Fact Sheet on the Death of Rey Rivera

• There was clear evidence that Rey Rivera had suffered a psychotic break.

Rey Rivera left a note in his home before his death. The FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Unit prepared a report (Exhibit 1) on the note in which FBI psychiatrists concluded that: “[t]he writer of the letter likely suffers from persecutory delusional disorder” and that “[t]he writing in this letter is also consistent with someone who suffers from bipolar disorder. This assumption is based on the flight of ideas that could have been written by someone experiencing an untreated manic episode. The writing in this letter is disorganized, and, to a lesser extent, it is consistent with someone who suffers from schizophrenia.” The FBI also explained that, “in this particular case, the mental illness suffered by the author of the letter may go virtually undetected by family, friends and coworkers.” Although certain sections of the report are redacted, it is clear that the FBI concluded that Rey Rivera committed suicide because of a psychotic disorder (“This opinion is based on the above mentioned factors”). The FBI further suggested that family members should be re-interviewed regarding his mental health.

The existence of the FBI report was briefly addressed in the Unsolved Mysteries episode but all of the foregoing important analysis was completely omitted and ignored.

• Rey Rivera had previously been to the roof of the Belvedere Hotel to watch a sunset and, on the day of his disappearance, had visited a website showing when the sun would set in Baltimore that day.

The police report (Exhibit 2) states that the roof of the Belvedere Hotel “was accessible” and that Rey Rivera “had frequented the hotel on several occasions in the past.” Rey and Allison Rivera went to the Belvedere at least twice before his death. Commissioner Fred Bealefeld and Detective Marvin Sydnor—the lead detective on the Rivera case—recently confirmed that Allison admitted to police that she and Rey had previously been to the roof of the Belvedere Hotel together to watch a sunset. When Rey left his house for the last time, he left his computer running with a website showing what time the sun would set in Baltimore that day.

According to the Brottman book (see below): “[I]n 2006, when Rivera found his way to the roof, the elevator was often left unlocked, many of the fire doors were not alarmed, the security cameras didn’t always work, and the bartenders at the 13th Floor would go up to the roof to smoke, so the roof access door was usually left unlocked.”

None of these facts are addressed in the Unsolved Mysteries episode. In fact, the episode conveys that the roof was essentially inaccessible and fails to mention that Rey had frequented the Belevedere and had previously been on its roof.

• According to the forensic evidence, Rey Rivera was not pushed, but took a running leap from the roof of the Belvedere Hotel.

An engineering study and forensic analysis concluded that, given where Rey Rivera’s body was found, he could not have been pushed, but took a running leap off the roof of the Belvedere Hotel at 11 miles per hour. That speed is achievable for the average man, especially for a short distance. Rey Rivera was 6’5” and athletic.
• Rey Rivera’s injuries were consistent with suicide.

The medical examiner’s autopsy report (Exhibit 3) says that Rey Rivera’s injuries “were consistent with a fall from a height” and were “sustained as a result of precipitation from a 13 story building.” There was absolutely no indication of foul play or signs of a struggle. As detailed in the Brottman book (see below), although his cause of death was listed as “undetermined,” the “undetermined” classification is used liberally if the cause of death cannot be conclusively ascertained, even if the majority of the evidence points to a particular cause; indeed, fully 20% of deaths in Baltimore in 2006 were categorized as “undetermined”—almost as many as were ruled to be homicide (13%) and suicide (8%) combined.

The Unsolved Mysteries episode misrepresents that the autopsy report stated that “what wasn’t consistent with the fall was the way that [Rey’s] shins were broken.” That statement is false. The autopsy report clearly states that (1) only the lower right leg was broken; and (2) “the injuries were consistent with a fall from a height” and were “sustained as a result of precipitation from a 13 story building.”

• The Baltimore Police Department concluded that Rey Rivera took his own life.

Based on the evidence, the Baltimore Police Department and every one of the police officers who worked on the case for its duration concluded that Rey Rivera had taken his own life. Commissioner Bealefeld has publicly commented in news reports after Rivera’s death that “there’s not been one scintilla of information developed that would indicate there was anything criminal associated with Mr. Rivera’s death.” (Exhibit 4) As set forth in the Brottman book (see below), Officer Sydnor has explained that “felt Rey’s family wanted the death to be ruled a homicide, although personally, he thought there was no evidence to support anything other than suicide.”

• The author of a comprehensive book about Rey Rivera’s death concluded that Rivera had taken his own life after suffering a psychotic break.

