

**FINAL REPORT REGARDING THE AUGUST 11, 2013 MURDER OF
JOSHUA SAVYON AND THE SUICIDE OF MUNI SAVYON
IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Attorney General and the Manchester Police Department conducted an investigation into a shooting incident, which occurred at the YWCA in Manchester, New Hampshire on August 11, 2013. The incident resulted in the murder of Joshua Savyon and the suicide of Muni Savyon. The purpose of this report is to summarize the Attorney General's findings and conclusions with regard to the incident.

II. FACTS

A. Summary of the facts

Joshua J. Savyon (age 9 at death) was the son of Becky Raney and Menahem ("Muni") Savyon (age 54 at death). Raney and Savyon had never married and their relationship had ended in 2006. Prior to August 11, 2013, Muni Savyon had been having court-ordered supervised visitation with his son at the Manchester YWCA.

On Sunday, August 11, 2013, Muni Savyon arrived at the YWCA for a one hour supervised visit with his son. That visit started and proceeded normally for about forty minutes. Thereafter, Muni Savyon took a semi-automatic pistol out of a bag he had brought with him for the visit and shot his son multiple times. After shooting his son, Muni Savyon turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. No one else was physically injured during the incident.

B. Initial police response

On August 11, 2013, at approximately 10:11 am, Manchester police officers responded to the YWCA at 72 Concord Street, in Manchester, New Hampshire. The officers were responding to a report of gunshots being fired. Members of the SWAT team also arrived on the scene and entered the building, searched it, and determined that no one was alive inside. During their search, SWAT team members located two deceased people who were later identified as Joshua J. Savyon and his father, Muni Savyon. A handgun was seen nearby Muni Savyon's body. The building was sealed off and treated as a crime scene.

C. Witnesses

Manchester police detectives spoke to a number of people during the course of this investigation.

Becky Ranes (Joshua Savyon's mother)

Becky Ranes met Muni Savyon in 2002. The two began dating in late 2002, and their relationship produced a son, Joshua Savyon, in 2004. Becky and Muni eventually moved in together for a time, never married, and then Muni moved out in 2006.

Becky and Muni co-parented Joshua after Muni moved out. She said that it was a difficult situation to co-parent with Muni. She stated that he would sometimes get very angry over little things and have outbursts.

In March 2012, Becky said that Muni threatened her in Nashua. The threat occurred after she had brought Joshua to a doctor's visit. Muni wanted to discuss getting another parenting coordinator, even though they were already on their fifth one. As Becky tried to ignore Muni, he said to her, "You can only push someone so far before they snap. I've snapped." Becky said that she quickly walked away from Muni to try to defuse the situation. Muni then said, "You keep pushing me. I live in New Hampshire and I now have a gun. It will be you or it will be me and Joshua. You will see it on the news." Becky reported the incident to the Nashua Police Department and said she was granted a temporary domestic violence petition, which was recently extended. Since that incident, Becky only had contact with Muni in court and otherwise, had not seen him since Muni threatened her.

In June of 2013, Becky said that Muni missed a lot of supervised visits because he had gone back to Israel after his brother suddenly passed away.

On August 11, 2013, Becky dropped her son off at the YWCA for a scheduled 9:30 am visit with Muni. She left and went to do some errands. As she and her husband drove back to the YWCA, she saw police cruisers in the area and learned that something was happening in the area. She subsequently learned that the incident being investigated by the police involved her son and Muni Savyon.

Becky gave the detectives some background about Muni. She said that Muni arrived in the United States from Israel in 1990 or 1991, and became a US citizen in 1999. Muni moved around a lot and she never knew him to have a job after the job he had when they first met in 2002. Muni was a Libertarian/Free-Stater for as long as she had known him. She said that he had been involved with the movement in Massachusetts but did not get heavily involved with them until after the two broke up.

Becky also said that her son never said anything bad about his visits with his father and that her son always seemed happy to see him.

Michael Solis (YWCA employee)

Michael Solis is the Program Coordinator at the YWCA. He was working at the supervised visitation center at the YWCA on the day of the incident. Mr. Solis has been with the YWCA for about six to seven years.

Mr. Solis was familiar with Muni and Joshua Savyon. He said that Joshua's mother, Becky Raney, dropped Joshua off at the center at about 9:30 am for a one hour visit. The visit was a "fully supervised visit," meaning that someone from the YWCA would be in the room during the entire visit. There was no contact between Muni Savyon and Becky Raney.

Mr. Solis said that Muni Savyon had been having supervised visits at the YWCA for about eight months. There had been a break in the visitation sessions recently while Muni Savyon was in Israel for about a month and a half, due to the death of his brother.

