



Canton Police Department
Incident Report

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11/02/2022

Incident #: 21-79-OF
Call #: 21-731

Date/Time Reported: 02/04/2021 1055
Report Date/Time: 02/04/2021 1428
Occurred Between: 02/04/2021 1055-02/04/2021 1428
Status: No Crime Involved

Reporting Officer: Patrolman Charles Yeaton
Assisting Officer: Lieutenant Michael Lank

Signature: _____

#	INVOLVED	SEX	RACE	AGE	SSN	PHONE
1	SMITH, DARLENE M STOUGHTON MA 02072	F	W	56	NOT AVAIL	
Military Active Duty: N BODY: NOT AVAIL. COMPLEXION: NOT AVAIL. DOB: PLACE OF BIRTH: NOT AVAIL. LICENSE NUMBER: ETHNICITY: UNKNOWN						
[CONTACT INFORMATION]						

Home Phone (Primary)

#	EVENT(S)
	LOCATION TYPE: Residence/Home/Apt./Condo Zone: Northeast Sector 3307 WINDSOR WOODS WAY CANTON MA 02021
1	Sudden Death

#	VICTIM(S)	SEX	RACE	AGE	SSN	PHONE
1	BIRCHMORE, SANDRA M 3307 WINDSOR WOODS WAY CANTON MA 02021	F	W	23		
DOB: EMPLOYER: SHARON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ETHNICITY: Not of Hispanic Origin RESIDENT STATUS: Resident VICTIM CONNECTED TO OFFENSE NUMBER(S): 1 CONTACT INFORMATION: Home Phone (Primary)						

#	PERSON(S)	PERSON TYPE	SEX	RACE	AGE	SSN	PHONE
1	PORTER, ERIN E 1 WINDSOR WOODS WAY CANTON MA 02021 DOB:	WITNESS	F	A	41	NOT AVAIL	781-830-9100
CONTACT INFORMATION: Home Phone (Primary) 781-830-9100							

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#	PERSON(S)	PERSON TYPE	SEX	RACE	AGE	SSN	PHONE
2	FAHERTY, KATHLEEN 1 WINDSOR WOODS WAY CANTON MA 02021 DOB: EMPLOYER: WINDSOR WOODS . 781-830-9100	WITNESS	F	W	61	NOT AVAIL	

- 1) On February 4, 2021 at approximately 11:00 a.m. I was dispatched to Windsor Woods Way to assist members of the Canton Police Family Services Unit on a well-being check, requested by another Agency (Sharon MA Police).
- 2) I was greeted in the lobby entrance by Officer Mike Brady and Officer Ensley Cotard, as well as Property Manager Erin Porter, who provided the key for us to gain entrance to 3307 Windsor Woods Way, Canton.
- 3) The call originated for a well-being check from Sharon Public Schools, and they contacted Sharon Officer Mike Hocking, as a teacher, BIRCHMORE, SANDRA has not shown up for work or called in sick for several days.
- 4) Officer Cotard and I entered the dwelling, and observed two cats in the apartment and noticed the conditions were cluttered and unkept, and noticed the bedroom door was closed. Officer Cotard opened the door, and we observed a young female in a seated position on the floor, with a scarf around her neck and tightly affixed to the closet door handle. Due to the discoloration in skin (blue) and lividity, and appeared that the female had been there for a long period of time. Sgt. Mike Lank (Shift Supervisor) radioed to secure the scene immediately, while en route to the residence. Sgt. Lank directed us to secure the scene and Norfolk County District Attorney's Office (C.P.A.C.) was notified and advised that they would be responding to the residence.
- 5) Sgt. Lank and Det. Jonathan McCourt arrived a short time later and Officer Brady, Officer Cotard and I stayed outside the apartment and Sgt. Lank and Det. McCourt entered the apartment in an attempt to gather information and proper identification of the victim.
- 6) Sgt. Lank requested Canton Fire/EMS to respond to our location. FF/Paramedic Daniel Whitley arrived and pronounced Sandra Birchmore deceased at 11:46 a.m. No life-saving measures were taken at that time.
- 7) Trooper Mike Dunn from Norfolk County District Attorney's Office (C.P.A.C.) arrived on scene, as well as Trooper Zach Clark from Crime Scene Services to process and photograph the scene.
- 8) 12:44 p.m., I received a call from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts officer of the Medical Examiners, and spoke with Intake Specialist Mercedes Robinson, and after gathering pertinent information, the ME's office accepted jurisdiction and will be responding. Case #2021-2032 assigned.
- 9) Trooper Dunn requested next of kin to be contacted and respond to the residence, for

