



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conviction of Brian Steven Smith Sheds Light on Systemic Issue of Police Neglecting Violence Against Marginalized Women

Anchorage, AK – The sentencing of Brian Steven Smith, scheduled for July 12, 2024, highlights the tragic consequences of the Anchorage Police Department's long running failure to address murders of marginalized women. Smith will be sentenced for the murder of Veronica Abouchuk and the murder of Kathleen Jo Henry. A brave woman brought detailed information about other murders committed by Smith to Anchorage Police a year before his arrest in 2019.

On August 14, 2018, Alicia Youngblood reported detailed information about murders committed by Smith to police. Despite her numerous calls, interviews, and even a drive to Eklutna, her concerns were dismissed, with Anchorage PD telling her that her boyfriend was just playing a sexual role play game with her. Alicia's persistence in trying to get the police to listen was met with indifference, reflecting a troubling pattern in how women's voices are often disregarded by authorities.

The turning point in the case came in October 2019 when a heroic sex worker gave an SD card to Anchorage Police. The sex worker was villainized by many media outlets reporting on the story, who reduced her to a mere prostitute with a criminal record in their reporting. Still, on the SD card was a horrific video of Kathleen Jo Henry's murder, which finally led to Smith's interrogation by Anchorage Police.

“Without her the case would never have moved forward since they had closed the report from Youngblood a year earlier without completing an investigation about the detailed information she provided about several murders committed by Smith” says Batts.

During his interrogation in October 2019, Smith made several chilling statements, one of them: "...if you want to kill someone, yeah, a prostitute is probably your best bet. Well, actually not a prostitute. They usually have a pimp or whatever that'll sort of keep track of them or whatever."

The "whatever" refers to sex workers working together, having someone who knows where they are and who they are with, or sharing information about a client—all measures that can enhance their safety. In Smith's words, sex workers are easier targets if this "whatever" support system is absent from their lives. Under HB66, signed by Governor Dunleavy today, sex workers and sex trafficking survivors who are convicted of working together for safety will be sentenced to register as sex offenders.

Amber Batts, a member of Community United for Safety and Protection (CUSP) attended the trial last February. She has continued to organize and shed light on the ongoing issues with police handling of the Smith case.

A forensic artist's picture of an unknown victim, created from three deleted pictures of a woman found in Smith's phone during his arrest in 2019, was released in a court document on July 3, 2024. Batts went to the courthouse on July 5, 2024 and found the graphic photos included in the sentencing memorandum. “The pictures are difficult to look at, and I question if this woman was white if they would be showing these? Anchorage PD has known about this woman since 2019, and they could have tried to find out who she was back in 2019. They chose to wait 5 years. Why?”

Batts said "When APD consistently fails to investigate crimes against sex workers, women experiencing homelessness or addictions, or Alaska Native women, seeing many within those groups as unworthy of following through with an investigation, it keeps the cycle of harm going and shows that these crimes aren't taken seriously, making us easy prey."

“Here we are 40 years out from the Robert Hansen case,” said Terra Burns of CUSP, “and sex workers are still going to the Anchorage Police Department with solid information and evidence of serial killers, and Anchorage PD is still allowing the serial killers to continue to prey on us after receiving these reports. How can we fix this broken police department to actually serve and protect all Alaskans?”

The Community United for Safety and Protection is a group of current and former sex workers, sex trafficking survivors, and our allies working towards safety and protection for everyone in Alaska's sex industries. Visit our website at www.sextraffickingalaska.com.

The following images are excerpts of the police narrative reports from Alicia Youngblood reporting Smith to Crimestoppers, then to Anchorage Police Officer Cordie and Lt. Carson, on

August 14, 2018. * The report is dated 8/17/2018, the initial contact via Crimestoppers is listed as August 14, 2018 at 1602 hours. We have left pages of graphic information out of this report out of respect for the victims and the victims families.

Anchorage Police Department



4501 Elmore Rd

Nature of Call
SUSPICIOUS

907-786-8600

18-33047

Supplement No
0008

Reported Date
08/17/2018

Officer
CORDIE, DAVID

Administrative Information

Agency	Report No	Supplement No	Reported Date	Reported Time	CAD Call No
Anchorage Police Department	18-33047	0008	08/17/2018	07:29	182290161
Status	Nature of Call				
REPORT	SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES				XMN360
Location	City	ZIP Code	Rep Dist		
4501 ELMORE RD	ANC	99507	05G4		
Area	Beat	Officer			
N	13	30103/CORDIE, DAVID			
Assignment	Entered by	Assignment			
DETECTIVES HOMICIDE / LT CARSON	30103	DETECTIVES HOMICIDE / LT CARSON			
RMS Transfer	Prop Trans Stat	Approving Officer	Approval Date	Approval Time	
Successful	Successful	0877	09/11/2018	16:23:12	

Property

Item	Agency	Report No	Original Incident	Original supplement	Involvement
1	Anchorage Police Department	18-33047	18-33047	0008	EVIDENCE
Invl Date	In Custody?	Security	Tag No	Item No	
08/17/2018	Yes	No	1156239	0	
Description				Typ	
facebook data sw 18-2458 SMITH				A	
Cat					
Radio, TV, and Sound Entertainment Devices					
Article	Entered Date	Entered Time	RMS Transfer		
Audio/Laser Compact Disc (CD)/DVD	09/11/2018	16:04	Successful		
Control					
0877 0911181624					

Modus Operandi

Crime Code(s)
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

Narrative

Report Officer
30103/CORDIE, DAVID

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Anchorage Police Department**Narrative**

wiped his prints off the glass.
The suspect removed the victims bra and cut off her panties.
The suspect did not go on to describe to the caller how he killed the female. However, the caller said that they would call back when they got more information about the crime.