The visit on August 11, 2013, started normally. Muni Savyon arrived at the YWCA at about 9:05 am and seemed normal to Mr. Solis. Mr. Solis noted several items that Muni Savyon had with him and wrote those items down on a sheet of paper. He did not do a physical search of Muni Savyon and did not notice any weapons. Mr. Solis stated that they do intermittent searches with a metal detector, but he did not do one that day.

Joshua Savyon arrived at about 9:30 am. Mr. Solis said that nothing unusual happened during the visit. Muni Savyon and Joshua Savyon interacted well with each other and seemed to be having a good time together. At about forty minutes into the visit, Mr. Solis was looking down taking notes when he heard two or three loud bangs. Mr. Solis looked up and saw Muni Savyon standing over Joshua Savyon holding what appeared to be a black handgun. Mr. Solis then ran out of the room yelling at people to call 911 and to get out of the building.

Katie Schelzel (YWCA employee)

Katie Schelzel is the Program Director at the YWCA and was working there at the time of the shooting incident. She was sitting in an office taking notes and looking at the cameras in the visitation rooms at the time of the shooting. Shortly after 10 am, she heard a "huge bang," and then a second one. She got up to see what was going on and saw Michael Solas diving out of one of the rooms saying, "Call 911." Ms. Schelzel went to call 911, and as she did she believed she heard another shot. Realizing that she might not be safe, Ms. Schelzel moved to the emergency stairwell to leave the building, and called 911.

Ms. Schelzel said that there is a written policy that during a supervised visit, the visiting parent is checked with a metal detector wand. She said that they had been "loose" on enforcing this policy because back when they first wrote it, they had funding to hire "detail officers." However since the funding cuts Ms. Schelzel has been concerned about this policy because they were not sure what staff would do if they used the metal detector and "wanded" somebody in, and then they found a gun on that person.

Ms. Schelzel stated that Muni Savyon has been searched with the metal detector wand in the past, but was not searched on August 11, 2013.¹ She also confirmed that when the metal detector

¹ Two other fathers who were having supervised visits at the YWCA that day spoke about the use of the metal detector wand. One said that when he first began his visits at the YWCA, the metal detector wand was used on every

wand had been used with Muni Savyon in the past and it went off, Savyon blamed it on the metal cans he was bringing in with him to use to play with his son.

Ellen Vig (Muni Savyon's ex-wife)

Ellen Vig told detectives that she had been married to Muni Savyon from 1991 to 1997. They divorced but stayed close over the years.

Vig said that Muni was very upset over his brother's death and had been in Israel for the funeral. He was also upset over custody battles involving his son. Vig stated that Muni was a non-violent and gentle person and loved his son.

Sylvain Yaakov and Merav Yaakov (Muni Savyon's neighbors)

The police spoke to two of Muni Savyon's neighbors, Sylvain Yaakov and Merav Yaakov. They had received an email from Muni Savyon that was written mostly in Hebrew. The police obtained a copy of that email, which was later translated into English. The email appears to have been sent before Muni Savyon murdered his son.

In the e-mail, Muni Savyon confirmed that he planned to kill his son and then himself. A complete copy of the translation of the email is attached.

D. Autopsy Results

Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Jennie V. Duval conducted the autopsies in this case. She determined that Joshua Savyon's cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds (6 in all), and that his manner of death was homicide.

Dr. Duval also determined that Muni Savyon, who was 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighed 269 pounds and died as a result of a single gunshot wound to the head. His manner of death was suicide.

E. Crime Scene and Physical Evidence

The crime scene was located on the second floor of the YWCA building. The room where the shooting occurred was one of three visitation rooms in that part of the building. Muni Savyon and Joshua Savyon's bodies were discovered on the floor in close proximity to each other.

A Smith & Wesson model 915, 9mm semi-automatic pistol was recovered at the scene, near Muni Savyon's body. That pistol had one live bullet in the chamber and two live bullets in the magazine. Seven discharged cartridge casings were located in the room, which is consistent with the seven total wounds found on the two bodies. All of this ammunition was the same brand as the ammunition Muni Savyon purchased August 7, 2013, as detailed later in this report.

occasion and then it tapered off to being used on a random basis. The other father said that the metal detector wand was not used very often but was used more after the Boston Marathon bombing incident.

A second magazine containing nine live bullets was discovered in the black bag that Muni Savyon brought into the YWCA with him, and from which he was seen taking the pistol out of just before shooting his son and himself. This ammunition was a different brand from the ammunition that was found in the pistol and that was used during the incident.

Efforts were made to determine the history of the handgun and ammunition used in this incident. The handgun was originally purchased by a private citizen from a gun shop in March of 1992 in Broadview Heights, Ohio. That private citizen later sold several guns to two men in a private sale in 2003 in Arizona. No further information could be obtained as to what happened to that gun after the 2003 sale and no information could be obtained on how Mr. Savyon came in possession of it.