questioning. Stoughton Police Department notified and assisting with making contact. Darlene Smith, who is the aunt of the deceased, was not home when Stoughton attempted notification. She contacted the Canton police moments later by phone and was notified of the deceased by Officer Nix. Smith was currently in New Hampshire and unable to respond to the scene. Her contact information was provided to Trooper Dunn.

10) Sgt. Lank was able to access video footage with the assistance from Property Management. The victim was last seen on camera entering the building on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 4:41 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR DETECTIVE JONATHAN MCCOURT

Ref: 21-79-OF

1. On February 4, 2021, at approximately 11:09 a.m., I responded to 3307 Canton Woods for a well-being check of a female party, later identified as BIRCHMORE, SANDRA.
2. Upon my arrival, I spoke to the first responding officer's on scene, Officer Yeaton, Officer Cotard, and Officer Brady. I was informed the party was deceased and had hanged herself. I had the officers wait outside the apartment as I made entry.
3. BIRCHMORE was located in the bedroom, in a seated position on the floor, with a dark colored strap around her neck. The strap was tied to the door handle of the bedroom closet. Obvious signs of lividity had set in BIRCHMORE's face, hands and abdominal area. There was no visible trauma to the head, or defensive abrasions on the hands.
4. The bedroom along with the apartment was unorganized and unkept. No signs of a struggle were observed in the bedroom or the apartment.
5. On the kitchen counter of the apartment, in plain view,
- 6.
7. Sgt. Lank arrived shortly after my arrival. Norfolk County District Attorney's Office (CPAC), the Medical Examiner's Office, and Canton Fire all were notified.
8. Canton Fire Fighter Whitley arrived on scene and pronounced BIRCHMORE deceased. FF Whitley informed me that he believes BIRCHMORE was deceased for a few days.
9. Trooper Matt Dunne and Trooper Kevin Tufts arrived from CPAC. Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene was present as well. Troopers processed and photographed the scene.
10. Troopers located additional once on scene.
11. Once the Troopers were finished processing the scene, Chris Adams and Caitlyn Bulger of the Medical Examiner's Office took custody of the body.
12. After the body was removed, and CPAC and the Medical Examiner's Office cleared, I located additional the bedroom closet in a cardboard box.
13. Prior to clearing the scene, Officer Brady and I had animal control take custody of the two cats in the apartment. Officer Brady locked the door once we cleared.

