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Via e-mail to raymitevlaw@gmail.com

John Ray, Esq.
5 East 22nd Street, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10010

Re: Shannon Gilbert, deceased

Dear Mr. Ray:

I have reviewed the Suffolk County Medical Examiner's autopsy and toxicology reports, the New York City Medical Examiner's Office forensic anthropology report and photographs that you sent to me relative to the death of Shannon Maria Gilbert. I have also examined the skeletal remains and obtained medical history from Ms. Gilbert's mother.

Shannon, 23 years old, was last seen alive in the early morning of May 1, 2010, running from the house of Joseph Brewer in Oak Beach, Long Island. Her largely skeletonized remains and some of her dispersed belongings were discovered in a nearby marshy area on December 13, 2011, almost 20 months after she had disappeared. She was still wearing deteriorating fragments of clothing: a white or tan shirt, black brassiere, thong panties and blue denim jeans. Almost all of the skeletal bones were recovered and appeared normal. There was no evidence of trauma. However, the larynx was missing and only the body of the hyoid bone was found; the two greater horns of that neck bone were missing. These structures, the larynx and the hyoid bone, are often fractured during

homicidal manual strangulation. My examination of the recovered body of the hyoid bone, after it had been anthropologically defleshed, showed a roughness at the margins where the separated horns had been attached.

Toxicologic analysis was able to be performed on skeletal muscle and contents of the cranial cavity. No drugs of abuse, including cocaine, were found. The Death Certificate was issued as: "Cause of death - Undetermined. Manner of death - Undetermined."

Shannon's mother told me that her daughter had been in good health; no surgical procedures; no hospitalization; and that she did use cocaine sometimes.

It is my opinion, based on the circumstances of Shannon's death and on the materials that I have reviewed, that there is no evidence that she died of a natural disease, of a drug overdose or of drowning. There is insufficient information to determine a definite cause of death, but the autopsy findings are consistent with homicidal strangulation.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael M. Baden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael M. Baden, M.D.
Former Chief Medical Examiner,
City of New York
Former Chief Forensic Pathologist,
New York State Police

MMB:ph