

17-168



SOUTHWESTERN
INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES
AT DALLAS



Office of the Medical Examiner
In the County of Dallas
State of Texas

This affidavit is in compliance with Texas Rules of Criminal Evidence, Rule 902(10b).

Case No. IFS-17-19761 in the matter of

Martinez, Valerie, deceased.

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Ruenette Ellis-Chambers, who being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

My name is Ruenette Ellis-Chambers. I am over 21 years of age, of sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and personally acquainted with the facts herein stated:

I am the Deputy Custodian of Records of the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office. Attached hereto are 8 pages of records and xx photographs from the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office. These said 8 pages of records and xx photographs are kept by the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office in the regular course of business, and it was the regular course of business of the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office for an employee or representative, or a doctor permitted to practice in the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office, with personal knowledge of the act, event, condition, opinion or diagnosis, recorded to make the record or to transmit information thereof to be included in such record; and the record was made at or near the time or reasonably soon thereafter. The records attached hereto are the original or exact duplicates of the original.

Ruenette Ellis-Chambers

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on December 11, 2017

Shaun B Heese



Notary Public in and for Dallas County, Texas
My commission expires

(By statute, the original records are retained by the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office. See Art. 49.25, Sec. 11, Vernon's Texas Statutes, CCP.)



SOUTHWESTERN
INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES
AT DALLAS

Office of the Medical Examiner
Autopsy Report



COPY
DALLAS COUNTY
INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

Case: IFS-17-19761 - CC

Decedent: Martinez, Valerie 24 years Hispanic Female DOB: 12/29/1992

Date of Death: 11/05/2017 (Actual)

Time of Death: 12:24 PM (Found)

Examination Performed: 11/06/2017 07:50 AM

Body Weight: 252 lbs BMI: 39.46

Body Length: 67 in

ORGAN WEIGHTS:

Brain: 1,180 g	Right Lung: 400 g	Right Kidney: 160 g
Heart: 350 g	Left Lung: 340 g	Left Kidney: 150 g
Liver: 2,000 g	Spleen: 200 g	

This autopsy is performed at the request of Walter H. "Pete" Peterson, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2, McLennan County, Texas.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

Photographs, fingerprints, palm prints and radiographs are taken. The hands are not received bagged, nor are the feet.

When first viewed, the body is clad in a bloodstained black and gray knit shirt, polka dot black knit slacks and a bloodstained black hair tie. Around the left wrist, there is a black hair band which is left on the body. In the tongue, there is a white metal barbell with clear colorless plastic balls which is released as property.

The body is that of a normally developed Latin female appearing consistent with the recorded age of 24 years. The body is of small build and is markedly obese, measuring 67 inches in length and weighing 252 pounds. There is very early decomposition characterized by darkening of the lividity and by early skin slippage. There is no evidence of embalming. There is posterior fixed lividity and no rigidity. The body is cool to the touch, subsequent to refrigeration.

The scalp hair is very long, straight and black. The scalp contains injury to be described below. The ears are unremarkable. The eyes contain injury to be described below. They are closed and have clear corneae and brown irides. The nose and mouth are unremarkable and the natural teeth appear to be in good condition. The face contains injury to be described below. The neck is very short. The chest is unremarkable. The abdomen is severely protuberant. The body hair is female in distribution and has been shaved. The genitalia are those of an adult female. The back is unremarkable. The limbs are equally and symmetrically



Martinez, Valerie

developed.

IDENTIFYING MARKS AND SCARS

On the left uppermost chest, there is a 1-3/4 inch scar.

There are tattoos on the chest and upper extremities.

EVIDENCE OF TREATMENT

None is present.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There are four gunshot wounds of the head, which are numbered 1-4 for purposes of identification without regard to possible chronological sequence.

Gunshot wound #1:

There is a gunshot wound of entrance in the mid forehead, which is a 1/8 inch diameter defect that is centered 1-1/8 inches below the top of the head and 1/4 inch to the left of midline. The entrance defect is eccentrically centered within an area of soot measuring 3-1/2 inches in height by up to 3-3/4 inches in width over the forehead, eyelids and bridge of nose. There is gunpowder and stippling on the forehead, eyelids, cheeks, bridge of nose and chin, over an area measuring 7-1/2 inches in height by up to 4-3/4 inches in width. There is a 1/16 to 1/8 inch circumferential marginal abrasion.

