

State of Kansas
Office of Coroner
REPORT OF DEATH

---PERSONAL INFORMATION---

TIME: Notified _____ Date: 12/9/2013
Case Number: L13-12-042 County Jurisdiction: Douglas Coroner: Mitchell

Name: Gianfranco Villagomez-Saldana Age: 23 DOB _____ Sex: M Ethnic Code: H
Address: _____ Zip: _____

---LOCATION INFORMATION---

Time Arrived _____ Time Departed _____
Officers Present: Axeman Agency: Lawrence Police Dept Agency #: _____
Injury Location: 837 Avalon Rd, Lawrence, KS 66044-2421 Date: 12/7/13 Time: ~0200
Death Location: 837 Avalon Rd, Lawrence, KS Date: 12/7/13 Time: ~0200
Date Pronounced Dead: 12/9/13 Time of Pronouncement: 1445
Name of Pronouncer: LDCFM License #: _____

---NEXT-OF-KIN INFORMATION---

Next-of-Kin Name: GianPierre Villagomez-Saldana - brother

Mortuary of Choice: Warren-McElwain Mortuary (Lawrence, KS) 785-843-1120

Information By: Earl Barnes Informant Address: Douglas County Coroner's Investigator

---IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION---

Attending Physician: n/a
Identified By: Landlord Identification Method: Photo ID
Body Sent To: First Call Morgue Exam Type: Autopsy
Exam By: Erik K. Mitchell, M.D. Manner of Death: accident
Disposition of Body: Autopsied, Released

--DIAGNOSIS--

Diagnosis: Blunt head trauma
Due To: _____
Due To: _____
Due To: _____
Contributory Factors: acute ethanolism

Reporting Investigator's Initials: _____ Lead Investigator
Coroner

LOCATION: 837 Avalon
TIME ARRIVED: 1611hrs
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY: Lawrence Police
LEAD INVESTIGATOR: E. Barnes

INITIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The decedent, Gianfranco Villagomez-Saldana, was a 23 year-old Peruvian found lying on his side in the middle of a walkway behind a house. The resident, Alex Anderson (785-842-3777) of 827 Avalon noticed the decedent out his window and upon investigation found the decedent was covered in snow and very stiff to the touch. EMS was called and upon arrival pronounced death without attempts at resuscitation.

A briefing with Lawrence Police Department revealed the decedent was last seen at a party at 837 Michigan #15B on the night of 12/6/2013. He was drinking but did not appear to be overly intoxicated. He was known as a social drinker that did not usually lead to excessiveness and never used illicit drugs. He left approximately 0200hrs to go to his girlfriend's (Donna Harkrider) apartment at 1034 Mississippi. She awoke at 0700hrs and found he had not arrived yet. She attempted to call him throughout the day without success and at approximately 1900hrs the police were called and a missing person report was filed. The decedent always checked in with friends and would never just "disappear" without someone knowing.

Search parties were organized on Sunday 12/8/2013 and the surrounding neighborhoods were searched including the woods nearby. Pamphlets were distributed and no new leads were generated.

Mr. Anderson stated that upon reflection, his dog barked wildly at approximately 0430hrs Saturday morning 12/7/2013 but he didn't think much of it at the time.

OBSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT:

The scene is the back yard of a two story residential structure that was formerly a barn. There is an approximately seven foot walkway along the back of the house against a rock wall that has been smoothed out with cement. Above this rock wall is a berm with other houses beyond it. There are trees lining the top of the berm with approximately 20 feet from the level ground at the base of the trees to the location of the decedent. This is not a completely sheer drop but a rounded edge is present with several rocks sticking out from the face of the rock wall.

The brush is disturbed above the decedent, however it cannot be determined if there is any sign of struggle. No obvious blood or body tissue is seen in this area. The temperature the night of 12/6/13 through the morning of 12/7/13 was extremely cold with temperatures in the single digits for most of the morning and

highs the next several days reaching barely into the 20 degree Fahrenheit range. Snow and sleet fell during the late evening hours starting 12/7/13 and ending 12/8/13 yielding approximately ¼" of snow in the general area.