Suspect

Race: Black
Gender: Female
Weight: Average
Age: Possibly around 30 years old
Scars, Marks, Tattoos, Piercings: She was not of a curvy build
Clothing: Pink bra and pink underwear, pink robe on the bed

The tipster added the following information 08-14-2018, (1602 hours);

The caller wanted to add the following information.

The person listed as the suspect is the victim.

The caller does not want to give any information about the suspect. The caller reported that the suspect told them

that he had committed a murder and had killed a prostitute. The caller is asking if the police are aware of a crime that took place as the caller does not know if the suspect is telling the truth about the murder.

The date of the murder was actually August 3, 2018 in the early morning hours around 2am

More information was provided on 08-15-2018 (2246 hours);

The caller wanted to add that the victim is still in her apartment. She has not been found. It has been 10 days.

The caller stated that the suspect violated her post modem with his fingers and a water bottle.

The caller also believes that the suspect penetrated the victim anally post mortem. The suspect said that he didn't do it for sexual reasons, it was all about power. The suspect then felt like his heart was beating very fast.

The caller also wanted to stated that the suspect met the victim near the DMV located at [REDACTED].

The suspect said that they drove from the DMV, past some blue apartment building. The drive only took a few minutes. The victims apartment was in a fourplex and she lived in one of the lower levels.

The caller stated that they believe that the victim's body is still there.

The caller stated that the suspect said that after he cut off her bra and panties he stood over her naked "like a lion over it's pray".

The suspect told the caller that he strangled her. He put his thumbs on either side of her neck and cut off the blood flow.

The caller stated that the victim's residence was an efficiency apartment. It was all open concept.

The caller stated that the suspect should have been at the liquor store in the early morning of August 3, 2018.

The suspect is planning on doing this again with other females in other locations.

The caller stated that the suspect has been going online and selling electronic items on Craigslist. The caller believes that the suspect may be lying about the victim being a prostitute. The caller believes that the victim may have been trying to purchase something from him.

The caller also stated that the suspect said that the victim "had a body like a boy". The caller believes that the victim may have injured the suspect on his lip. The suspect said that this was just a cold sore.

Additional information was provided on 08-16-2018 (1732 hours);

The carpet in the victims efficiency apartment is green or blue. Caller said the woman was a light skinned black female, with very skinny legs and wore with dreadlocks.

Caller said the suspect "fisted" the girl and kicked her so hard in the crotch, he tried to break her pelvic bone so he could reach his fist up further inside her.

There was a brown and beige patterned sheet (sixties vintage) that was under the body.

A bright orange dish towel was found between her legs.

Caller is concerned that police haven't found the body yet.

Caller said the suspect wanted to cut the victims breasts off, but he just pulled on them.

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Anchorage Police Department

Narrative

by means of the courier and a copy was e-filled into the case file.

I reviewed the data and didn't see any contact with YOUNGBLOOD, her log in was [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]. I didn't see anything in the data that pertained to the investigation to date.

Based on the investigation to date, with no possible victim identified, and or the video of the incident not seen by anyone other than YOUNGBLOOD, along with the tower data for SMITH'S phone number doesn't show the device leaving town on the night of the possible incident, this case is being suspended at this time, unless additional information is obtained at a later date.

CASE STATUS: CLOSED

Here is an excerpt from the interrogation of Brian Steven Smith, dated October 8, 2019 at 3:08pm at the Anchorage Airport.

1 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

2 THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

3 STATE OF ALASKA,)

4 Plaintiff,)

5 vs.)

6 BRIAN STEVEN SMITH,)

7 Defendant.)

8 _____)
9 Case No. 3AN-19-09901CR

10
11 TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH BRIAN STEVEN SMITH

12
13 Conducted by:
14 Det. Bell and Det. Lee
15 Anchorage, Alaska

24 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Well, yes. If you -- if you want to
25 kill someone, yeah, a prostitute is probably your best bet.

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operations@escribers.net | www.escribers.net

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1 Well, actually, not a prostitute. They usually have a pimp or
2 whatever that'll sort of keep track of them or whatever, you
3 know? You didn't bring back your money tonight --

4 DET. BELL: An indigent person.

5 MR. SMITH: -- (indiscernible - simultaneous speech), you
6 know?

7 DET. BELL: A homeless person somewhere.

8 DET. LEE: Somebody nobody's going to miss.

9 MR. SMITH: Yeah.