

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT REGARDING THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2014 MURDER/SUICIDE IN AMHERST

On September 16, 2014, the bodies of Elizabeth Trombly, age 69, and her son, John Trombly, age 35, were discovered in their home located at 1 Meadow Lane in Amherst, New Hampshire. The Attorney General's Office has received and reviewed all investigative reports from the New Hampshire State Police Major Crime Unit. The evidence supports the Medical Examiner's conclusion that John Trombly shot his mother, Elizabeth Trombly, and then killed himself. This report will briefly summarize the evidence gathered in the investigation of this incident.

On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, at 12:42 p.m., the principal of Captain Samuel Douglass Academy in Brookline, New Hampshire called the Amherst Police Department requesting a welfare check on Elizabeth Trombly. Elizabeth, a teacher at the school, had been absent from work for two days, and the principal was unable to make contact with her. In response to the request, an Amherst Police Officer approached the front door to the home. The officer observed a deceased woman, later identified as Elizabeth Trombly, inside the home. She was wearing a night gown and slippers and was in a seated position on the floor in the kitchen. Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Thomas A. Andrew ruled her death a homicide. Elizabeth's cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds to the chest and abdomen.

Officers entered the residence through an unlocked rear door, which opened into an enclosed porch. There, they found John Trombly deceased with a gunshot wound to the head. He was lying on a bed holding an AK-47 rifle, which was pointed upward toward his head. The window behind his head had been damaged, consistent with the gunshot that killed him. John

Trombly's death was ruled a suicide, and his cause of death was as single gunshot wound to the head.

Investigators discovered multiple discharged cartridge casings and bullets in the area of Elizabeth's body, in the trash bin in the kitchen, and in the room where John's body was discovered. Additionally, empty bottles of Mike's Hard Lemonade were found in the trash, with one partially consumed bottle near John's body. Multiple bottles of partially consumed vodka were found throughout the search. The presence of the alcoholic beverages is consistent with John's blood alcohol concentration of .327 at the time of his death. No other individuals were found inside the home.

After speaking with family and friends, investigators learned that John had struggled with alcohol and prescription medication addiction following gastric bypass surgery approximately 7 years before his death. John obtained treatment several times, including after a May 2014 incident where John made suicidal threats with a gun while heavily intoxicated. In late July 2014, paramedics were called twice to Elizabeth's residence for incidents involving John's excessive drinking, both of which resulted in his hospitalization. John also had been arrested for possessing a concealed firearm. John recently informed a friend that he believed Elizabeth had Alzheimer's disease. He also told that friend years earlier that he made a suicide pact to kill himself at the age of 30 if his life "didn't get any better." Despite John's statement about Elizabeth having Alzheimer's, Elizabeth's friends did not notice that she had any mental impairment in the time leading to her death.

One of John's friends told investigators that on the morning of Friday, September 12, 2014, Elizabeth dropped John off at the Farnum Center, which is an alcohol and drug treatment facility. John called his friend from a restaurant at approximately 11:00 a.m. and told the friend that the Farnum Center would not "let him in." John asked the friend for a ride. When the friend arrived, John was passed out at the bar, and the manager informed the friend that an ambulance had been called. John was taken to the hospital, and later checked himself out. John received a ride to a friend's house, where he drank heavily.

At approximately 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning, John told his friend that if he did not buy John beer, he would go home and kill himself. Later that morning, Elizabeth and two of John's friends held a "mini-intervention" with John to discuss their concerns with his recent behavior and addiction. At that time, John promised to check himself into a detoxification center on Monday, September 15, 2014.

On Sunday, September 14, 2014, at around 7:30 a.m., one of Elizabeth's neighbors reported hearing six loud bangs. At approximately 7:35 a.m., John purchased cigarettes and a 6-pack of Mike's Hard Lemonade at a convenience store on Boston Post Road in Amherst. At approximately 9:00 a.m., John purchased orange juice at Market Basket in Nashua. Stills from the video footage of that purchase show that John was alone in the store and wore sunglasses inside the building. It appears he was wearing the same clothing in the store that day that he was wearing when officers found his body.

Based on all the evidence, it is clear that John Trombly killed his mother, Elizabeth Trombly, by shooting her multiple times before going to two stores and then turning the gun on himself. Since both parties involved in this incident are deceased, no criminal charges will be filed and the case will be closed.