Manchester detectives were able to determine that Muni Savyon purchased a box of 25, Hornady Critical Defense brand 9mm handgun ammunition at Shooter's Outpost in Hooksett, New Hampshire on August 7, 2013. A receipt for that purchase and a copy of the surveillance video of Muni Savyon making that purchase were obtained as part of the investigation. Muni Savyon did not purchase any firearms at the time he bought the ammunition.

Muni Savyon's red Ford station wagon was parked around the corner from the YWCA on Chestnut Street. Nothing of significance was observed in that car.

F. Surveillance video from the YWCA

The visitation room where the shooting occurred is equipped with a video monitoring and recording system. A copy of the video recording was obtained and reviewed as part of this investigation.

The video reveals Muni Savyon entering and then situating himself in the visitation room at the YWCA. He is wearing shorts and a t-shirt. No weapons were visible on his person. Muni Savyon had with him a paper bag of items as well as a black briefcase-type bag that was sealed with a zipper. Muni Savyon placed those items on a table in the room and awaited his son. Approximately twenty minutes later, Joshua Savyon arrived.

For approximately the next forty minutes, Muni and Joshua Savyon interacted in the visitation room, playing games and conversing, without incident. Michael Solas, YWCA Program Coordinator, was seated at a desk inside the visitation room the entire time. Approximately forty minutes into the visitation, Muni Savyon moved to the end of the table where he had placed his black bag. He unzipped the black bag and took out a handgun. Muni Savyon immediately moved up close to Joshua Savyon, who had his back to him, and fired the first shot into the back of Joshua's head. Joshua fell to the floor and Michael Solas fled from the room. Muni Savyon stood above Joshua and fired five more gunshots into his body. Muni Savyon then stepped away, put the gun to his head, pulled the trigger, and killed himself.

G. Court and police records

As part of the investigation, copies of relevant court and police records were obtained. Those records are summarized as follows:

Date	Reference	Summary
3/29/2012	Nashua Police Department	Becky Ranes contacted the Nashua Police Department and told them that Muni Savyon had threatened her.
3/29/2012	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Nashua	Becky Ranes applied for and was granted a domestic violence order of protection. Restraining order issued against Muni Savyon, including requirement that he relinquish any deadly weapons in his possession or control.
3/29/2012	Nashua Police Department	Muni Savyon was arrested and taken into custody. Released the next day on bail.
3/30/2012	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Nashua	Court issued a final domestic violence order of protection. Muni Savyon ordered to have no contact with Becky Ranes and ordered to refrain from possessing firearms.
5/4/2012	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Court granted final domestic violence order of protection.
5/14/2012	Greater Nashua Mental Health Center	Mental health evaluation completed – no diagnosis made.
7/05/2012	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Order requiring Muni Savyon to have an anger management evaluation.
7/19/2012	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Nashua	The criminal threatening charge against Muni Savyon was resolved. The charge was placed on file without a finding for one year on specific conditions.
9/04/2012	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Order requiring Muni Savyon to complete the batterer’s program and remain in individual therapy.
12/26/2012	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Order on December 5, 2012 hearing. Parties told to make arrangements for three supervised parenting sessions with Joshua and Muni Savyon.

3/21/2013	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Becky Ranes filed a motion to extend the domestic violence order of protection.
4/18/2013	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Muni Savyon’s lawyer filed a motion to continue a hearing on 4/29/2013, which was scheduled to extend the domestic violence order. That motion was granted and the court ordered the domestic violence order to remain in effect.
7/23/2013	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Hearing held on Becky Ranes’ motion to extend the domestic violence order. Issues were unresolved so another hearing was scheduled for about a month later.
7/25/2013	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Nashua	Criminal threatening case against Muni Savyon from 3/29/2012 is closed out.
7/30/2013	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	The final domestic violence order of protection that had been the subject of the motion to extend was mistakenly allowed to expire.
8/7/2013	Shooter’s Outpost	Muni Savyon purchases ammunition.
8/11/2013	YWCA	Murder/suicide occurs.
8/27/2013	9 th Circuit – Family Division – Merrimack	Case status hearing on Becky Ranes’s motion to extend the domestic violence order was scheduled to take place.

III. CONCLUSION

In summary, the investigation reveals that Menahem (“Muni”) Savyon attended a supervised visit with his son, Joshua Savyon, at the Manchester YWCA on the morning of August 11, 2013. When Muni Savyon entered the YWCA that morning, he brought several items, with him, including food and arts and craft supplies. Unbeknownst to others, Muni Savyon also had a 9mm semi-automatic pistol with him that was hidden in his belongings.

