

FINAL REPORT REGARDING HOME INVASION/SUICIDE IN WARNER, NEW HAMPSHIRE ON JANUARY 9, 2011

January 17, 2012

On Sunday, January 9, 2011, at approximately 2:53 a.m., a 911 call was received from a male subject reporting that a home invasion had taken place at 148 West Main Street in Warner, NH, and that the intruder was dead. The male caller, who was later identified as Christopher Ross (50), of 157 West Main Street, Warner, stated that the owner of 148 West Main Street, Gordon Smith (82), was at his residence seeking assistance after enduring a lengthy home invasion that ended in the fatal shooting of the intruder.

When the police arrived at the Smith residence, they found the body of a white male, lying on the kitchen floor, with an obvious gunshot wound to the head. This individual was wearing layers of clothing, suggesting that he may have been homeless. A gun, a .40 Caliber, H&K, semi automatic, was located next to the body. A search of the house revealed that the basement door had been locked, but the bottom panel had been kicked inside from the basement. A bed was overturned and there were areas of red wine from a wine cooler box poured around the house. A number of items were located in the garage that belonged to Mr. Smith. That the intruder had taken from the residence.

The male subject who broke into Gordon Smith's home on January 8, 2011, and later died of a gunshot wound to the head, has been identified as Jesse Cook (30), with a last known address of Central Falls, Rhode Island. Jesse Cook also went by the name of Ques Paulson. It has been determined that he performed in at least one Providence nightclub, playing guitar and singing under the name Ques Paulson. A YouTube video of Mr. Cook performing under the name of Ques Paulson was also located. Mr. Cook's body was formally identified by family members.

The investigation has revealed that Jesse Cook committed an armed car-jacking in Providence, Rhode Island on January 7, 2001. During that incident, Cook held the owner of the car, a female, at gunpoint while he stole the vehicle. This vehicle was later discovered parked in the park and ride parking lot off Exit 9, of Interstate 89, in Warner, New Hampshire. The vehicle, a white, Hyundai Elantra, was displaying a New Hampshire license plate, which covered the Rhode Island license plate. This New Hampshire license plate was reported stolen from a vehicle in Manchester, New Hampshire on January 8, 2011.

Further investigation revealed that there were fresh footprints in the snow leading from the park and ride lot to Mr. Smith's residence. The neighbors confirmed that these prints had not been made by them and were not present earlier in the day on January 8th. It appears that Jesse Cook parked the stolen vehicle and then walked through the woods in the snow to Mr. Smith's residence. He may have spent some time in the garage before entering Mr. Smith's home through the bulkhead.

Mr. Smith advised police that he was home alone on the evening of January 8, 2011, and heard his driveway alarm go off a number of times. He then heard noise around his bulkhead at approximately 9:00pm. Shortly thereafter Mr. Smith heard noise in his basement and he called out to see who was there. When no one answered he locked the door. Jesse Cook gained entry

into the home after kicking in the bottom panel of the interior cellar door. Cook immediately told Mr. Smith he had a gun and asked him where he kept his money. When Mr. Smith asked to call his son, Cook disabled all of the telephones in the home.

Cook behaved in a paranoid and erratic manner, accusing Mr. Smith of committing crimes, and identifying individuals in photographs in the home as his relatives. Throughout the night Cook took items from the residence and put them in the garage where Mr. Smith's vehicle was parked. At one point Cook ordered Mr. Smith on a bedroom floor, placed a plywood board and box spring from the bed on top of Mr. Smith and sat on the box spring. Mr. Smith felt he was being crushed at this time, and sustained several injuries to his arms and legs before Cook got off the box spring and left the room. During the night, Cook asked Mr. Smith if he had any gasoline, and then proceeded to pour wine from a box throughout the house as if he thought the wine was gasoline.

In the early morning hours Cook brought a gun into the kitchen, told Mr. Smith to stand up, and placed the gun at Mr. Smith's temple. When Mr. Smith told Cook that he would spend the remainder of his life in prison for killing him, Cook then stated, "why don't I just kill myself then?" Cook then took Mr. Smith's hand, and placed it on the gun with his own hand, pointed the gun at his own head, and the gun discharged. Forensic examination of the weapon failed to reveal any identifiable fingerprint impressions.

The State's Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Thomas A. Andrew, conducted the autopsy on the body of Jesse Cook. Dr. Andrew determined that Cook's cause of death was a single, close contact, gunshot wound to the head and his manner of death is suicide. The toxicology report failed to reveal any illicit substances or other drugs in Cook's system that would explain his erratic behavior.

Efforts to retrace when and how Mr. Cook obtained the weapon used in the armed car-jacking in Rhode Island, in the armed home invasion in Warner, New Hampshire, and that eventually resulted in his death, have been unsuccessful to date. The firearm is a Heckler and Koch, .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol. The last known owner sold the gun on consignment in Louisiana. No further information has been obtained. The investigation has determined that Mr. Cook had no criminal history.

All of the evidence gathered in this investigation supports a finding that Jesse Cook broke into Mr. Smith's home with the intent to commit theft and assault, he caused bodily injury to Mr. Smith, threatened and terrorized Mr. Smith, and then killed himself. In light of the circumstances of this incident, no charges will be brought and the matter will be closed.