Based on the extensive research she did for her comprehensive book about Rey Rivera’s death entitled An Unexplained Death: The True Story of a Body at the Belvedere, author Mikita Brottman concluded that the only plausible answer was that Rey Rivera had taken his own life after suffering a psychotic break. According to her recent Reddit thread discussing this case, Unsolved Mysteries learned about the case through her book, contacted her over a year before the episode was broadcast, interviewed her for approximately three hours, and filmed much of the segment in her apartment in the Belvedere Hotel. Ultimately, Unsolved Mysteries cut all of Mikita Brottman’s interview footage from the final episode. According to Brottman’s Reddit thread:

I was surprised when they told me they wouldn’t be using any of the footage in the final show. But when I saw it, it made sense to me. The shows are scripted and they all follow the same kind of plot trajectory. I think if they’d included my interviews it would have closed down a lot of speculation because it would have been obvious that a lot of avenues and angles had already been explored at length. And I also think a lot of
what I had to say (maybe most) didn’t fit with the “grieving widow” / emotional plotline that the show emphasized.

- **Left with $90,000 in debt, Allison Rivera was angry that Rey’s longtime friend and former employer did not compensate her after Rey’s death.**

  According to the Brottman book, Rey left Allison with over $90,000 in debt, which took Allison a decade to pay off. Although Rey was not an employee of Stansberry & Associates in the six months before his death, Allison was angry that Rey’s former employer—which was founded by Rey’s longtime friend Porter Stansberry—did not pay her financial compensation to cover the massive debt. Allison tried and failed to get her story made into a screenplay before turning to *Unsolved Mysteries.*

- **The phone call Rey Rivera received before leaving his house for the last time was not from Stansberry & Associates.**

  Contrary to Allison Rivera’s claim on *Unsolved Mysteries,* the last call that Rey received just before he left his home was from the Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore (see Exhibit 5) — not from a switchboard at Stansberry & Associates. In addition, Rey did not work at Stansberry & Associates when he disappeared — despite *Unsolved Mysteries’* representation to the contrary. He voluntarily resigned from Stansberry & Associates more than 6 months before his death and was working as an independent contractor.

- **There was no “gag order” of any kind.**

  There was no “gag order” of any kind and Stansberry & Associates never instructed employees or any other person not to speak or cooperate with the police. In fact, documents prove the exact opposite is true:

  Porter Stansberry sent an email entitled “Update on Rey Rivera” to the Stansberry staff stating: “[W]e were] able to get the Mayor’s office involved. (Thank God). The case was upgraded to the BPD’s Missing Person Unit. Detective Mason Land is in charge of the case. He’s doing a great job. Within hours we had the cell phone records we’d been waiting since Thursday to get…We’re doing everything we can to find him. Yesterday ten of us divided the city into parts and searched every single surface street, looking for his car. Today we visited all of the emergency rooms (again), to double check that he has not been admitted to any hospital. Tomorrow we’re going to focus on garbage men and postal carriers – folks who really know their parts of the city. We believe that if we can find the car, we can find Rey. . . . The one thing we need most now is help from the local media. If you know ANYONE from the local TV stations, the Baltimore Sun, The City Paper, The Washington Post, etc. please let me know… I will send them a fact sheet and pictures.” (Exhibit 6)

  Porter Stansberry also sent a personal email entitled “Urgent Message from S&A Associates” to the entire subscriber base of his financial newsletters with contact information for the Baltimore police department in an effort to help locate Rey (Exhibit 7).
Stansberry & Associates proactively encouraged employees to speak to the police, including by sending a mass email encouraging employees to “please contact Mason Land, BPD Missing Person Unit at 410-389-9759” if they had any information that could assist in the investigation.

As stated in the Brottman book, at least three of Rey’s former colleagues gave statements to police after they saw the hole in the roof that led to the discovery of Rey Rivera’s body.

- **Porter Stansberry cooperated fully with the police investigating his friend’s case.**
  
  In an effort to help with the investigation of his friend’s disappearance, Porter Stansberry employed extensive resources, got the Mayor’s office involved in trying to push the police to take the investigation more seriously, offered a $5,000 reward, and orchestrated neighborhood searches. After Rey’s body was found, Porter met with Lead Detective Marvin Sydnor on June 23, 2006, answered all of his questions (with a witness present), and never heard from the police again.

- **Porter Stansberry was out of town at the time of Rey Rivera’s disappearance.**
  
  Porter Stansberry was out of town at a conference and was surrounded by witnesses when Rey Rivera went missing.