Approximately forty minutes into the one hour supervised visit, Muni Savyon took out the pistol and shot his son several times and then committed suicide by turning the gun on himself. Since the murderer in this case is dead, no criminal charges will be filed and the criminal investigation will be closed.

Hello Merav and Silvan,

When you get this email neither Yarden nor I will be alive, that's the plan at least, and if God was not merciful and my plan was not foiled, you have probably already seen the police. I've left the police a note that I am leaving my possessions in the U.S. to you, and those in Israel – I am leaving to my mother. I understand that now you really don't want to be entangled in anything that involves me, but who will I turn to? I trust that you will know what to do with the mess left behind. Send a death certificate to whoever deals with it in Israel, and so forth.

There's one important thing you should know: There was nothing that you, or anyone close to me, could have done to prevent the tragedy. We were separated and put in a Procrustean bed and there was no one to talk to. No one could have known or anticipated something like this, especially not my mother.

How will she be notified? She is in Mevaseret now with Nava until Monday afternoon. The phone number there is 02-534-3803. How will she be informed that she will no longer see her son? I know how hard it is. During the past nine years, the hardest thing was to tell her that she would no longer see her grandson. I didn't even wait until after 120 and even so she would have waited all her days at the window because she can't stop the longing. At least I did it when it was clear that she would no longer see Yarden. First he was taken from her, then Shachar and now this. How will she ever be consoled? I only hope that they will tell her that she was the best mother in the world and the best grandmother in the world, and at least Yarden and I are not suffering any more. There are no false hopes, we know where we stand, the torture and the humiliation have ceased and there is comfort in the dissolution of doubts. Let him call, there is nothing to be afraid of, it's all over, and the wise will accept that Yarden and Muni were who they were.

It's all over already, except for the other fathers and poor children, now self-righteous judges, lawyers and psychologists, arrogant and sanctimonious will make their lives even more miserable. I didn't have the courage of Thomas Bull.

I have no special requests regarding where to be buried, etc. Do whatever is convenient for you but it's best that you don't ask the police for the body. Let them do what they want with it, cremate it or donate it to some university, less mess, and I'll be forgotten as quickly as possible. It's better that way, and I myself at least know to ask for the Israeli hell.

There are a few things here that I have put in a box with "Shachar" written on it. My father's shofar and kippot, my grandmother's candlesticks and tablecloth, my grandfather's tobacco box. If the police don't take it, then maybe my mother will want something.

I suggest not speaking with the police. After all, if there's even an investigation they will focus on the trivialities, how he smuggled a gun and so forth, and try to find some scapegoat while the senior police will say our hands did not shed even though they know who the killer is. I've become paranoid but just see that you don't become that scapegoat. I also suggest that you beware of Yarden's mother. She might want some of his things and contact you with her smooth talking. She is a bad influence.

And what will they tell her? She believed in them so much, in the all-knowing authority, what will they tell her? We're sorry, there will be a thorough investigation and the guilty parties will be found, and they might also establish a committee to check the procedures that will present its recommendations, and so forth, and if she is lucky maybe even the governor will come to the funeral and make a speech about the current need to increase security and she will also state that she is acting quickly and has already allocated this many millions, etc. What will they tell her? After all, her belief in them was unwavering. There are those that know that governments are as effective at solving conflicts as they are at every other thing. They sucked our souls and also did not prevent the murder, but she believed in them so much. And now she will be left alone with the terrible sadness that her only son has been taken from her, a sadness that I am very familiar with.

And again, do you need to know why I did this? Never mind. The man is insane. A brief and exhaustive answer, satisfies everyone, why elaborate? You know that I like stories and there are several that suit the situation, maybe they will go easy on me and I will get leave from hell, and if you still want to see me then we can meet in the Next World for a falafel and discuss it. But in any case, Droyanov said that they used to tie a goat to the house of merchants that they let fall. One night clowns tied a goat to the house of a merchant. In the morning they saw it standing and bleating. He said, the goat is standing and bleating? Let it stand and bleat.

Thank you for everything, you were great neighbors. Hang in there.

I leave everything I own in the US to my neighbours, Merav and Sylvain Yaakov, 174 Grove St. in Manchester.

I leave everything I own in Israel to my mother, Miriam Savyon, 33 Amnon Vetamar St. in Tivon.

Muni Savyon

Property in the US:

- Car
- Computers (2 desktop, a black laptop, a red netbook)
- Computer parts (printers, disks, flash drives, camera etc)

- Bank account, St. Mary's, about \$100
- Bank account, triangle, \$25
- Books, furniture, kitchen stuff, clothes etc.

Property in Israel:

- Pension plans etc.