

September 14, 1999

On 26 February 1999 at approximately 1900 hours, your investigator along with Detective William F. Ritz had the occasion to respond to [REDACTED] Johnnycake Road Woodlawn and interview one Adnan Syed M/P/17 05/21/81 in the presence of his father.

During this interview Syed relayed the following information:

Syed indicated that he knew the victim Hae Min Lee and that she was a friend of his. He also indicated that he had known the victim for several years.

On 13 January 1999, he had the occasion to be at school (Woodlawn Senior High), however doesn't remember the events that occurred in school that day.

When asked if Syed had a relationship with Hae Min Lee, Syed replied in a soft voice "yes", however he didn't want his father to know.

Syed indicated that he had occasions to be a passenger in the victim's auto, however not on the date in question.

Syed stated that he had no idea who would want to have hurt Hae Min Lee and that he could provide no information on suspects.

Syed indicated that Hae Lee had been seeing an individual named Don [REDACTED] who apparently worked with the victim at Lens Crafters..

Your investigators asked Syed's father if it would be possible to speak with Syed at school on a later date. Same indicated that it would be possible if he was present.

Investigation to continue.

Respectfully,

Detective G.S. MacGillivray
Homicide Unit

Undis_E06_19990914_MacG_memo_on_Interview_Adnan_Syed_19990226.pdf
MacGillivray describing interview with Adnan Syed at his home on Feb 26th, 1999.

That interview was described, very briefly, in Progress report found on MPIA 15 459 061, written on Feb 27th 1999. Adnan was arrested in the early morning on Feb 28th 1999.

This document was originally attached to an Amended State's Disclosure dated Jan 18 2000. The main text contents of this document, although not memo header or footer, is the same as MPIA 15 459 062-063.

On Sept 3, 1999 State appears to have asked police for Adnan's statement from that interview, and they tell defense that one is being written. (Original) trial start date was then on Oct 13.

"A report is being written, which documents the last known interview of the defendant prior to his arrest"
Undis_E04_Amended_State_s_Disclosure_9-3-99.pdf

On Sept 14, Det. MacGillivray writes a memo to Major Rosen (MPIA p 062) with the same text as this file, but additional memo header details. No reason is given in either copy for date of memo being seven months after events described. *

On Nov 9th (after the original set trial date but before the rescheduled actual first trial start date) the State writes to defense saying "The State erred in it's [sic] Amended Disclosure of September 3, 1999 when it said a report was being prepared concerning an interview conducted with the defendant;" and "All required discovery concerning statements made by or interviews conducted with the defendant [have] been made." VLL2_19991109-amended-states-disclosure-fax-from-gutierrez.pdf

Given the Sept 14th date of this report/memo the first quote appears to be untrue, and the second does not seem to tally with the Disclosure Rules about defendants statements - Rule 4-263 a and a2. See T10th 1999-09-10 Memorandum Opinion And Order.pdf

And yet, on Jan 18 2000, which is after the first trial but before the second, the State writes to defense that on " February 26, 1999, Def. Magillivray [sic] had a brief conversation with Adnan Syed at his house. A summary of the conversation is attached:" VLL2_20000118_Amended-States-Disclosures.pdf

See also Undisclosed Podcast Episode 6 "The Suspect" timestamp 56 min or transcript page 21 onwards

* In 2015-2018 BPD it seems to be common practice for an officer to write a clarifying memo like this when they are under suspicion of some sort of misconduct, e.g. the "recreation of discovery of evidence" using Body Worn Cameras by Off Richard Pinheiro.