

BOULDER POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CASE: P96-21871
DATE: DECEMBER 27, 1996
REF: HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION
JONBENET RAMSEY
BY: ROBERT WHITSON

On Thursday, December 26, 1996, at about 6:05 a.m., I received a page to call the Watch 3 Supervisor, Paul Reichenbach. Sgt. Reichenbach advised me that he had responded to a reported kidnapping involving a six year old girl from 755 15th in Boulder. He was requesting detective assistance.

I telephoned Detectives Linda Arndt and Fred Patterson and asked them to respond to 755 15th.

While driving into Boulder, I telephoned Detectives Arndt and Patterson and they advised me they were almost at 755 15th. Therefore, I responded to the Police Department to make several telephone calls. Those included to following:

1. I notified Commander Eller.
2. I called the F.B.I. to request their assistance.
3. I requested a staff page.
4. I spoke with Jim Smith from our Sheriff's Department and he advised me that he would give me some information about kidnapping cases.
5. I did a preliminary advisement to PIO Leslie Aaholm.
6. I responded to the Justice Center and advised Deputy District Attorney

Pete Hofstrum.

I responded to 755 15th at about 9:15 a.m. Upon my arrival I met with Detectives Patterson and Arndt. They advised me that John and Patsy Ramsey were the parents of the missing six year old, JonBenet Ramsey. I was told the Ramsey's have a nine year old son, Burke, who had left the residence to stay with friends.

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I was advised that Officer Barry Weiss had already photographed the house and didn't find any signs of an obvious crime scene where there had been a struggle. I was also told there was no signs of forced entry and there were no footprints of possible suspects found outside of the home.

Officer Rick French was still present and meeting with friends of the family. Officer Sue Barcklow was present and obtaining latent fingerprints. I didn't want to disturb any possible evidence in JonBenet's bedroom, so Patterson, Arndt, and I placed police tape over the door and advised Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey not to enter the bedroom.

Det. Patterson advised me that telephone traps and traces had been placed on the Ramsey's telephone and a tape recorder was attached in case the suspect called.

Det. Patterson advised me that a ransom note had been found in the home and that Officer Karl Veitch had placed it into Evidence.

Det. Patterson also advised me that Mr. Ramsey has 330 employees at his business, Access Graphics, and a list of employees was being obtained. Mr. Ramsey had only one possible suspect from the business, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He had been terminated and may be upset with Mr. Ramsey.

Det. Patterson also advised me that the maid, [REDACTED] was a possible suspect since she had a key to the house and had recently asked to borrow money from the Ramsey's. He advised me that a telephone trap was being placed

on her telephone in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has a significant other, [REDACTED] who had a criminal history.

I was also advised that arrangements had been made with the Pearl Street Bank for the \$118,000.00 in ransom money to be available if needed.

Det. Patterson also stated that Officer Weiss had taken photos of JonBenet and was making copies to give to officers.

I briefly spoke with John Ramsey. I asked Mr. Ramsey if he was sure the doors were locked when he got up? Mr. Ramsey said he was sure the doors were locked when he got up and when he went to bed the night before. I asked Mr. Ramsey for a sample of his and his wife's handwriting, just as standard procedure. Mr. Ramsey gave two note pads to Det. Patterson, who in turn gave them to me. I was advised one of the pads was for Mr. Ramsey and the other was a sample of Mrs. Ramsey's writing. I wrote their respective names on the notebooks at the top, but didn't look at the samples or pay any attention to them at that time since I wanted to leave the house as soon as possible for a meeting with the F.B.I. at the Police Department.

I provided a brief summary of what had been done at that time to Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey, and I advised them we would be meeting with the F.B.I. for their advice before deciding how to proceed.

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Det. Patterson and I checked the area near the Ramsey's home for any suspicious looking people or vehicles and did not see anyone unusual.

I responded to the Police Department and met with several Detectives and representatives from the F.B.I. During this meeting, Det. Jeff Kithcart came into the room and I handed him the two note pads which I was given as samples of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey's handwriting. These items were later placed into Evidence as items #1 RAW and #2 RAW.

A few minutes later Det. Kithcart returned to the room to show me something in the note pad which had been identified as Mrs. Ramsey's handwriting sample. There were two or three pages of writing, then there was a page which was written in a felt marker that stated, "Mr. and Mrs. R" - which matched the same type of writing in the ransom note. It was obvious that some pages prior

to this page had been torn from the note pad. I didn't touch the page this was written on.

At that time, I questioned if Patsy Ramsey was a possible suspect. I asked myself, why would a stranger take the time to stay in the Ramsey's house and write a ransom note? At that time, the focus of the investigation changed to include a possible family member, as well as someone from outside the family. And, if a family member was a suspect, we needed to obtain a Search Warrant before we collected additional evidence from the house.

I can't remember the exact time, but shortly after the evidence of the note pad was discovered, everyone in the meeting was advised that the deceased body of JonBenet had been found.

I left the meeting and responded to 755 15th. When I entered, I observed Patsy Ramsey on the livingroom floor near the front door, holding JonBenet. Patsy was crying and very upset. I don't know his name, but a person who was identified as a minister, tried to comfort Patsy. I requested that Patsy and everyone else move into a different room.

I did not attempt to examine JonBenet's body or any other evidence, and I did not go into the wine cellar, or downstairs, where she was supposedly found by Mr. Ramsey.

When Sgt. Mason arrived, Det. Palmer and I returned to the Police Department. I placed the two note pads into Evidence and Det. Palmer checked them out, as well as the original ransom note, so he could take them to C.B.I. for processing. I wrote the lab request and the letter to C.B.I.

On Thursday, December 26, 1996, I conducted a neighborhood canvas along with Det. Pat Wyton and Barry Hartkopp. I spoke with the neighbors on 14th Street, between Cascade and Baseline, on the eastside of the street. These houses would be across the alley from the Ramsey's home.

1. 792 14th - Not home.