



Justice for Elisa Anne Gomez

John R. Bishop

Friday, December 10, 2021

The Honorable Tim Walz
130 State Capital
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

A lifetime Minnesota resident Elisa Anne Gomez, married, another native Minnesota resident, Bradley James Alexander, on Monday, October 10, 2016. Elisa Gomez graduated from the Minneapolis Community College and was attending the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Elisa was on the Dean's List every year and received her master's in fine arts, posthumously in December of 2016.

Elisa Anne Gomez was found deceased in her Minneapolis home on Tuesday, October 11th, 2016. The circumstances surrounding her death and the crime scene are very suspicious. All of Elisa's family and friends believe that Elisa would not have committed suicide. Elisa's newlywed husband, of twelve hours, has a history of domestic violence, including a felony conviction for domestic strangulation in Minnesota. The evidence shows that Elisa Gomez was a victim of domestic violence, strangulation, and homicide.

Elisa Gomez's death was investigated by the Minneapolis Police Department as a suicide, and then presented as a suicide to the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office and Prosecutor's Office. The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office determined the manner of death to be ligature hanging, but the cause of death is undetermined. The Hennepin County Prosecutor's Office reviewed the case and declined to file any criminal charges.

Many people have questioned the manner and cause of Elisa's death due to those closest to Elisa are adamant that Elisa would not have committed suicide. The first responding Officers from the Minneapolis Police Department reported to their Sergeant that this was not a typical suicide and they suspected that Bradley James Alexander had hung Elisa Gomez. The family has asked that the Minneapolis Police Department investigate Elisa's husband, Bradley James Alexander, as a suspect in Elisa's death. According to the Minneapolis Police Department's report, Bradley Alexander was only interviewed one time, on October 11th, 2016. Cherone Nicole Vestal, Elisa's roommate and the person who allegedly cut down Elisa, was interviewed twice that same day. Bradley Alexander and Cherone Vestal gave inconsistent voluntary statements to the Minneapolis Police Department Homicide Detectives. There is evidence to show that both Alexander and Vestal provided false statements to the Minneapolis Police Department and staged Elisa's body after her death.



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Susan Du, a journalist with the Minneapolis based City Pages, authored an article in March of 2017 titled "From Wedding to Body Bag in 12 Hours – What Happened to Elisa Gomez?" This article is the reason I became interested in Elisa's case. Susan Du quotes the Medical Examiner's Office "ligature hanging under uncertain circumstances," "Cannot exclude potential injury by another person," Susan Du, with no formal investigative training or experience, clearly sees Bradley James Alexander as a suspect in Elisa's death. Susan Du did not review the crime scene or autopsy photographs but was able to discern that the Medical Examiner's Office did not rule out homicide as cause of death.

In March of 2019 John Lordan of LordanARTS, produced a video titled "*BrainScratch: What Happened to Elisa Gomez?*" This video was also inspired by the City Pages article by Susan Du. John Lordan is part of an investigative journalist group called Three Men and a Mystery.

The Three Men and a Mystery produced a podcast and video blog series of their investigation into the death of Elisa Gomez. John Lordan and I began discussing the case and sharing information. The Three Men and a Mystery team contacted national and international experts on Elisa's case. An internationally renowned crime scene staging expert, Dr. Laura Pettler, believes that the crime scene was staged, and that Bradley James Alexander fit the "Pettler Crime Scene Staging Trilogy". The "Pettler Trilogy" identifies the person in most conflict with the victim, the person who benefited the most from the victim's death, and the person who discovered the body / called 911 to report the body. If the same person is found in all three categories, the crime scene has been staged. Nationally renowned criminal psychologists Dr. Shiloh and Dr. C.M. Scott from LA Not So Confidential stated that in their expert opinion, Elisa Gomez did not commit suicide.

There are many inconsistencies in Bradley James Alexander's statement and Cherone Nicole Vestal's statement to the Minneapolis Police Department Homicide Detectives. Both Alexander and Vestal reported that they discovered Elisa Gomez hanging from a scarf, facing into the downstairs basement bedroom. This is Gomez's bedroom that she shared with Alexander. Both Alexander and Vestal said that Gomez was facing away from them, as they stood at the bottom of the basement stairs. Vestal states that she cut the knot on the scarf that was hanging Gomez from a basement rafter. According to Vestal and Alexander, Gomez's body fell straight down and landed on top of a step stool inside the basement. There is photographic evidence of strangulation on Elisa Gomez's neck and evidence to prove that Elisa Gomez was not hanging in a position described by Vestal and Alexander. There is photographic evidence in the crime scene pictures to prove that Elisa's body was seated on the floor, facing the stairs and away from the interior of her bedroom. This photographic evidence supports the expert opinion of Dr. Laura Pettler that the crime scene was staged, and Elisa Gomez's body was moved postmortem. A crime scene is staged when the perpetrator of a crime purposely alters the crime scene to mislead the authorities and/or redirect the investigation. In the case of Elisa Gomez, the crime scene was staged to look like Elisa committed suicide and hid the fact that she was murdered by Bradley James Alexander.



