

## Forsyth County Sheriff's Office

OCA: 2018110177

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Case Status: ACTIVE/PENDING

Case Mng Status: ACTIVE

Occurred: 11/04/2018

Offense: DECEASED PERSON

Investigator: SPRIGGS, S. L. (B2475)

Date / Time: 11/04/2018 10:20:19, Sunday

Supervisor: YEATON, R. D. (B2585)

Supervisor Review Date / Time: 11/04/2018 19:53:11, Sunday

Contact:

Reference: Assisting Deputy

I responded to the address of . I was responding due to a female person being discovered in the back yard that was not breathing and was stiff.

Upon arrival Deputy Waldrop was placing crime scene tape up. I advised Deputy Young to begin the crime scene log. Cpl. Miller had been inside and had spoken to the occupants. Prior to my arrival the female party had been confirmed deceased. We had all the occupants in the home to move away from the kitchen area and to move to the front dining room, first room on the right as you enter the front door to the left.

The residents had contacted persons who had attended a party the night before and asked them to return. They were not allowed in the home and instructed to complete statements regarding last nights activities.

During the course of Deputy Waldrop interviewing the parties it was apparent that a party took place. The deceased is an acquaintance of the resident homeowner. The deceased was drinking heavily. At some point the party began to wind down and attendees began to go to bed for the night. The deceased was left downstairs and was awake. The back door which has an alarm connected was triggered on the homeowners phone. It was triggered, open, closed and opened again. Times are detailed on the phone. The following morning when the homeowners and party attendees awoke they discovered the female deceased in the back yard. They then contacted 911 to report the incident.

Inv. Christian was contacted and responded to the scene along with the Forsyth County Coroner and Crime Scene.

The deceased was eventually positively identified as Tamla Horsford.

Investigator Signature

Supervisor Signature

**CASE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT**  
**NOT SUPERVISOR APPROVED**

Printed: 02/19/2019 08:42

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**Offense:** DECEASED PERSON

**Investigator:** CHRISTIAN, M. E. (B2775)

**Date / Time:** 11/06/2018 10:04:14, Tuesday

**Supervisor:** SEXTON, T. R. (B2683)

**Supervisor Review Date / Time:** NOT REVIEWED

**Contact:**

**Reference:** Supplemental Follow-up

On Sunday, November 04, 2018 at approximately 0900 hours, FCSO Uniform Patrol responded to a medical call at [REDACTED]. A female at that location had been found unresponsive and cold to the touch in the backyard of the residence.

This female was identified as Tamla Lana Horsford, B/F [REDACTED] 1978. This identification was made both anecdotally and by her Florida Driver License which had been found in her purse inside the residence.

Tamla had attended a combination birthday and football party at the residence the night before. She was a guest at the residence which is owned by Jeanne [REDACTED]. Tamla resides in the [REDACTED] Subdivision and was just spending the night at the residence after the party.

Tamla was anecdotally the last guest to go to bed that night. After saying good night to the host and another friend, she went out onto the back deck of the residence around 0200. This is borne out by the log on the burglar alarm at the residence.

The morning of the 4th, Tamla was seen laying in the backyard by Madeline [REDACTED], the Aunt of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] went upstairs and got [REDACTED] and her friend Jose [REDACTED] to come check on Tamla.

[REDACTED] called 911. At the request of the 911 operator, he touched Tamla trying to find a pulse or signs of life. None were found.

Responding FCSO Deputies found Tamla face down in the back yard. She was obviously deceased. The fire department and EMS were cancelled.

Tamla was found lying face down in the back yard. She was laying almost immediately at the base of an elevated back porch. Tamla was clad in a one-piece pajama set which was white and had a dog print on it. Tamla's right wrist was dislocated as if she had tried to brace herself from a fall. Additionally, there were two defects on Tamla's shins which corresponded with a metal landscape which was part of the yard and was located near her feet. This landscape divider was a piece of metal approximately one eighth of an inch thick which would have made cuts corresponding to what was seen on Tamla's shins. Tamla was lying face down head downhill from her body. Her right arm was by her side. Her left arm was somewhat out from her body and bent at the elbow.