1. On February 6, 2021, I spoke to Sgt. Lank about additional information he had learned from Property Manager, Erin Porter (See Sgt. Lank supplemental report). This information was passed along to Trooper Tufts by telephone. In speaking to Trooper Tufts, he requested that he would like the video from Canton Woods.
2. At approximately 1:00p.m., Sgt. Lank, Detective Albert, and I went to Canton Woods to assist the State Police in obtaining video from BIRCHMORE's apartment building. We were met at the leasing office by Trooper Dunne and Trooper Tufts. Maintenance Supervisor, Carlos Verissimo assisted us in reviewing the video footage. The video of building #3 is motion activated and only captures the front lobby.
3. BIRCHMORE was last seen on video at 17:46 on Monday (February 1, 2021). Investigators Note: Trooper Tufts and Colleen Crawford(Norfolk District Attorney's Office) took custody of the video hard drive from building #3. The camera's video time and actual time was believed to be 13 minutes off.
4. While we were reviewing video, Carlos informed me that he recognized everyone on the video that enters the lobby on Monday except one individual. The individual that Carlos did not recognize enters the complex at 21:27. The individual is a, tall, burly, male. The individual is wearing work boots, jeans, a black jacket, and has a black hood on his head. The individual is also wearing a black mask (COVID). The party is not wearing gloves and appears to be white.
5. The individual exits the building at 21:56. When the individual exits the elevator, his jacket coat is open, and a white symbol is seen on his upper left portion of his black sweatshirt. The symbol resembled what I believed to be the Nine Line logo. Nine Line is a military apparel line.
6. Carlos reiterated that he did not know who that party was. Carlos also informed me that his worker, STURGEON, MICHAEL saw the party before with BIRCHMORE.
7. I spoke to STURGEON. Michael informed me that the individual on camera looked like a guy who helped BIRCHMORE move in to her apartment. STURGEON said that BIRCHMORE moved in sometime in December. STURGEON was not 100% positive. STURGEON was unsure of the exact date.
8. Investigators Note: It was later learned from STURGEON that he saw the individual the same day police responded to apartment 3214. I ran an in-house check of 3214 and located a disturbance call on December 1, 2021 at 20:39, see 20-304-AR.
9. It should also be noted that Carlos informed us that BIRCHMORE only had one key fob to enter the building. Carlos was going to email BIRCHMORE's key fob activity to the State Police.
10. After reviewing video, Detective Albert, Sgt, Lank and I accompanied Troopers Dunne and Trooper Sgt. Fanning (who arrived on scene) to apartment 3307 as a follow up of the scene. Assistant property manager, FAHERTY, Kathleen provided us with the keys to the apartment. Once inside, Trooper Sgt. Fanning and Trooper Dunne took custody of written material located in the apartment. Also, the key fob to her apartment was located on her keys resting on a box inside the apartment.
11. The apartment was locked once we cleared.

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR PATROLMAN ENSLEY COTARD

Ref: 21-79-OF

- 1.) On Thursday, February 6, 2021, I Officer Cotard, was working in the capacity of the School Resource Officer (herein referred to as SRO) at Canton High School. At approx 9:45am, I was contacted directly via cell phone from Sharon Police Officer Michael Hocking (SRO of Sharon Public Schools) who requested my assistance on performing a well-being check on a female staff member of Sharon Public Schools who has not been arriving to work or seen/heard from in several days.
- 2.) Officer Hocking advised me that BIRCHMORE, Sandra Marie works as an Instructional Assistant at East Middle School in Sharon and the school Administration contacted him because Ms. BIRCHMORE has not come to work in days, is not responding when they tried to contact her, and they could not get in touch with the emergency contact that they had on file. The last known address that Officer Hocking had for Ms. BIRCHMORE was *3 Windsor Woods Lane in Canton* (Canton Woods Apartments). Knowing that this place was a large apartment/condo complex, I asked Officer Hocking if there was a specific known apartment number for Ms. BIRCHMORE and he responded in the negative. This was all the information Officer Hocking was able to provide me about Ms. BIRCHMORE.
- 3.) At this time, I advised Officer Hocking that I would go to the Canton Woods leasing office and attempt to verify if Ms. BIRCHMORE is in fact a resident. If confirmed, I would conduct a well-being check on the residence. With this information I contacted Sgt Lank and advised him of the information I received and that I would be responding to Canton Woods.
- 4.) At approx. 10:45am, assisting SRO Brady and I spoke with the Canton Woods Property Manager, PORTER, Erin and confirmed that Ms. BIRCHMORE is a resident in apartment number 3307. We asked Ms. PORTER if she had seen or spoke with Ms. BIRCHMORE recently and she advised us that she has not seen or heard from her in several days. Ms. PORTER did advise us that she was told by someone within the building that
asked Ms. PORTER if she could try to contact Ms. BIRCHMORE with the contact number that she had on file for her. Ms. PORTER attempted two times to contact Ms. BIRCHMORE's cell phone but she advised us that the call was going directly to her voicemail. I advised Ms. PORTER that we would attempt to make contact with Ms. BIRCHMORE at her apartment.
- 5.) At approx. 11:00am, SRO Brady and I knocked and announce our presence on the door of Ms. BIRCHMORE for several minutes but did not receive a response. At this time, I contacted Sgt. Lank and advised him of the current situation. Sgt. Lank stated that we should try to locate her vehicle in the parking lot and if located, then we will make entry into the apartment. Sgt. Lank advised us to look for vehicle: *MA Reg 1YGB66 - 2018, Chevy Cruz, Sedan, Color - Blue*. I located the vehicle outside of building 3 and radioed into dispatch that I located her vehicle. Officer Brady and I visually inspected the vehicle and noticed that there was snow still on and around the vehicle that appeared undisturbed. The reader should note that the last time it snowed was on Monday, February 1, 2021 into Tuesday, February 2, 2021. We also noticed her Sharon Public School identification card hanging from the rearview mirror with her name and picture on it.
- 3.) I requested for a uniform officer to the scene and was able to obtain keys for the apartment from Ms. PORTER. A short time later, Officer Yeaton arrived on scene and we all made are way back to Ms. BIRCHMORE's apartment 3307. Again, I knocked and announced our presence at the door several times with no response. With the key, all Officer's on scene made entry into the apartment and immediately noticed that the apartment was disheveled and unkept with two house cats running around the apartment when we made entry. I first entered the bathroom (open door, lights off) and rendered that area safe. I then entered the bedroom of the

