

We're not saying that
Artie Ortiz killed Janet Downing
or did not kill Janet Downing.
What we want to show with these
documents is that DA Tom Reilly
ignored all of this information and the blood work.

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Statement of Regina Mahoney
Boston Street
Somerville, MA
Tuesday, November 2, 1999 - 8:00 P.M.

On the date of the murder, Janet came out of her house at 7:15 A.M. and called over to me. She asked me if I wanted anything from Dunkin' Donuts. Then she left in her car.

Within a short time, she came back and walked over to my house. She sat on the front porch with me and we spent the rest of the day talking.

She spoke about a work review that she had been having and about the possibility of losing her job. We looked at papers regarding that review.

Then Janet started talking about several incidents that had frightened her, since she had kicked Artie Ortiz out of her house. Many times, during the course of conversations, she seemed more than frightened, as if she was really terrified by some of the incidents.

She then went on to tell me about an incident where she was surrounded by a number of Green Cabs - all blowing their horns and flashing their headlights at her.

Another incident occurred when a book about handling divorce, which she faithfully kept on her bedside table, disappeared. After a few weeks, Artie showed up at her house and handed it to her. He said that he had found it in a parking lot somewhere.

Janet talked a lot about other incidents, like strange situations involving her Christmas ornaments and of finding strange clothing in the house. Once, she found something that smelled like perfume in her cooking oil bottle.

She also spoke of an incident when a bottle of windshield washer fluid had been dumped all over the interior front seat of her car. The night before, when she locked the car, it was sitting on the passenger seat. The next morning, with the car doors still locked, the contents of the bottle was poured on the passenger seat and floor, and the bottle was empty.

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She also kept finding her cellar door open, when she would return home.

I asked her if she ever reported any of this to the Police. She told me that she would not, because so many weird things had happened that they would think she was crazy.

I know Janet and I know that she was always cautious, and now, she was fearful. She always locked everything up - the car, the house, everything.

I asked her if she thought that the kids might be retaliating for her maybe punishing them. She was sure that it wasn't the kids. She said that she knew it was Artie and she knew he had been in the house repeatedly. She was sure he must have another set of keys to the house.

I know this is true, because after she had kicked him out of the house, his cab was there just as much as it had been there before she kicked him out, except now it was always when Janet was away, at work.

Janet was completely convinced that something bad was going to happen to her. At one point, during the conversations, she said, "If anything happens to me, please, make sure they investigate, investigate, investigate!" When she spoke, she punctuated her comments by pounding her hand on the table three times - each of the times she said the word "investigate".

Between 10:00 and 10:10 P.M., on the night of the murder, I was watching the movie, "Attica", on HBO. The prison riot scene had just started, when I realized that the flashing lights and some of the noise I was hearing was from the ambulance, outside - at Janet's house. I ran right out of my house and over to hers.

As I crossed the street, I saw Artie's cab parked down, on Hamlet Street. The driver's door was next to the bushes and stone wall. I remember thinking that it was strange because, Artie always parked in the driveway and nobody ever parks on this end of Hamlet Street.

When I got to Janet's door, I walked past a Cop and into the house.

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Later, before the ambulance left with Janet, Artie was out in the yard using a flashlight and looking for his cab keys. Then he came over to my house. It had been a brutally hot day and I thought it was odd that he looked so fresh - like he had just showered. The rest of us were wilted from the heat, but he looked like he just stepped out of the shower. His hair was wet and freshly combed, and even his clothes appeared clean.

He kept talking about his lost cab keys.

I asked him how he got to Janet's house so fast and he said that his dispatcher had called him on his cab radio and told him that his sister-in-law had been murdered.

Artie made several telephone calls that night, from my house and on my telephone, but I have no idea who he called.

One day, before the arrest, Artie came to my house and said, "They are focusing on little Ed. They asked me if I ever saw a knife in Eddie's hands. They drew a big knife and showed me and they asked me if I ever saw a certain, strange smile on Eddie's face." He said they kept asking him about the way that Eddie smiles.

He kept describing a large knife, like a chef's knife so, I asked him if that's what killed her, a butcher knife? He told me to get him a pen and a piece of paper and he would show me what they drew.

I gave him the pen and paper and he drew a big chef's carving knife, with what looked like a wooden handle and metal rivets in the handle. He said, "That's the knife", and then he drew a face that looked like a weird jack-o-lantern. He said, "That's the face they drew for me and wanted to know about. Did I ever see Eddie smiling or looking like that?"