Statements gleaned from the guest state Tamla had consumed a large quantity of alcohol and had used marijuana at the party.

Tamla was photographed and examined on scene with the aid of FCSO CSI Specialist M. Fujimura. Forsyth County Deputy Coroner K. Bowen represented the Coroner's Office and acted as a liaison

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between the Coroner's Office and the GBI. Tamla was transported to the GBI for autopsy. [11/06/2018 10:05, MECHRISTIAN, 212, FCSO]

On Sunday, November 4, 2018 approximately 0900 hrs. I received a telephone call from a Forsyth County dispatch advising me of a death which had taken place at

On Sunday, November 4, 2018 approximately 1000 hrs. I arrived on scene at the residence itself was cordoned off with yellow crime scene tape.

There were approximately eight to ten people milling about in the roadway in front of the residence.

The residence itself is a multi-story single family dwelling. It is built on a basement with a main floor and an upstairs. The basement level is finished. Entry into the residence is made through a front door on the front of the residence. Additionally, an attached garage is on the front of the residence with a single overhead door.

The back yard is contained within a six foot privacy fence. It is accessible through gates on either side of the residence.

On back of the residence there is a large patio on the main level with a covered area underneath. From the back the residence is accessible with a ground level door and a set of stairs leading up to the main level patio where there is another door leading into the main level of the residence.

**BRIEFING BY LT. S. SPRIGGS, FCSO**

I was briefed on the situation by Forsyth County Sheriff's office Lieut. S. Spriggs.

Lieut. Spiggs stated that there had been a large party or gathering at this residence and that all parties had gone to bed or believed to have gone to bed. However this morning a partygoer by the name of Tamla (Tam) lana Horsford had been found in the backyard, deceased. Lieut. Spriggs stated that all partygoers had been asked to return and uniform patrol was currently getting written statements from them.

I entered the house and made contact with the host and hostess of the party who were seated at the dining room table, working on their statements. These are identified as Jeanne (Jahn) [REDACTED] and Jose [REDACTED]. I was familiar with [REDACTED] as I recognized him from being a Felony Probation Agent in Forsyth County. Also seated at the table was Madeline [REDACTED], a family friend of [REDACTED] and also a resident at the [REDACTED] Address.

I introduced myself and explained that I would be speaking to them in a little while. I asked for consent to be in the residence and perform my investigation. This was granted verbally by [REDACTED]

I was shown through the residence by FCSO Cpl. C. Miller. Cpl. Miller showed me the overnight bag and purse belonging to Horsford. These belongings were in the living room of the residence behind a

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sofa.

From there we preceded to the back deck. There I was shown the body of Tamla Horsford.

**TAMLA HORSFORD**

Investigation into the death of Tamla Horsford was aided by FCSO CSI Specialist, M. Fujimura and Forsyth County Deputy Coroner, K. Bowen.

Tamla was located in the back yard in a prone position. She was laying with her head away from the residence and her feet toward the residence. Her left arm was at an approximately 40 degree angle from her body and the forearm and hand were bent further toward her head in the approximately 10 o'clock position. Her right arm was straight and by her side with the hand approximately six inches from the leg. Her legs were straight behind her with both feet pointing to the right.

Tamla was clad in a one piece pajama outfit consisting of a white fleece hooded outfit with dog paw prints on it and a set of ears affixed to the hood. The outfit was clean with a small dirty spot on the right buttocks of the outfit.

Tamla's body was sketched and measured. Additionally the height of the main level porch was noted as well as the height of the rail.

Multiple photographs were taken by CSI Fujimura.

With the permission of Deputy Coroner Bowen, Tamla was turned over. Most notable when Tamla was turned over was the fact she had come to rest face down. Her head had not been canted to one side or the other.

Tamla's right wrist was fractured or dislocated. There was a large bump where her wrist met her hand as well as a cut over the bump as if the bone had cut the skin from the inside.

There were matching defects on both of Tamla's shins. These corresponded with a piece of metal landscape edging which stood up approximately one inch from the surrounding ground.

Other than the broken wrist and cuts on her shins, no obvious signs of injury presented themselves.

