett Police Station. He stated that he was walking with his mother to the Everett PD and he happened to see Autumn. He wanted to approach her to speak with her but his mother convinced him that it was not a good idea at the time. Tyler stated that he listened to his mother and did not attempt to contact Autumn. He further stated that he had known Autumn for over ten years and that they had one child in common from their relationship and were engaged to get married this month, (09/07/19). Tyler stated that he and Autumn have been separated since last week due to a family issue involving their five-week old son. I was aware of the on-going Everett PD investigation into allegations or suspicions that Tyler had assaulted or abused their son, who was currently at Children's Hospital. I did not delve into asking him questions regarding that matter. Tyler also stated that prior to me calling him, he was not aware that Autumn had died on Friday. He stated that since last Thursday, (08/29/19), he had not seen or heard from Autumn or any of her family or friends. I then asked Tyler if he had been to Greenlake in Seattle on Friday, 08/30/19. Tyler stated that he had not. He stated that he was at his mother's residence in Bellevue the entire day on Friday. The complete audio and video recording of this interview will be included with the case file.
6. 09/03/19 – 1400 hrs, Spoke with ME Dr. Williams regarding the autopsy of Autumn Stone. Dr. Williams stated that preliminary finding is cause of death, strangulation with a drowning component because the victim was found floating in the lake. Dr. Williams also stated that the victim had no signs of trauma to her extremities, and no signs of trauma or defensive wounds or marks were found on the victim's neck, other than the ligature mark themselves.



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7. 09/03/19 – 1426 hrs, took a recorded statement from Ms. Nozomi Baines, (Tyler's mother). This interview took place in the lobby of SPD HQ and was audio recorded with her permission. In summary, Ms. Baines states that her son Tyler was has been staying with her since last week. She stated that Tyler was at her apartment all day and never left the apartment. She stated that Tyler has no car, so he just stayed at her apartment and played video games. She also said that Tyler's three other younger brothers were at the apartment all day as well. The audio recording of this interview will be included with the case file.
8. 09/04/19 – 1000 hrs, received the phone extraction files and Cellebrite report from Det. Sugai. I then emailed Sgt. Truscott advising that I had just received the above referenced report and asked that a detective be assigned to assist with analysis of the reports.
9. 09/04/19 – 1900 received an email from Det. W. Emerson advising that she had been assigned to assist me with the analysis of the phone reports.
10. 09/05/19 – Det. Emerson advised me that she had completed her initial analysis of the phone data on Tyler Washington's cellphone. She stated that the phone contained no location data after August 10th 2019. Based on this, I decided to author a warrant requesting permission to access Washington's cellphone records from AT&T. At this point however, this investigation is a suspicious death investigation and Washington is not officially being investigated for the murder of Autumn Stone. Regardless, I authored a warrant and submitted it to Judge Steve Rosen who reviewed the warrant and denied authorization on the basis that I did not have PC for the warrant request. Judge Rosen advised that I have a prosecutor review the warrant, so I forwarded my warrant to SDPA Michelle Larson. I was later advised that since there was no crime established to have been committed, this particular search warrant was not justified.
11. 09/09/19 – 0900 hrs, received a p/c from Autumn's mother (Kjersty Rush – [REDACTED]). Kjersty called to get an update on the case. I informed her that the investigation is on-going but that at this point, based on the autopsy and investigation...no physical or medical evidence has been found to indicate Autumn was killed by homicidal means. Kjersty stated that she was surprised to hear this but understands the importance of evidence in a case like this. Kjersty also stated that she called to let me know that on the day of Autumn's death, she Kjersty last Autumn leaving their home in Everett. Autumn had gotten dressed and had told Kjersty that she wanted to clear her head was going for a walk at Greenlake in Seattle. She was then going to have nails done after. Kjersty stated that Autumn left the house at approximately 1030 in the morning and she appeared to be in good spirits. She last heard from Autumn that same day at approximately 1131



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when Autumn called her to let her know she had arrived at Greenlake. Kjersty stated that their conversation was brief and that Autumn sounded fine when they ended the call. Kjersty stated that was last time she spoke with Autumn and has no idea what nail salon Autumn would have gone to if she was going to get her nails done.

12. 09/10/19 – 1255 hrs, I emailed Ms. Kjersty Rusch a consent to search form. I had spoken with her earlier on the phone requesting permission to access her daughter's cellphone. Ms. Rusch stated she would authorize the search.
13. 09/10/19 – 1358 hrs, received the consent to search form from Ms. Rusch via fax authorizing access into her daughter's cellphone.
14. 09/12/19 – 1220 hrs, I collected the personal belonging and property of Autumn Stone from the medical examiner's office and submitted them into SPD Evidence. I did not place Autumn's phone into evidence because I will be attempting to get the phone analyzed forensically.
15. 09/13/19 – 0930 hrs, I turned the victim's phone over to Det. Sugui, along with the signed consent to search and the emailed instructions from the victim's mother on how to access the phone. Det. Sugui will attempt to extract data from the phone for the purpose of having that data reviewed by me as part of the investigation into what type of communication the victim may have had before her death. (Note) at the time of the victim's recovery from Green Lake, the phone was on her in one of her pockets and was submerged under water for an unknown amount of time, it is highly possible that her cellphone is water damaged and data may not be extracted.
16. 09/13/19 – 1320 hrs, Det. Sugai informed me that he was unable to complete any data extraction from Autumn Stone's phone due to possible water damage. Det. Sugai stated that the sim card was wet and water droplets fell from the phone. He stated that the phone also would not power on and would not accept a charge.
17. 09/13/19 – 1400 hrs, Based on the investigation thus far, there is no evidence, physical or otherwise that indicates Autumn Stone died as a result of homicide. This investigation was screened with Det. Sgt. Nelson and will be closed inactive. This case can be reinvestigated should additional information come to light.
18. 09/19/19 – 1000 hrs, p/c to [REDACTED], contacted Kjersty Rusch, I informed her that this investigation had been forwarded to my supervisor with a classification of suicide2019, based on



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the lack of any physical or forensic evidence that would indicate Autumn died by homicidal violence. I also advised her that Sgt. Nelson agreed with the suicide classification, but reiterated that if any information comes to light in the future that is suspicious in nature regarding the death of her daughter, the case can be readdressed. Ms. Rusch stated she understood and thanked me and the department for the efforts made in this investigation. Ms. Rusch stated that she would inform the rest of her family of our discussion.