After Eddie was arrested, someone from one of the Boston newspapers spoke to me and asked questions about Janet's murder. I told them that I spoke to Janet on the day of the murder and that she shared a lot of information with me. I did not feel that I should discuss all of that with them, because of the upcoming trial. So, I told them that it would all come out in the trial - because I really believed that it would.

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The newspaper printed some of what I told them and within a few days, Artie Ortiz began following me all over the place, in his taxi-cab. He was always at Janet's, so much that he knew my usual routine.

After the murder and before the trial, whenever I left my house, going to work or running any errands, I would see his cab parked on Hamlet Street. He was easy to spot, because nobody from around here ever parks on that end of the street. He would follow my car back and forth from my work. He also followed me when I drove my daughter to work and back, and when I ran different errands, shopping and so forth.

Whenever I could see inside the cab and identify the driver, which was 90% of the time, I could tell that it was Artie Ortiz.

After a period of time, I received a letter from an Attorney, who said that if I spoke about Artie or anything related to him and the murder, I would be taken to court and sued.

I sent a letter in response, saying that I would welcome the opportunity to speak, in a court, about what I knew and I asked them to set a date. Of course, I heard nothing back from them.
(END OF STATEMENT)

11:00 P.M. - The interview was concluded and the Investigators returned to the office.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of State Police

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN M. O'TOOLE
SECRETARY

COLONEL CHARLES F. HENDERSON
SUPERINTENDENT

August 2, 1995
Cambridge, Massachusetts
95-110-0900-0174

TO: PEHR B. HOLMES, DETECTIVE CAPTAIN
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE

FROM: RICHARD MAHONEY, TROOPER
MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW OF MARY MADELINE REVEIRA
MANNING STREET, MEDFORD

1. On Monday July 24, 1995 at approximately 1020 hours I spoke with Mary Madeline Reveira at the Somerville Police station. Mary is a friend of Janet's.
2. Mary stated that Janet had a nervous breakdown about 7 - 8 years ago. Lately she had been acting nervous or jittery.
3. Last Saturday (7-15-95) Janet sat down and cried "If anything happens to me have it investigated." Mary then related the following events that Janet told her had been happening to her.

She was driving down Summer Street one day and when she stopped at an intersection she was surrounded by five taxi cabs. They blocked her in for a few minutes and then they all left. Mary asked her if she blew her horn or called out to anyone and Janet said no.

On another occasion Janet purchased either antifreeze or windshield washer fluid. Mary is uncertain which. She left this bottle in the back seat of her car when she parked in front of her house. The next morning the bottle was empty yet the car door was still locked.

There were clothes hanging in Erin's closet. These did not belong to Erin and it was unexplained how they got there or who put them there.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
MASS. STATE POLICE
Year/Dist/Crime/Case

Serial # 95-110-0900-

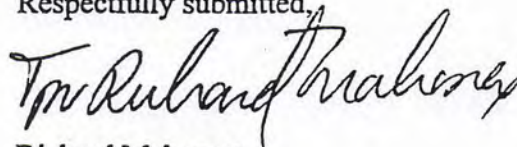
Janet called Mary on Friday because her car broke down. Janet told Mary "I want to talk to you about this."

4. Janet called Mary twice Saturday and once Sunday. She left a message saying "I have much more to tell you." Mary thought that Janet was losing her mind. Janet had told Mary that there is one other person who knows about the things Janet was telling her.

5. Mary said that Janet was losing her job in September. Her job was being abolished. She told Mary that "these weird things have been going on for a while." Mary asked why she was telling her now and Janet answered "I didn't want you to think I was crazy."

6. Mary said that a man Janet works with asked her out about six weeks ago and she turned him down.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Mahoney

Trooper

Massachusetts State Police

rm/lc
950174-18

Statement of [Virginia Reckley]
Holyoke Street
Malden, MA

Friday, November 26, 1999 - 8:00 P.M.

Prior to the time that Janet Downing kicked Artie Ortiz out of her house, the only person she seemed afraid of was her former husband, Paul Downing, Sr. Any deep conversations that we had included discussion of her fear of him and of him repeatedly coming into her house at his own free will.

At that time, she never spoke of any fear of Artie Ortiz, only that she didn't like him. When Artie was living at Janet's, I remember knowing that he had worked at the Hood Plant.

Before Janet kicked Artie out of the house, she used to come to my house, through the cellar. She would bring a cup of coffee with her and usually stay for an hour or so. She did not always talk. Sometimes, she just seemed uncomfortable to be in her own house.