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE FOR PATROLMAN ENSLEY COTARD

Ref: 21-79-OF

apartment (I opened the closed door, lights off) and noticed Ms. BIRCHMORE seated on the floor, with some sort of belt/lanyard string/rope secured tightly around her neck, that was secured to the door handle of the bedroom closet, deceased. It was immediately apparent to this officer that Ms. BIRCHMORE was deceased as I noticed lividity about the skin/face, and rigor about the body's extremities. I also noticed a large pooling of dried blood around the mouth. After locating the body, I exited the bedroom and (documentation) and

4.) At this time, Officer Yeaton contacted the Canton Police Station and advised them of our discovery. After discovering the body, we were advised by Sgt. Lank and Det. McCourt to exit the apartment and secure the scene for processing. He also requested for the Medical Examiner's Office, the MA State Police CPAC, and Crime Scene Investigation to respond to the scene. Sgt. Lank and Det. McCourt arrived on scene and made entrance into the apartment. A short time later Troopers Kevin Tufts, Trooper Matt Dunn, and Kevin Clark arrived in scene to begin processing. I cleared from the scene a short time after.

5.) I contacted Officer Hocking via cell phone and advised him of my discovery. He stated that he would pass the information along to school Administration once I confirm with him that next of kin has been notified. He advised me that Ms. BIRCHMORE was also at one point, a staff member/teacher with Stoughton Public Schools and that he contacted Officer Sheanna Isabele (SRO Stoughton Public Schools) about Ms. BIRCHMORE earlier for contact information before contacting me. I advised him that I would reach out to her for information.

6.) I contacted and spoke to Officer Isabelle via cell phone and advised her of the situation. She advised me that she was very familiar with Ms. BIRCHMORE and shared with me that she was a former graduate of and employee at Stoughton High School.

. She stated that the Stoughton Patrol Officers has responded to her previous address of (Ave Stoughton)

s. Officer Isabelle stated that Ms. BIRCHMORE

She also advised me that Ms. BIRCHMORE's mother and grandmother recently passed away and that her aunt SMITH, Darlene would be a good person to contact for next of kin. I thanked her for the information and advised her that I would contact her once Ms. BIRCHMORE's next of kin was notified so she could notify Stoughton Public schools Administration on the matter.

7.) At this time, this case/investigation remains open and this report will be kept on file at the Canton Police Department pending further departmental action.

