## **County of Santa Clara**

Medical Examiner-Coroner

850 Thornton Way San Jose, California 95128-4702 (408) 793-1900 FAX 793-1934



July 23, 2014

Captain Frank Zacharisen #1735 Office of the Sheriff County of Santa Clara 55 West Younger Avenue San Jose, CA 95110 408-808-4903

RE: Joshua Shawn Klaver Autopsy case: 89-030-018

Date case was requested for review: May 29, 2014 Materials received and reviewed:

- 1.) Autopsy report and complete file including toxicology report
- 2.) Autopsy photographs
- 3.) Investigation report, Sheriff's Office report# 89-1229A including supplemental report
- 4.) Kathy Atkins, telephone and e-mail correspondance
- 5.) Police reports (three total); 84-7886-A; IR85-10089-A; 85-4011A
- 6.) Scene investigation including scene re-enactment by Dr. Michelle Jorden using the information contained in the investigative reports for reconstruction of the scene including a step by step re-enactment of the incident short of an actual act of a full suspension hanging
- 7.) Bobbi Klaver's verification of what the ligature and the chair looked like 25 years ago using internet photographs of these items as described in the Coroner's investigative report

Captain Zacharisen,

The autopsy report, photographs, police reports of alleged child abuse including the scene reenactment were reviewed by Drs. Jorden, O'Hara and Schmidt on Thursday July 17, 2014. The current cause and manner of death will remain unchanged. Review of the Medical Examiner-Coroner materials necessitated the need to revisit the barn where the death occured and perform a scene reenactment. Descriptions of some of the items listed in the investigative reports were reviewed and pictures of similar items found on the internet based on these decriptions were reviewed with Bobbi Klaver prior to the scene re-enactment on Friday July 11, 2014 to ensure almost complete replication of the scene 25 years later. Upon conducting the scene investigation on July 11, 2014, it was learned the area of the barn in which the incident occurred was intact and for the most part undisturbed by the current owner 25 years later and was verified by the current owner. This investigation along with the scene re-enactment confirms Joshua Klaver was capable of performing a suicidal hanging (performed by Dr. Jorden) based on height and weight comparison, reconstruction of items at the scene and measurements taken at the scene. The circumstances leading to his death also support the rendered manner in this case. Per discussion with you, there is no new information that can be verified by Bobbi Klaver aside from what was presented to me for review. If more information surfaces which may impact the rendered cause and manner of death, we will review this information.

This case was also reviewed and discussed at length by the Child Death Review Team (CDRT) on Wednesday July 23, 2014 with twenty-two (22) team members including Dr. Michelle Jorden of the Medical Examiner-Coroner Office and representatives comprising Law Enforcement, Mental Health, Juvenile Probation, Public Health Department, Child Abuse experts, District Attorney, Psychiatry, Emergency Medical Response, Neonatologist, Child Abuse Council, County Executive's Office, and Good Samaritan Hospital among others. The findings generated by the Attorney General were also reviewed. The team discussed this case for approximately three (3) hours.

The Child Death Review Team has rendered classification of Joshua's death as a Suicide with a coexisting component of current or past child abuse. This classification will be entered into the state database.

A copy of this letter will be forwared to Joshua's mother, Kathy Atkins.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Jorden, MD Assistant Medical Examiner/ Forensic Pathologist Neuropathologist Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner Office Michelle A. Jorden

Joseph P. O'Hara. MD

Matrina Schmidt, MD