OBSERVATION OF THE DECEDENT:

The decedent is found lying on his right side on concrete that is lightly covered with fallen brush. He is wearing a dark colored "pea coat" style coat, blue colored jeans and white colored sneakers. He is wearing a belt that appears yellow and red. There appears considerable amount of blood is around his head and has run underneath him. It is difficult to discern the origin of the blood as it appears to come out of his nose and ear. No obvious head trauma is seen or felt, however the body as a whole is frozen.

He is wearing a black watch on his left wrist which in turn is folded underneath him. Several small lacerations are seen across the fingers in his right hand. No obvious bleeding is seen. A search of his pockets reveals a set of keys, black cell phone, and a brown wallet with "Peru" and "Nazca" and "Colibri" embossed on it.

Physical exam is limited by the frozen nature of the body.

INITIAL SCENE IMPRESSION:

The cause and manner of death are pending.

SCENE CONCLUSION:

Upon arrival at the scene a briefing was held with LPD. The scene was photographed and the body examined. Sharon Mandel from First Call Morgue was contacted and it was agreed that this was a coroner's case. Matt Daigh was then called for transport. The body was placed in a blue colored body bag and sealed. The body is released for transport to First Call.

INVESTIGATOR:

Earl Barnes

AUTOPSY REPORT

AUTOPSY FINDINGS:

- I. Occipital scalp laceration
- II. Calvarial fracture
- III. Subarachnoid blood
- IV. Cerebral contusions
- V. Rib fractures
- VI. Acute urinary retention
- VII. Acute ethanol intoxication


SUMMARY:

The decedent expires with basal skull fractures and cerebral contusions. The pattern of injury is compatible with impact of the head upon an object and the scene information indicates the decedent has the opportunity to fall upon a hard surface. Ribs are also fractured in a pattern consistent with right-sided chest impact.

There is severe acute urine retention and toxicologic analysis determines the decedent is intoxicated by ethanol at the time of injury. Background information indicates the decedent has consumed ethanol prior to the time he is last seen. The stomach has none of the stress ulcers commonly associated with hypothermic exposure. Considering the totality of findings, death is related to the blunt traumatic injuries, primarily those of the head. While injury takes place in an environment capable of causing severe hypothermia, after consideration of overall scene findings, with blood at the scene, the lack of gastric findings, and the severity of head injury this death is more likely related to the head injury than hypothermic exposure.

Signed: 
Erik K. Mitchell, M.D.

Date: 3 Feb 2014

Reviewed: 
Altaf Hossain, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Date: 2/3/2014

INITIAL INFORMATION:

According to initial information, the decedent was at a party and while there consumed ethanol. He left the party to walk to his girlfriend's residence and disappeared from view. He was later found in a situation where it appeared he had fallen onto a walkway from a height. The temperature was quite low and to examiners the body appeared frozen.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF EXAMINATION:

The body is examined postmortem at the Frontier Forensics Morgue in Kansas City, Kansas on 11 December 2013 at 0900 hours on the authority of the Douglas County Coroner's Office.

WITNESSES:

Rob Lintner provides technical assistance.

IDENTIFICATION:

The decedent is identified visually at the site of demise and identification confirmed by visual comparison of photographs at the morgue. Fingerprints are taken for archival purposes as is a blood spot on filter paper.

The body is in a body bag with one-time lock #10906.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The decedent is a 69 ½ inch, 166 pound, adult male heavily dressed.

The scalp has straight black hair in good condition. There is sparse short chin beard hair.

Eyes have postmortem clouding of the corneae with some loss of orbital turgor.

The mouth contains native teeth in good repair and firmly in place.

The upper body is clothed with a pea coat type jacket over a long sleeved dress shirt in turn over a t-shirt. The lower body is dressed in blue jeans with web belt over underpants and in sneakers over white socks.

The web belt has yellow, blue, and maroon coloring.

Douglas County, Kansas

No injuries are found at the neck, upper extremities, lower extremities, abdomen, or the skin of the ventral and dorsal chest.