For Date: 12/01/2020 - Tuesday

<u>Call Number</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Call Reason</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Duplicate</u>
20-6648	2039	Phone - DISTURBANCE	Report To Be Filed		1

Call Taker: SKLIM - Klimas, Sean
 Primary Id: BBERK - Berkowitz, Benjamin
 Call Closed By: EANDE - Anderson, Eli 12/01/2020 2102
 Call Modified By: EANDE - Anderson, Eli
 Location/Address: 3214 WINDSOR WOODS WAY
 Jurisdiction: Canton
 Party Entered By: 12/01/2020 2102 EANDE - Anderson, Eli
 Involved Party: ***UNKNOWN***
 Post: 2NE Berkowitz, Benjamin
 Disp-20:42:55 Arvd-20:43:53 Clrd-21:02:07
 Cleared By: EANDE - Anderson, Eli
 Post: 2EAST Ward, Patrick
 Disp-20:42:55 Clrd-20:43:35
 Post: 2NW Chin, Michael
 Disp-20:42:55 Arvd-20:43:54 Clrd-21:02:09
 Cleared By: EANDE - Anderson, Eli
 Post: 2SGT1 Anderson, Eli
 Disp-20:42:55 Clrd-20:43:50
 Post: 2WEST Connor, Scott
 Disp-20:42:55 Clrd-20:43:19

Narrative: 12/01/2020 2042 Klimas, Sean
 Calling party reports an altercation outside of building 3 at Windsor Woods. The calling party stated that 2 African American males and one female were fighting. One suspect possibly had a firearm.

Refer To Summons: [20-304-AR](#)
 Summons: CAMPBELL-ALLEN, NATASIA
 Address: 985 BEACON ST NEWTON, MA
 Age: 17
 Charges: A&B - FAMILY MEMBER (INTIMATE PARTNER)
 THREAT TO COMMIT CRIME

Refer To Incident: [20-720-OF](#)

1. On 02/04/21, I was working as the patrol sergeant for the 8am-4pm shift. At approximately 10am, I was notified by SRO Officer Cotard that he was going to be conducting a well being check on a party at 3307 Windsor Woods Way. The party in question, BIRCHMORE, Sandra had not shown up for work at the East Middle School for several days without notifying anybody at the school.
2. Officer Cotard, Officer Brady and Officer Yeaton responded to 3307 Windsor Woods Way in an effort to make contact with BIRCHMORE. Once on scene, Officer Cotard notified me that nobody was answering the door. Officer Cotard was then able to locate the subject's vehicle in the parking lot. The vehicle was covered in snow and appeared to not have been moved since the snowfall on Monday 2/3/21.
3. Being unable to reach anybody at the apartment, officers on scene were able to make contact with the property manager, Erin Porter, who provided them with a key to access the apartment for a well being check. Upon entering the apartment, Officer Cotard located BIRCHMORE in the bedroom, deceased with a black strap around her neck which was tied to the bedroom closet door. At this point, the scene was secured and Officer Yeaton requested my response to the scene along with Detective McCourt.
4. Once on scene, access to the apartment was limited to Detective McCourt and I. Firefighter Whitley was allowed into the apartment with tyvek boots in order to pronounce the party deceased. Once the scene was secured, State police CPAC unit was notified and responded to the scene.
5. While waiting for the CPAC unit to arrive, I went to the rental office and met with the property manager, Erin Porter and maintenance supervisor, Carlos Verissimo. VERISSIMO was able to access the video camera system which only captured the interior entrance to building #3, which was the residence of the deceased. The video is motion activated and captures people entering, exiting, or any other motion in the front lobby. While observing this footage, I observed BIRCHMORE's activity in the following order:
 - February 2, 2021
 - Sunday- leaves building at 951am on the telephone
 - Sunday- returns to building at 1008 am, carrying a large box containing a baby car seat
 - Sunday- leaves at 1011am
 - Sunday- returns to building at 115pm with two pizza boxes and talking on telephone
 - Sunday- leaves at 439pm
 - Sunday- returns to building at 441 texting on telephoneI was later informed by VERISSIMO that BIRCHMORE is captured again on camera leaving the building on Monday and she returns at 546pm, holding a snow brush. This was the last time

that BIRCHMORE was seen on video. While reviewing the video, PORTER was able to obtain BIRCHMORE's file and locate her emergency contact, Darlene Smith, who is the aunt of the deceased.