After perforating the skin and subcutaneous tissue of the mid forehead, the bullet sequentially perforates the frontal bone, the right cerebral hemisphere, the right cerebellar hemisphere, and the dural sinus near the midline in the posterior fossa, in which it lodges.

A severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet is recovered from the dural sinus near the midline. It is labeled "19761", is placed into an appropriately labeled envelope and is submitted to the Criminal Investigation Laboratory.

The bullet travels front to back, slightly downward and very slightly left to right.

Gunshot wound #2:

There is a gunshot wound of entrance in the mid right eyebrow, which is a 1/8 inch diameter defect that is centered 2-1/8 inches below the top of the head and 1-1/4 inches to the right of midline. It is within the area of soot and stippling described under gunshot wound #1. There is a 1/16 to 1/8 inch marginal abrasion between 9 and 5 o'clock with a 1/8 inch marginal laceration at 9 o'clock.

After perforating the skin and subcutaneous tissue of the mid right eyebrow, the bullet sequentially penetrates the right superior orbital rim (fracturing it), perforates the floor of the right anterior fossa, and penetrates and lodges in the right orbital soft tissues.



Martinez, Valerie

A severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet is recovered from the right orbital soft tissues. It is labeled "19761" over "17". It is placed into an appropriately labeled envelope and is submitted to the Criminal Investigation Laboratory.

The bullet travels front to back, right to left and downward.

Gunshot wound #3:

There is a gunshot wound of entrance in the lateral right upper eyelid, which is a 1/8 inch diameter defect that is centered 2-3/8 inches below the top of the head and 1-3/4 inches to the right of midline. It is within the area of soot and stippling described under gunshot wound #1. There is a 1/16 inch circumferential marginal abrasion which increased to less than 1/8 inch between 1 and 5 o'clock.

After perforating the skin and subcutaneous tissue of the lateral right upper eyelid, the bullet sequentially perforates the floor of the right anterior fossa and the right cerebral hemisphere, penetrating and lodging in the right basal ganglia.

A severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet is recovered from the right basal ganglia. It is labeled "19761" over "T-P". It is placed into an appropriately labeled envelope and is submitted to the Criminal Investigation Laboratory.

The bullet travels front to back, very slightly right to left and without significant deviation upward or downward.

Gunshot wound #4:

There is a gunshot wound of entrance in the left side of the top of the head, which is a less than 1/8 inch diameter defect that is centered 1/2 inch below the top of the head and 1-1/2 inches to the left of midline. No soot or stippling is present. There is an up to 1/8 inch circumferential marginal abrasion with less than 1/16 inch marginal lacerations.

After perforating the scalp of the left side of the top of the head, the bullet sequentially perforates the left side of the frontal bone near the vertex, the left cerebral hemisphere and the right cerebral hemisphere, lodging in the right thalamus.

Most of a severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet is recovered from the right thalamus. It is labeled "17" over "19761" over "T-P". It is placed into an appropriately labeled envelope and is submitted to the Criminal Investigation Laboratory.

There is a gunshot wound of partial exit in the scalp at the vertex, which is a 1/2 inch, slit-like defect that is centered 1/4 inch to the left of the vertex.

The bullet travels downward and left to right, without significant deviation to the front or back.

Bullet fragment:

A small fragment of bullet is recovered from between the right and left cerebral hemispheres, in the sagittal sulcus. It is too irregular to label. It is placed into an appropriately labeled envelope and is submitted to the Criminal Investigation Laboratory.

Other injury:



Martinez, Valerie

COPY
HISTORICAL RECORDS

On the right side of the forehead, laterally, there is a 3/8 x 1/4 inch, stellate full thickness laceration into subcutaneous tissue. There is no defect in the underlying skull.

These injuries, having been once described, will not be repeated.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

In addition to the five projectiles described above, the following are submitted to the Criminal Investigation Laboratory: clothing, hand wipings (SEM stubs), hair for GSR determination, fingernails (x 2), blood standard and head hair standard.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

BODY CAVITIES: The thoracic and abdominal organs are in their normal anatomic positions. There are approximately 5 mL of red decomposing fluid in each pleural cavity. All the organs are show the softening color changes of early decomposition; there is gas production in the liver.