No scars are identified at wrists or antecubital fossae. There is no area of chronic skin breakdown. Skeletal and muscular structure is symmetric. The body still has rigor but the rigor is easily broken upon examination.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY:

Three inches caudal to the vertex and approximately the midline is a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long vertical tear of the skin deep to which is hemorrhagic red-to-purple discoloration of galeal soft tissues over an area of between 2 and 3 inches diameter.

The calvarium has a vertical fracture to the right of midline that extends from the level of the foramen magnum into the rostral aspects of the posterior fossae. The right petrous ridge has hairline fracture running from the temple towards the midline.

The right cerebellar hemisphere has partially macerated tissue overlying the area of the vertical calvarial posterior fossa fracture and there is hemorrhagic discoloration of adjacent cerebellar folia. Cerebral spinal fluid is bloody. The brain has subarachnoid blood prominently over the tips of the frontal lobes. On section the brain has gyral tip contusion hemorrhages at the frontal lobe tips, on the orbital surface of the left frontal lobe, and on the lateral aspect of the left frontal lobe towards the sylvian fissure. There is hemorrhagic discoloration of macerated cerebellar folia overlying the area of the fracture in the posterior fossa.

The chest wall has hemorrhagic discoloration about fractures of right ribs 6, 7, and 8 where they separate from the costal cartilage at the junction.

The right side of the face has blood smear but no traumatic disruption of tissue or bruise.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The 1330-gram brain has intrinsic symmetry of structure. Gyri may have slightly flattened tips, but remain rounded and sulci remain patent. There is no remote loss of grey matter ribbon and no remote loss of tissue in the deep grey structures. Lateral ventricles remain patent. The mammillary bodies are symmetric without atrophy or discoloration. Optic nerve, tract, and chiasm are

Douglas County, Kansas

symmetric without atrophy or asymmetry. Cerebellar folia are full. There is no mass lesion. Intracranial vessels have thin walls without plaque or clot.

The tongue has pink muscular tissue free of lateral margin scar and without acute hemorrhage.

The airway is empty.

Hyoid and larynx are without fracture and there is no localized discoloration about the joints of the hyoid or about high points of hyoid or larynx.

The epiglottis is without petechial involvement.

The esophagus has no bruise deep to the larynx. Strap muscles and associated fascial planes have no discoloration.

The cervical spine is stable to manipulation and there is no discoloration or paraspinous musculature.

The thyroid has finely divided red tissue without mass lesion and is symmetric across the midline.

The chest wall has the injuries as described above but no further indication of injury. There is no free fluid in the chest cavity and serosal surfaces are smooth.

The 350-gram heart has a smooth epicardial surface without erythema or adhesion. Coronary arteries have thin walls free of plaque or clot. Myocardium is red with even texture and even color. There is no indication of localized change in wall thickness of either right or left ventricles. There is no focal myocardial discoloration. Endocardium is clear and smooth without hemorrhage. Valves are delicate without vegetation. There is no redundancy of valve structure.

The aorta remains full of liquid blood.

The 700-gram right lung and 470-gram left lung have empty airways. The vessels contain only liquid blood. The tissue is red, flabby, and almost doughy and crepitant at the same time. There is no localized internal change in color or texture and no release of foreign material from the airway on expression of the cut tissue.

The peritoneal cavity contains no free fluid and appears pristine. There are no adhesions.

The 1460-gram liver is intact with thin capsule. The tissue is red with even internal texture. There is release of sanguineous fluid from the cut surface. The ventral margin is sharp. The gallbladder contains approximately 10 ml of liquid bile without calculus.

The 90-gram spleen has a thin intact capsule and red soft internal tissue.

Within the thorax the esophagus has white smooth mucosa without interruption. The stomach contains approximately 50 ml of vegetable fragments over mucosa and has residual rugal folds. There are no petechial ulcerations. There is no hemorrhage into the lumen. Small and large bowel are without bloody or melanotic content with brown stool residual in the colon.

The pancreatic lobulations are brown to tan with some reticular grey discoloration on the surface but not within the tissue. The duct is without dilatation. There is no fat necrosis.