Tamla Horsford was turned over to Coroner Bowen who in turn transported her to the GBI for autopsy.

Additionally, Tamla Horsford's property was inventoried. This was done by CSI Fujimura and myself. In her purse was located a small amount of marijuana and rolling papers. The marijuana was taken by CSI Fujimura for destruction.

JOSE [REDACTED]

On Sunday, November 4th, 2018 I spoke with Jose [REDACTED] regarding this incident. Jose stated the residence is the home of his girlfriend Jeanne [REDACTED]. He said [REDACTED] had thrown a birthday/ football party at the house. He said she had invited a bunch of her girlfriends over and it was mostly a girl's night. Jose said the only other male there was Thomas [REDACTED]. Jose said he and [REDACTED] had been downstairs watching the LSU Football game until halftime. He said they had come upstairs at halftime and found food and never went back downstairs.

Jose stated he and [REDACTED] went to bed around 1:30 in the morning and Tamla was still awake. He

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said she told them she was going outside to smoke a cigarette and would either go to sleep in one of [REDACTED] children's rooms or would sleep on the sofa.

Jose said they went to bed and were awakened the next morning by Madeline [REDACTED] telling him that he needed to come look at something. He said that is when Madeline took him to the body of Tamla Horsford.

**JEANNE [REDACTED]**

On Sunday, November 4th, 2018 I spoke with Jeanne [REDACTED] regarding this incident. She stated she had wanted to have a birthday dinner with friends but did not want the hassle of going out. She stated she came up with the idea of inviting some girlfriends over for a pajama party. Jeanne said they had a good evening with some drinking and that everyone had gotten along well. Jeanne said she and Jose were in the process of going to bed and were saying goodnight to Tamla. She said Tamla told her she was going out back to smoke but would be in in a few minutes. She said they went to bed and were awakened the next morning by Madeline [REDACTED] knocking on their door and asking for Jose. Jeanne said they went outside to find Tamla face down in the back yard.

I asked both Jose and Jeanne how much Tamla had to drink and what condition she was in. They stated she had brought her own bottle of Tequila and had drank most of the bottle. Both described Tamla as happy but not seeming overly intoxicated.

**MADELINE [REDACTED]:**

On Sunday, November 4th, 2018 I spoke with Madeline [REDACTED]. Madeline was the first person to see the body of Tamla Horsford in the backyard of the residence.

Madeline stated she had gone to bed before anyone else. She said she had gotten up around 0830 this morning and looked outside. When she did she saw Tamla laying in the back yard. She said she went upstairs to get Jose and Jeanne. She said Jose came outside and checked Tamla and called 911.

**CONVERSATION WITH KEITH BOWEN DEP. CORONER:**

On Monday, November 5th, 2018 I received a telephone call from Deputy Coroner K. Bowen. Coroner Bowen said that the Medical Examiner had a question in regard to where the body of Tamla Horsford was located. He provided me with a telephone number, 404-270-8210 and name "Chantal" as a contact person with the GBI Medical Examiner's Office.

**CHANTAL WITH GBI:**

On Monday, November 5th, 2018 I spoke with "Chantal" via telephone at 404-270-8210. I provided Chantal with my contact information. She stated she pass on my information to Dr. Andrew Koopmeiners so that he could call me back.

**VISIT WITH KURLAND "KURT" STJOUR:**

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On Monday November 5th, 2018 at approximately 1000 hours, I spoke with Kurt StJour the father of Tamla Horsford via telephone at \_\_\_\_\_. Kurt was requesting information on the death of his daughter. I explained to him what had been found on scene. However, he had a long list of questions. I asked him if he wanted to come in and sit down with me and speak in person. We made arrangements to meet around 1330 hours.

At 1330 hours, I met with Kurt and a family friend Rochelle \_\_\_\_\_ in my office at the Sheriff's Office Headquarters.

I answered Kurt's questions in general as best I could with what little information I had at the time. I explained to him that until the reports from the GBI returned I would not be able to tell him exactly what had happened to his daughter.