HEAD: See previous description.

NECK: The soft tissues and prevertebral fascia are unremarkable. The hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages are intact. The lumen of the larynx is not obstructed.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The pericardium, epicardium, and endocardium are smooth, glistening, and unremarkable aside from increased epicardial fat. There are no thrombi in the atria or ventricles. The foramen ovale is closed. The coronary arterial system is right dominant and the coronary arteries are free of atherosclerosis. The cardiac valves are unremarkable. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact. The myocardium is dark red-brown and without focal abnormality. The pulmonary arteries contain no thromboemboli. The aorta is of usual course and caliber and its intimal surface shows red staining.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The upper airway is unobstructed. The laryngeal mucosa is smooth and unremarkable, without petechiae. The pleural surfaces are smooth and glistening. The major bronchi are unremarkable. Sectioning of the lungs reveals a dark red-blue, moderately congested parenchyma.

HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM: The liver is covered by a smooth, glistening capsule; the inferior edge is rounded. The parenchyma is dark red-brown. The gallbladder contains a few milliliters of bile and approximately 50, up to 1 cm, multifaceted yellow calculi.

LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM: The spleen is covered by a smooth, intact capsule. The parenchyma is dark red. The observed lymph nodes are unremarkable.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The subcapsular surfaces of the kidneys strip with ease to reveal smooth and slightly lobulated surfaces. The cortices are of normal thickness, with well-demarcated corticomedullary junctions. The calyces, pelves, and ureters are unremarkable. The bladder contains approximately 250 mL of slightly cloudy golden yellow urine. The mucosa is gray, smooth, and unremarkable. The uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries are unremarkable externally and upon sectioning.



Martinez, Valerie

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophageal mucosa is gray, smooth, and unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 5 mL of cloudy tan fluid. No tablets or capsules are present. The gastric mucosa has normal rugal folds, and there are no ulcers. The small and large intestines are unremarkable externally. The appendix is present. The pancreas is unremarkable externally and upon sectioning.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The thyroid and adrenal glands are unremarkable externally and upon sectioning.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: The clavicles, ribs, sternum, pelvis, and vertebral column have no fractures. The diaphragm is intact. The body wall fat measures up to 1-3/4 inches in maximal thickness.

TOXICOLOGY:

Evidence Submitted:

The following items were received by the Laboratory from Forensic Pathology:

- 005: Biohazard Bag
- 005-001: Blood, femoral - gray top tube
- 005-002: Urine - red top tube
- 005-003: Vitreous - red top tube
- 005-004: Skeletal muscle - plastic tube
- 005-005: Blood, heart - gray top tube
- 005-006: Blood, heart - gray top tube
- 005-007: Blood, heart - gray top tube
- 005-008: Decomp fluid, chest - red top tube

Blood, postmortem

Acid/Neutral Screen (GC/MS)

negative (Item# 005-007)

Alcohols/Acetone (GC)

ethanol: 0.033 g/100mL (Item# 005-006)

Alkaline Screen (GC/MS)

negative (Item# 005-006)

Decomposition Fluid

Carbon Monoxide (Analyzer)

sample unsuitable

Vitreous

Alcohols/Acetone (GC)

negative (Item# 005-003)

Note: A specimen was sent to NMS for carbon monoxide analysis.

REFERRAL TOXICOLOGY:

carbon monoxide exposure

testing cancelled

Performing Laboratory

NMS



Martinez, Valerie

FINDINGS:

1. Gunshot wound of forehead:
 - a. Entrance wound: mid forehead.
 - b. Apparent range of fire: close range, based on presence of soot (and stippling) around entrance defect.
 - c. Injuries: perforations of skull and brain.
 - d. Recovery: severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet from dural sinus near midline and posterior fossa.
 - e. Path: front to back, slightly downward and very slightly left to right.
2. Gunshot wound of right orbit:
 - a. Entrance wound: mid right eyebrow.
 - b. Apparent range of fire: soot and stippling around entrance defects.
 - c. Injuries: penetrations of right superior orbital rim, floor of right anterior fossa and right orbital soft tissues.
 - d. Recovery: severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet from right orbital soft tissues.
 - e. Path: front to back, right to left and downward.
3. Gunshot wound of right upper eyelid into brain:
 - a. Entrance wound: lateral right upper eyelid.
 - b. Apparent range of fire: soot and stippling around entrance defect.
 - c. Injuries: perforations of skull and brain.
 - d. Recovery: severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet from right basal ganglia.
 - e. Path: front to back, very slightly right to left, and without significant deviation upward or downward.
4. Gunshot wound of top of head:
 - a. Entrance wound: left side of top of head.
 - b. Apparent range of fire: no firearm residue on scalp.
 - c. Injuries: perforations of skull and brain.
 - d. Recovery: most of a severely deformed, non-gilded, small caliber bullet from right thalamus.
 - e. Gunshot wound of partial exit: scalp at vertex.
 - f. Path: downward, left to right and without significant deviation to the front or back.
5. Small bullet fragment recovered from sagittal sulcus between right and left cerebral hemispheres of brain.
6. History that the deceased was found unresponsive, lying face up on the incline of a hill in a park. See also companion case IFS-17-19762.

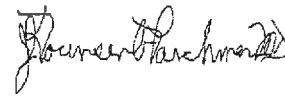
CONCLUSIONS:

It is our opinion that Valerie Martinez, a 24-year-old Latin female, died as a result of gunshot wounds of the head.



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MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide



12/06/2017

Janis K Townsend-Parchman, M.D.
Medical Examiner



12/07/2017

Elizabeth Ventura, M.D.
Medical Examiner



12/07/2017

Chester S Gwin, M.D.
Medical Examiner



12/06/2017

Stephen M. Hastings, M.D.
Medical Examiner



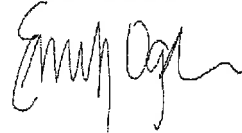
12/06/2017

Stephen M. Lenfest, M.D.
Medical Examiner



12/06/2017

Jill E Urban, M.D.
Medical Examiner



12/11/2017

Emily Ogden, M.D.
Medical Examiner



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INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC OTOLOGY



12/06/2017

Jessica B Dwyer, M.D.

Medical Examiner



12/08/2017

Reade A Quinton, M.D.

Deputy Chief Medical Examiner



12/07/2017

Jeffrey J Barnard, M.D.