Adrenals have even yellow cortex.

The 160-gram right and 160-gram left kidney have smooth red cortical surfaces. There is release of bloody fluid from the cut surface. Ureters are without dilatation. There are no calculi. Papillae are smooth.

The bladder contains 640 ml of clear yellow urine over mucosa without increase in trabeculation.

The prostate is between 3 ½ and 4 cm diameter with even pink internal tissue free of nodule formation.

SPECIMEN EXAMINATION:

Specimens are retained for submission to the Saint Louis University Laboratory for toxicologic evaluation with archival retention of frozen specimens. Tissues are retained for histologic examination with archival specimens in 10% Formalin.

TOXICOLOGIC EVALUATION:

Preliminary screen gives presumptively negative assays for ten common families of drugs of abuse. There is a presumptively strongly positive assay for ethanol.

Douglas County, Kansas

Formal toxicologic analysis with standard forensic toxicologic screens detects ethanol. At the time of demise there is significant intoxication with impaired mental and physical performance.

St. Louis University Toxicology Laboratory Report
6059 N. Hanley Road, Berkeley, Missouri 63134

Name: VILLAGOMEZ-SALDANA, GIANFRANCO
Age: Race:

Tox # 2013-8295
Sex:

Requesting Agency: DOUGLAS/MITCHELL

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Blood:

Alcohol:

ETHANOL: 0.188 gm% (188 mg/dl)
Acetone: Negative
Isopropanol: Negative
Methanol: Negative

Blood Drug Screen:

Amphetamines: Negative
Antidepressants: Negative
Barbiturates: Negative
Benzodiazepines: Negative
Cannabinoids (THC): Negative
Cocaine/Metabolites: Negative
Lidocaine: Negative
Methadone: Negative
Non-Opiate Narcotic Analgesic: Negative
Opiates: Negative
Phencyclidine: Negative
Phenothiazines: Negative
Propoxyphene: Negative
Acetaminophen: Negative
Salicylates: Negative
Oxycodone: Negative
Fentanyl: Negative
Oxymorphone: Negative

Urine:

Alcohol:

ETHANOL: 0.183 gm% (183 mg/dl)
Acetone: Negative
Isopropanol: Negative
Methanol: Negative

Brain:

Alcohol:

ETHANOL: 0.189 gm%
Acetone: Negative

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St. Louis University Toxicology Laboratory Report
6059 N. Hanley Road, Berkeley, Missouri 63134

Name: VILLAGOMEZ-SALDANA, GIANFRANCO
Age: Race:

Tox # 2013-8295
Sex:

Brain: (cont')

Alcohol: (cont')

Isopropanol: _____ Negative
Methanol: _____ Negative

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Requested by: FIRST CALL MORGUE

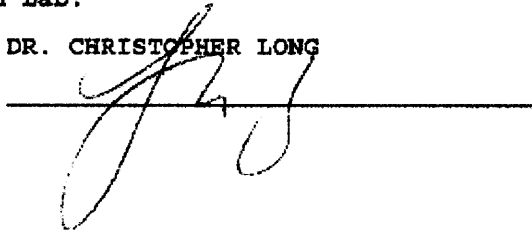
Date: 12/11/13

Received in Lab:

Date/Time: 12/13/13//10:30 AM

Report by: DR. CHRISTOPHER LONG

Date/Time: 01/09/2014//06:21 AM



MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION:

Heart: relatively well preserved tissue without significant pathologic lesion.

Lung: focal blood-filled alveoli, consistent with aspiration of blood.
Lymphatics contain pigmented macrophages. No inflammation.

Liver: without vacuolar change, fibrosis, inflammation, necrosis, or distortion of intrinsic architecture.

Spleen: without significant pathologic lesion.

Pancreas: postmortem autolysis.

Kidney: well preserved tissue without antemortem pathologic lesion.

Brain: acute contusion hemorrhages in gyral tip gray matter and in cerebellar folia.

Pituitary: without anatomic pathologic lesion.

Signed: 
Erik K. Mitchell, M.D.

Date: 3 Dec 2014