6. Upon returning to the apartment, I met with Troopers Dunn and Tufts from the State police CPAC unit. I advised them of all the information that we had obtained thus far. The scene was processed and photographed by the CPAC unit. The Medical Examiner's office was contacted and responded to the scene to take custody of the body. It was at this time that Officer Nix was able to get in contact with Darlene Smith, who was currently in Raymond, NH. Officer Nix advised her that BIRCHMORE had been found deceased. SMITH told Officer Nix that this did not make any sense to her and went on to tell him that I [redacted] and very happy about it. She was unable to respond to the scene as she was out of state.

7. Thursday evening I was contacted via email by Erin Porter, who is the property manager of Windsor Woods. She stated that she had seen somebody enter the building on the video footage that she believed was Alexander Stenstrom, who is a friend of BIRCHMORE. STENSTROM had applied for housing a few weeks back with the recommendation of BIRCHMORE. She said she was not positive due to face coverings, but she wanted to bring it to our attention. I advised her that we would look into the matter when we were able to access the video footage again.

8. On Saturday 2/6/21, I returned to work as the patrol sergeant on the 8am-4pm shift. Once at work, I noticed another email that I had received from PORTER stating that she had a concerning phone call on Friday night around 9pm and would like to speak to me about it. I contacted PORTER immediately. She told me that she received a call last night on their emergency line from a party named Tina Thompson ([redacted]). She said that Thompson was very upset and was making statements about BIRCHMORE. She stated that BIRCHMORE had been dating a police officer and that [redacted].. She told PORTER that the police officer [redacted] told BIRCHMORE [redacted] he would take care of the problem himself. PORTER advised her that she should be speaking with the police and not her. Detective McCourt provided Trooper Tufts with all of this information as well as the contact information for PORTER and THOMPSON.

9. At approximately 100pm, I returned to Windsor Woods with Detectives Albert and McCourt. VERISSIMO had agreed to meet us there and review more video from building #3. We were met at the leasing office by Troopers Dunn and Tufts.

10. While the video footage was being reviewed, I spoke with the office leasing manager, FAHERTY, Kathleen. I told FAHERTY that it had been brought to my attention that she had spoken to BIRCHMORE in recent weeks before her death. She acknowledged that she had

spoken to her on a couple of different occasions and agreed to speak with me about it. She said that she spoke with BIRCHMORE about four weeks ago and this was when she first learned that BIRCHMORE . BIRCHMORE told her that the ; and that she seemed nervous about it. She told FAHERTY that the was a police officer, who was not happy about the and did not want to BIRCHMORE never told her where or in what capacity the worked as a police officer. BIRCHMORE went on to say that the two had broken up and were no longer together. At the time of this conversation, FAHERTY believed that BIRCHMORE was approximately . The next time FAHERTY recalls talking with BIRCHMORE was approximately three weeks ago. During this conversation, FAHERTY states that BIRCHMORE seemed to be happier and joked with FAHERTY about anticipating multiple packages to be delivered in the coming weeks, as she ha . She also stated that once the , she was hoping to move into a bigger unit within Windsor Woods. FAHERTY told me that all packages that are delivered by courier come to the leasing office and then they send a message to the tenant. She told me that she had a record of BIRCHMORE's recent deliveries. She picked up two packages on 1/30/21. There were three packages from Kohl's that were delivered last week, but had not been picked up yet. There was one more package that had just arrived on this day 2/6/21 from Kohl's. The packages were small and based on what FAHERTY had told me, I did not open the packages, but brought it to the attention of Troopers Dunn and Tufts.

11. After speaking with FAHERTY, I returned to apartment 3307 with Canton detectives Albert and McCourt. We were accompanied by Troopers Dunn, Tufts, and Sgt. Fanning from the Massachusetts State Police. Once inside the apartment, my attention was brought to the large box containing a . This was the same box that I had observed BIRCHMORE carrying into the building on Saturday. I observed the shipping label on the box and noticed that the package had been delivered to Raymond, NH, which was the current address for BIRCHMORE's aunt, Darlene Smith. The apartment was further processed by the officers on scene.