Sometimes, she would allude to Artie's using and dealing drugs, and not wanting any of it around her kids.

After she had kicked Artie out, she complained that she was sick of him still coming in and out of the house when she was not at home.

I know that he did come to the house and go in frequently, because I saw him there, on several occasions.

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Janet said that she knew he had been there, because she would either hear it from the kids, or she would find things out of place. On one occasion, she had me come over and look into her car. A bottle of windshield washer fluid had been poured out on the front passenger seat and the empty bottle had been placed on the front passenger side floor.

Another time, she showed me a plastic bag, which was hung from a beam in the cellar. The bag was filled with cat litter and cat stools. Then we found that a wooden ladder, which we both used regularly to clean gutters and for other things around the house, was missing from the cellar.

On the night of the incident, I remember seeing Paul Downing, go by my window and into his house. I knew he was in there alone with his mother.

At exactly 8:15 P.M., I heard the loud thumps, going from the top to the bottom of the cellar stairs. I assumed that they were fighting, as they always did. I am positive of the time.

Then, as I have said before, I tried to wash dishes and had no water pressure. That always happened if Janet was running any water.

At about 9:50 P.M., I saw Ed O'Brien, Sr. run by my window. Barry and I ran outside and followed Ed into Janet's. Barry ran past me. When I went inside, I saw Janet on the floor. There was a small amount of blood around the back of her head. There was no blood anywhere else, in the room.

I realized that I was stepping on two pictures, that were face down and side-by-side...no broken glass...they were just laying there. There was no blood around the pictures or anywhere else in the area.

Ryan Downing came into the foyer wearing roller blades and I grabbed him and turned him around. I then took him out onto the steps to remove his roller blades. At that time, the first Police Officer arrived. He parked his cruiser with the rear extending onto Hamlet Street.

When the Officer reached us, at the front steps, he asked, "What's going on here?" I remember him seeming more like he was

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unconcerned. I told him that he needed to go inside and he repeated his question with a smug look on his face.

I remember thinking that he was really not in any rush, not like he was responding to any '911' emergency situation. Ryan was a wreck, crying and shaking. I thought by my response, that the Officer would start rushing into the house. I repeatedly told him that he needed to get inside. But, he just acted fresh and like a 'smart-mouth'. When he did go inside, he walked slowly and deliberately, as if swaggering.

After that, I did not hear any conversation coming from inside the house.

Within seconds, I saw Artie Ortiz walking around the yard and saying that he lost his keys in the grass. Then he went over to the Mahoney's.

After Janet was taken in the ambulance, I saw Artie again. He continued talking about his keys being lost. Then he looked at me and said, "She didn't make it."

I don't know how he knew that, because the ambulance had just left and didn't even have time to get to the hospital. He wasn't even in Janet's house or around the Cops. He had spent all of his time across the street, at the Mahoney's smoking pot.

Then he began complaining about his missing keys, again.

At first, he never said why he happened to be at Janet's so soon, but later, he said that he heard it on his cab radio, from the Cab Company.

Much later, when I was questioned by the District Attorney's Office, they asked me about the blood that was plastered everywhere, when I initially had gone into Janet's house.

They got angry and argumentative with me when I said that there had been no blood, with the exception of the blood around her head. One of them yelled at me and asked me, "What do you mean? There was blood splattered all over that room. It was sprayed everywhere and all over everything." He was very upset with me.

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I told him that there was no blood around the room at first. However, after they took Janet away, there was a lot of blood splattered around. I also said that the spatters came from the efforts to revive her and had occurred when the EMTs were performing CPR. I said that each forceful compression, on her chest had splashed blood all around.

At that point, several of those present looked at each other and gave each other what I can only describe as knowing glances. Then they stopped discussing the blood with me.

On the night of the incident, when I had first gone into the house, that lack of blood had caused me to wonder if Janet had committed suicide. However, later that night, I dismissed that idea when a Police Officer took us down into the cellar and I saw a tremendous amount of blood smeared, with several bloody handprints on the stairway wall.

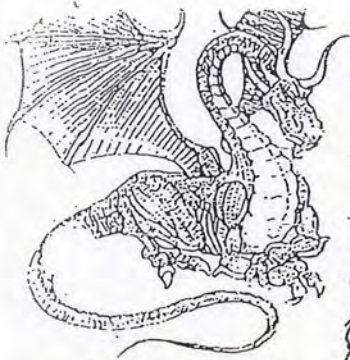
(END OF STATEMENT)

The Investigator then spoke briefly with Barry Reckley. Barry stated that, at 9:50 P.M., he heard Ed O'Brien, Sr. yelling to him. He said, "That's when everything started."