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Elisa Gomez's neighbors who live at 4125 Cedar Avenue South, reported a disturbance outside their residence in the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 11, 2016. Elisa Gomez's residence is at 4133 Cedar Avenue South, two houses to the south of Kortz's residence. The reporting party, neighbor Kathleen Kortz, recognized Elisa Gomez's voice arguing with an unknown male. Kortz's daughter, Alexandra Ganapes, heard Elisa crying and saying, "I made a mistake, I want an annulment. Get out!" Elisa Gomez had texted that same message to Bradley James Alexander at 0146 hours on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 "We made a mistake. It's not the end of the world. I'm on my way back". Kortz reported the disturbance at 0219 hours. The Minneapolis Police arrived at Kortz's home at 0251 hours and cleared the scene at 0254 hours. Bradley James Alexander's cell phone was discovered next to Kortz's house later that morning at the scene of the disturbance which she reported early that morning. Kortz reported the discovery of Alexander's phone to the Minneapolis Police Officers who were investigating Elisa's death next door. Alexander's cell phone places him at the disturbance with Elisa Gomez, just prior to her death.

There are many other witnesses that place Alexander and Gomez in a domestic argument prior to Gomez's death. The crime scene photographs taken by the Minneapolis Police Department Crime Scene Unit provide photographic evidence of Elisa's body positioning and the staged crime scene. In August of 2020, I requested a meeting with Dr. Lorren Jackson of the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office to discuss the evidence that shows that Elisa Gomez was murdered. I was emailed by Assistant Hennepin County Prosecutor Patti Jurkovich, who wanted to be involved in the requested meeting with HCME Dr. Jackson. After agreeing to the meeting, Patti Jurkovich asked that I present my findings to Minneapolis Police Homicide Detective Sergeant James Jensen and Lt. Rick Zimmerman, who would then present the evidence to the Hennepin County Prosecutors and the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office. The family objected to both Minneapolis Police Officers due to past experiences and interactions with both Detective Sergeants Villella and Jensen. Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Tara Ferguson Lopez has objected to Detective Sergeant James Jensen citing discrepancies in his report and testimony, claiming he upheld a "Blue Wall of Silence" for other MPD Officers in 2018.

Hennepin County Judge Karasov said that her (Lopez's) concerns about witnesses' bias were "appropriate." "[Jensen] would have a reason arguably to help Mr. Hamilton," the judge said. "I allowed you to explore that bias, and I think you did establish that bias." The family of Elisa Gomez and I object to another review or any further involvement by Detective Sergeant James Jensen or his supervisor Lt. Rick Zimmerman. The family has been treated rudely by both Homicide Detectives and they have failed to thoroughly investigate Elisa's case from the start. We do not believe that the Detectives would honestly and objectively evaluate any evidence that could change the finding in a case that Sgt. James Jensen and his partner Twila Villella worked together. We also do not believe that Detective Sergeant Jensen would share this information, as presented to him, to the Hennepin County Prosecutor's Office or Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office. As a career police officer, I too know about the "Blue Wall of Silence" and that it



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is an unwritten rule against giving incriminating or unfavorable information about a fellow officer. We do not believe that Sgt. Jensen is a credible investigator. We do not believe that Lt. Zimmerman is willing to hear or present new evidence in the Gomez case. Lt. Zimmerman told Judy Hunt, the mother of Elisa Gomez, "when are you mothers going to just give it up?" This was Lt. Zimmerman's response about mothers who did not believe their child had committed suicide. Lt. Zimmerman threatened other families with the same disregard. Lt. Zimmerman has closed this case as suicide and has treated the family, and other families, rudely and disrespectfully.

On May 28, 2020, during the George Floyd riots in Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Police Third Precinct Headquarters was overrun by rioters and burned. We have been unable to confirm if the investigative files have been lost. The trust in the Minneapolis Police to do the right thing has been lost. Repeatedly, Minneapolis Police Officers have failed to step up and take the right actions against another officer, further exemplifying the "Blue Wall." 44% of Minneapolis voters, voted in favor of replacing the Minneapolis Police Department with a Department of Public Safety. This is another sign of the major distrust the citizens of Minneapolis have for their own police department.