Kurt still had questions and I asked him if it would help for him to see the pictures from the scene. He stated he wanted to. So I went through the scene pictures with him. This only seemed to cause Kurt to have more questions. He stated the death and scene was suspicious to him. I explained that is why Tamla went to the GBI for autopsy in order to determine the why and how of her death.

I explained to Kurt that based on what we had initially seen, we had a theory about how Tamla came to rest where she had. I explained it looked like she had tripped on a piece of landscape edging and had fallen into the place and position she was in. I explained I could not tell him why she had died but the tripping theory seemed the most plausible at the time. I reiterated that we would have more and better information after the GBI reports began to trickle in.

The visit ended with me explaining to Kurt that I would keep him apprised of future developments.

**CONVERSATION WITH DR. A. KOOPMEINERS, GBI:**

On Tuesday, November 6th, 2018 at approximately 1000 hours, I spoke with Dr. Andrew Koopmeiners, Associate Medical Examiner with the Georgia Bureau of Investigations.

I began the conversation by explaining how Tamla Horsford had been found. I also explained my theory of her tripping and having some sort of medical event. Dr. Koopmeiners stated it would have been impossible for Tamla to have received her injuries from a ground level fall. He explained that she had suffered a broken neck as well as subdural hematoma on the right side of her skull and a torn heart muscle.

I explained that she had been found in front of a balcony the deck of which was approximately fourteen feet off of the ground. Dr. Koopmeiners stated that a fall from the balcony could produce such injuries. I asked if he would like to see the scene pictures. He replied that he would. I explained that I would put them on a DVD-R and get them to him.

On Tuesday November 6th, 2018 at approximately 1600 hours, I returned to \_\_\_\_\_. The reason for the visit is twofold. The reason being to search the area of the backyard where Tamla Horsford had fallen for evidence of impact.

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Consent to enter the back yard was given by Jeanne [REDACTED] via Jose [REDACTED]. Present at the residence when I got there was Madeline [REDACTED]. I entered the back yard through a gate on the right hand side of the house.

A light rain was falling as I examined the back yard. I approached the area where Tamla Horsford was found resting from the downhill side or the side closest to the back fence. The impression of Tamla's body could still be observed in the grass. Facing the back of the house and to the right of where Tamla had been found, I located a depression in the ground, approximately six to eight inches downhill and slightly to the right of this first impression was another slightly smaller impression. There appeared to be a swipe or other indication that something had slid from the first impression to the second.

I requested that FCSO CSI Specialist M. Fujimura come out to the house and record these impressions in photographs.

The impressions were photographed using evidence markers and a scale. The first impression being Evidence Marker (EM) 1 and the second impression being EM 2. EM 3 was placed approximately where Tamla Horsford's head had been when she was found on Sunday morning the 4th of November. A fourth Evidence Marker was placed at a piece of debris in the back yard. This piece of debris resembled a piece of bread or other soft white object. While there is nothing to readily tie it to the case, it was photographed. The depressions found and photographed were unlike anything else found in the backyard. They were approximately four to five inches in diameter and depressed enough that they were holding the rainwater. Per Jeanne [REDACTED], the landscaping in the back yard was five weeks old.

Note: I do not recall seeing the item at EM 4 on Sunday morning.  
After CSI Fujimura finished photographing, she left the residence.

**CONVERSATION WITH MADELINE [REDACTED]:**

On Tuesday, November 6th, 2018 at approximately 1630 hours and while at [REDACTED], I spoke with Madeline [REDACTED] a second time.

Madeline stated she had gone to bed before any of the partygoers. She said that she had gotten up the next morning about 0830 and had looked outside before going for coffee. Madeline said that is when she saw Tamla laying in the back yard. Madeline said she went immediately upstairs and knocked on Jeanne's door asking for Jose.

Madeline said she took Jose to the back deck and showed him Tamla laying in the yard.

**INTERVIEW WITH JOSE [REDACTED]:**

On Friday, November 9th, 2018 at approximately 0850 hours, Jose [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office headquarters.

Present for this noncustodial interview was Cpl. T. Sexton, Jose [REDACTED] and this Detective.

The interview was recorded in audio and a copy of that interview will be placed into the case file. A transcription follows.

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