



Rochester Police Department

CASE# 2017-00023603

EVENT SUPPLEMENT

101 4th Street SE  
Rochester, MN 55904

REVIEWED BY

SUPPLEMENT

**SYNOPSIS:**

On 07/14/17 I Sgt. Steve Thompson #2179 performed follow-up on this case.

**OFFICER'S ACTIONS/ OBSERVATIONS:**

- I called and spoke to William Ransom who was identified in Sgt. Mitchell's report as being Peter Smith's son-in-law.
- Ransom was listed as the person to contact in case of his death.
- I asked Ransom if Smith had a laptop computer.
- Ransom told me that Smith did indeed have a laptop but that it was missing.
- I searched the photographs taken by officers at the death scene and did not see a laptop.
- It is unknown if Smith had a laptop computer at the hotel and no one reports seeing Smith using a laptop computer.
- He was however seen printing items in the hotel's business center
- I then asked Ransom if he was ok with my emailing him the suicide note that Smith wrote indicating that this was a suicide and not an act of foul play.
- Smith had signed the note, and I wanted Ransom to tell me if the signature appeared to be genuine.
- Ransom was willing to receive the email and told me he would let me know if the signature appeared to be Smith's.
- At 1321 hours I received a return email from William Ranson confirming that the signature on the suicide note was in Peter Smith's handwriting.
- I asked Ransom how Smith got to the hotel room.
- I also asked him if he knew whether or not Smith flew from Chicago to Rochester, and if so did he take a cab or rent a car to get from the airport to the hotel.
- I also asked him if he drove a car from Chicago to Rochester.
- Ransom said he'd wondered that right away but forgot about it and didn't know. He told me that Smith didn't own a car but that his wife did.
- According to Ransom the family is not missing any cars.
- He told me he would let me know what he found out.
- I then saw the receipt from Walmart South and called and spoke to Dannelle Baker from Walmart security.
- From the receipt I saw that Smith purchased a helium tank using his Chase Visa credit card.
- I saw that the transaction took place on register #17 at 12:53:48 on 05/13/17.
- Baker told me that they had video of the transaction.
- I drove to Walmart South and went inside the security room.
- Baker pulled up the video and played it for me.
- The video was directly over the register.

REPORTING OFFICER 2179: Thompson	DATE 05/14/2017	REVIEWED BY
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SUPPLEMENT (continuation)

- I saw what appeared to me to be an elderly male with light colored hair wearing exactly the same clothing that Smith was wearing when he was found on the floor of his hotel room.
- The male in the video appeared to have the same build as Smith.
- The male in the video from Walmart was wearing a black baseball style cap with what appeared to be a letter C on the front. The C on the hat appeared to be a black version of the Chicago Cubs letter C.
- The male was also wearing a black long sleeve shirt and black running style pants and black NIKE shoes with a white NIKE "Swoosh".
- I compared the clothing to the clothing that Smith was wearing when he was found by officers in the hotel room and found them to be exactly the same.
- A black Chicago Cubs hat matching what I saw on the video was also found in the hotel room.
- Baker told me that they did not have video of the entrance and exit doors so a good facial shot of Baker entering or leaving is no longer available.
- In reviewing the photos taken by officers at the scene I noted that there were two reddish orange helium tanks in Smith's hotel room but only one of them was hooked up with a hose when Smith was found.
- I do not know when or where the other tank was purchased.
- I asked Baker to run Smith's credit card number to see if he'd purchased the other tank from Walmart but Baker told me he was unable to see whether or not Smith bought another tank from Walmart so it's unknown when or where Smith bought the 2nd tank.
- Baker created a DVD of the video and handed it over to me.
- I placed the DVD into evidence.
- I also scanned some still shots from the video into the case file.

DISPOSITION:

- Supplement report
- Case status: Closed non-criminal

**Sgt. Steve Thompson #2179**  
**Rochester Police Department**

REPORTING OFFICER	DATE	REVIEWED BY
2179: Thompson	05/14/2017	