Elisa Gomez was a beautiful woman of color, a daughter, sister, and mother. She was a Hispanic artist who painted a mural in the US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, MN. Elisa was an avid lover of animals and often rescued stray animals and fostered dogs in her Minneapolis home. Elisa had many friends, was passionate and full of life. Elisa was also the victim of domestic violence, domestic battery and strangulation. Strangulation is the most lethal form of domestic violence. Unconsciousness may occur within seconds and death within minutes. Strangulation is the ultimate form of power and control, where the batterer can prove control over the victim's next breath, having devastating psychological effects and potentially fatal outcomes. According to the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, strangulation victims are 750% more likely to be killed than victims who have never been strangled. 97% percent of victims were strangled manually (with hands). Only half of the victims have visible injuries, and of these, only 15% of the injuries could be photographed. The Minneapolis Police Department's crime scene photographs show evidence of the manual strangulation along with lividity that proves Elisa's body was staged. The same evidence is not visible in the photographs taken by the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office during the autopsy. The most common challenges to investigating a strangulation death are the lack of a visible injury, the lack of investigation, the lack of understanding, the lack of concern. The injuries are visible, as is the crime scene staging. We can also clearly see the lack of compassion, cooperation, and a proper investigation in Minneapolis and Hennepin County Minnesota.

Bradley James Alexander has been convicted of domestic strangulation in Filmore County, MN, when he strangled his wife Alexandra J. Alexander in case 23-CR-09-158. A letter to the court dated March 3, 2010, Alexandra J. Alexander wrote "I am very afraid of him. He told me that he will kill me, and I believe him. He has told me that there isn't anything that will stop him; including law enforcement, probation officers and no contact orders." "Brad strangled me with the intent to end my life. As I felt myself losing consciousness, I thought only about what was going to happen to my



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baby lying next to me in bed and my little girl asleep in the next room. Brad had attempted to rape me. Because I resisted, he became enraged and had strangled me many times during the night. He used his elbow, fore-arm and fist to cut off my airway". AJ Alexander details other abuses that she suffered at the hands of Bradley James Alexander. She further states, "He often told me that he was "restraining" himself from killing me." "I am still alive, but Brad is capable of killing anyone who lets him into their life."

Bradley James Alexander is a threat to the Minnesota public and a menace to society. He is a habitual offender of alcohol, drugs, domestic battery, and strangulation. Bradley Alexander has strangled at least four other women, three before and one after his marriage to Elisa Gomez. Bradley Alexander will continue to offend until he is convicted and incarcerated.

I have used my training and experience as a veteran police officer, investigator, and supervisor to help seek justice for Elisa and her family. In 1990, I began my law enforcement career in Oklahoma. I served twenty years in the Oklahoma Gang Investigators Association (OGIA) as an executive board member and was awarded a lifetime membership. I served six years as the OGIA President and ten years as the OGIA Chairman of the Board of Directors. I investigated the 9/11 terrorist attacks and became a member of the Oklahoma City FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Joint Terrorism Task Force. I have investigated many types of crimes in my career, including gang crimes, homicides, suicides, a suicide bomber, domestic and international terrorism, domestic abuse crimes, and sexual assault cases. I am an advanced certified law enforcement officer in Oklahoma, a graduate of the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) Criminal Investigators Academy, homicide investigations, and domestic violence investigations. I have over 2500 hours of continuing education with CLEET and have a degree in Police Sciences from Oklahoma State University. I currently serve as a police lieutenant in Oklahoma, with an accredited law enforcement agency. I have consulted my peers in the law enforcement community as part of my review of the above information. All of the consulted peers reached the same conclusion.

Our one goal is to seek Justice for Elisa Anne Gomez. We have exhausted our options and faith with the Minneapolis Police Department, Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office, and the Hennepin County Prosecutors Office to do the right thing and seek justice for Elisa Gomez. We pray that you will help the Gomez family seek justice for the death of Elisa Gomez and facilitate a meeting with the Minnesota Attorney General. The family hopes to present the evidence of our investigation and that such evidence will be presented to a Grand Jury for a criminal indictment of Bradley James Alexander for Elisa Anne Gomez's murder.

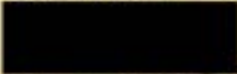


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For Elisa Gomez and her family,
Respectfully,

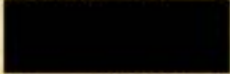
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