He said that he followed Ed into Janet's house and then spent most of the time in the front room. He remembers a number of people in and out of the house, including a fireman.

He also remembers being outside, after the ambulance had just left and hearing Artie Ortiz telling people, "She's dead."

He suggested that the previous investigative notes be reviewed for details.



On Tuesday afternoon, July 25, 1995 I was on my porch with several friends & family members when Artie Arty joined us. He asked if he could speak to me privately and we came inside to my parlor.

Artie told me he'd been questioned by the police and that the investigation was "concentrated on Little Ed". Artie showed me a drawing of a knife that he said the police had made during his questioning. It appeared to be a sketch of a common "Takes knife used for chopping vegetables. I have several & showed him one". Artie said that mine was the same kind that the police had described. He said he'd been asked "if he'd ever seen such a knife in Little Ed's possession" and "if Little Ed knew where Janet kept her kitchen knives".

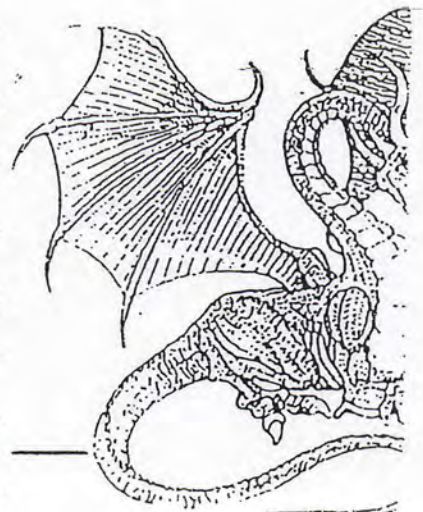
Artie also said he'd been questioned about Little Ed's "smile" or if he was "familiar with any bizarre smiling habits" by Little Ed.

I thought that the whole idea of Little

Ed as a suspect was absurd and I told Artie that I thought the police's questions were pretty odd. Artie changed the subject at that point.

Artie then told me that he'd had several conversations with Janet "in the past" and that Janet had expressly told him that "if anything ever happened to her," she wanted him and her sister to "have her car and to move back into her house to raise her kids and take care of her property." Since I knew this to be a lie, I ended our conversation at this point, and went back out to the porch to join the others. Artie asked to use my phone and he left shortly after that. I didn't see him again until later on in the evening.

Jena Mahoney



C. Whitmore Call with Artie Ortiz 10/17/17

Artie was contacted by a blog – he can't remember the name – thinks Margot Nash is running it.

Artie called me because he wants to clear his name after 22 years. He had absolutely nothing to do with this murder.

The night of the crime his taxi dispatcher told him to call his wife. He was dropping off a fare at the Peter Pan bus station. He called his wife and his wife said that something happened to Janet. Artie parked his cab at the corner of Boston and Hamlet Streets. He tried to get to the house but the police stopped him. He knew something serious had happened. Artie went over to Ryan who was in the police car. Ryan was in shock. Then Artie went to Gina Mahoney's house because he knew her daughters. He was watching what was going on. Gina was not there at first but came home later. Artie asked Gina if he could use her phone. Artie called Mass General where Janet was taken and his wife told him that she was stabbed and had died. Artie went outside and punched a car and said "she's gone." [At this point in the phone conversation Artie is crying – he is very emotional.]

Artie said that Margo's book is not accurate. He was never kicked out of Janet's house and never sold drugs in that house. Artie read me a letter from Erin Downing, Janet's daughter stating that that all had a good relationship. Artie's lawyer told him to get letters from Janet's kids saying how their relationship was. Artie and Carol moved out because they got section 8 housing.

This is the first time Artie has talked about that night in 22 years. I asked him about losing his key at the scene. He doesn't remember taking his car key out – he never got the key back. His cab was towed that night. Artie went to the police station the next day and spoke with the police. None of their questioning pointed towards Artie as a suspect. The police only asked him questions about Eddie. He was interviewed by the police with Carol and that was the only time he talked to the police.

Artie gave a blood sample and fingerprints – the police picked him up and took him to get his blood drawn. The fingerprint guy took his and Carol's fingerprints.

Artie said I could call him again if I had follow-up questions.