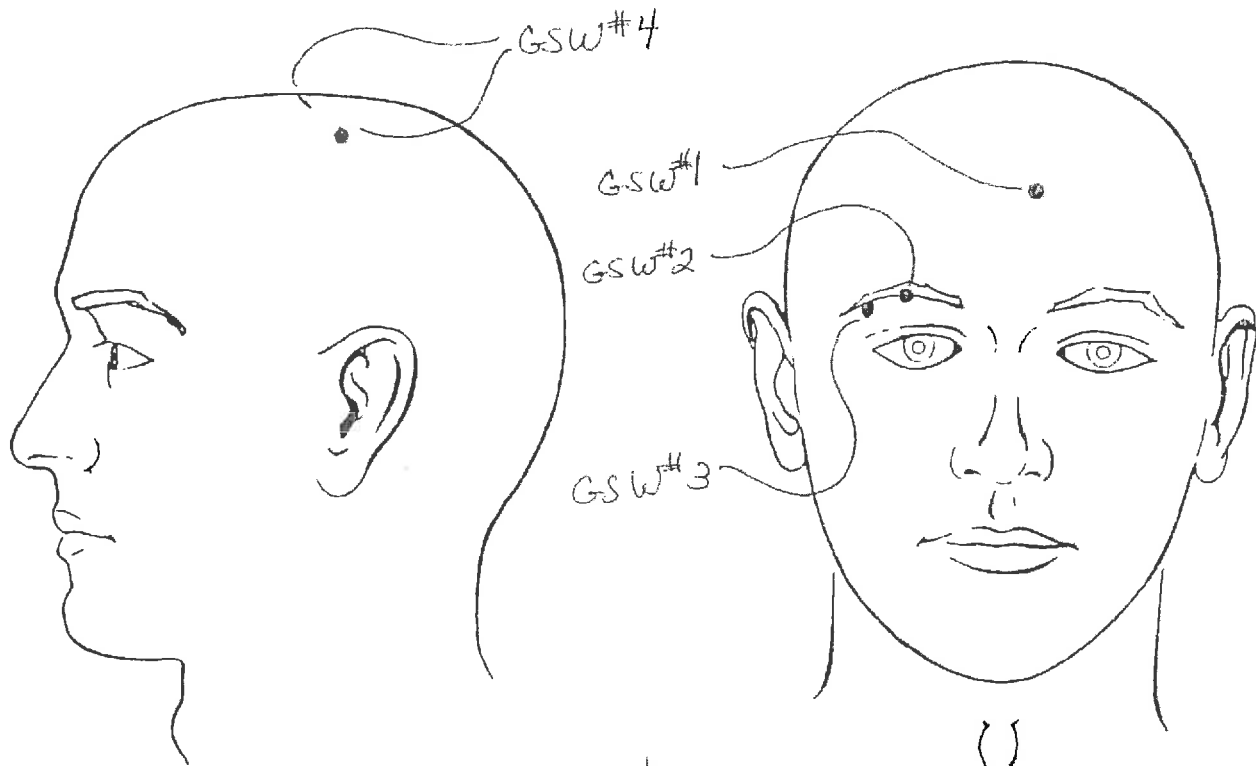
Director and Chief Medical Examiner



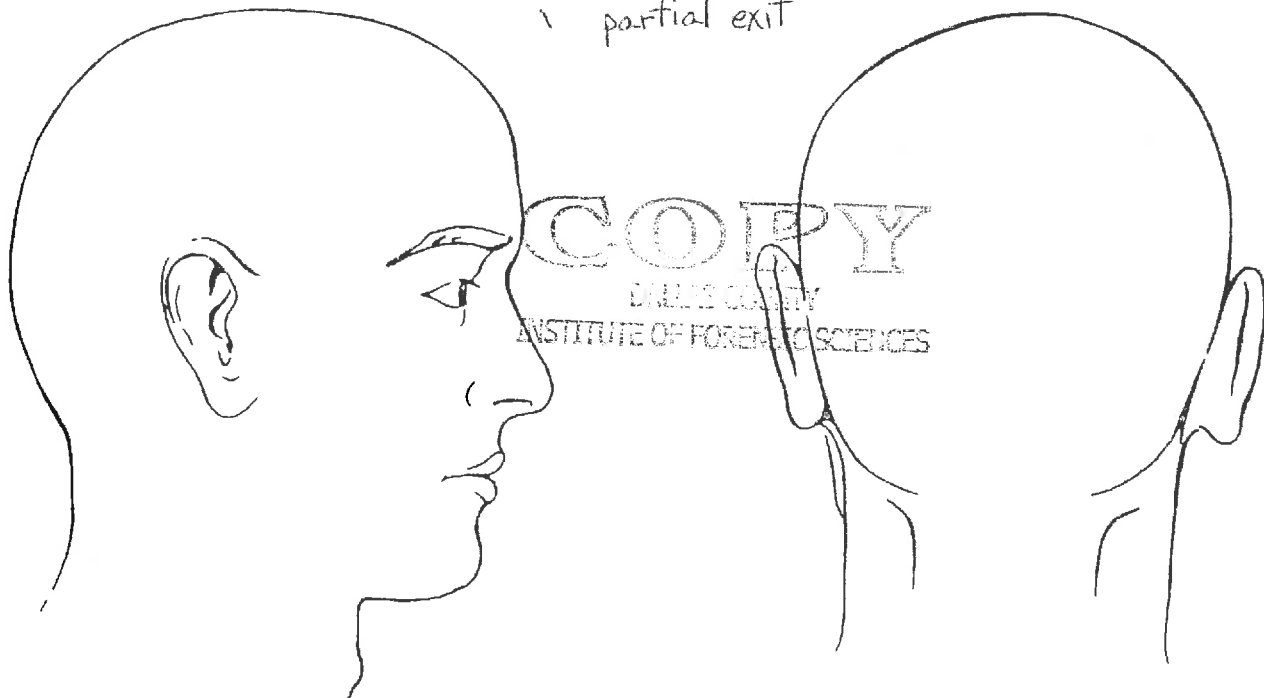
THE SOUTHWESTERN INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC SCIENCES
AT DALLAS

Name MARTINEZ, Valerie Case No. 17-19761

Age _____ Sex _____ Date _____



• entrance
v partial exit



For report only:

JEP