

1 **Investigation**

2 **San Jose Police Case #18-256-0715**

3 **Victim: Karen Navarra DOB: 10-07-1950 (Deceased)**

4 **Suspect: Anthony Vincent Aiello DOB: 01-08-1928**

5 **Investigators: Det. Sgt. R. Martinez and Det. B. Meeker**

6
7 I, Detective Brian Meeker #3272, offer the following declaration as a synopsis of police reports,
8 documents, interviews, and the continuing homicide investigation assigned the San Jose Police
9 Department Case Number 18-256-0715. Det. Sgt. R. Martinez and I are the lead detectives
10 handling the investigation.

11 I am working this homicide alongside Homicide Detectives Montonye, Figone, Martinez, and
12 Ramirez. Based on reports, statements, video footage and evidence, I believe the following to be
13 true.

14

15 On 09-13-18 at approximately 1717 hours, San Jose Police Department patrol officers responded
16 to a welfare check at 1057 Terra Noble Way in the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara. The
17 caller, RP Amber Ashfeq, reported that she went to the residence to check on her co-worker after
18 she failed to show up to work. She entered the house after finding the front door unlocked and
19 found her 68-year-old co-worker deceased inside.

20 Patrol officers responded to the location and entered the residence. Inside they located the Victim
21 Karen Navarra (DOB 10-07-50) deceased inside the residence. The victim was pronounced
22 deceased by San Jose Fire Department Engine 19 Captain J. Fielder. She was found slouched in a
23 wooden chair at the dining room table. Her head was leaning backwards over the back of the chair
24 and her feet were stretched out from the front legs of that same chair. The officers performed a
25 protective sweep of the residence and did not locate anyone else inside the residence.

Upon inspecting the victim, they discovered that she had a gaping laceration to her right neck and
wounds on the top of her head. In addition, they found a large kitchen knife marked on the blade
with "Vanadium Flint Stainless Made in USA" in the Victim's right hand. While performing the

1 sweep of the residence, they indicated that they found multiple drawers in the master bedroom and
2 dining room area which were pulled open. Two of the other chairs at the dining room table were
3 toppled over and laying on the floor. There was a substantial amount of dried blood on the floor
4 and in a water bowl on the floor directly underneath the Victim's head. There were blood splatter
5 patterns on the nearby countertop, the drapery, and the surrounding items. Officers identified a
6 small piece of brown paper apparently cut or torn from a larger piece of paper which had the
7 numbers "1057" handwritten on it. The small slip of heavy paper was found on the floor of the
8 entry way just inside the front door. They noticed that the rear sliding door was standing open and
9 recalled the information from the RP indicating that the front door was found closed but unlocked.
10 Based on the initial survey, they believed that the death was suspicious and contacted the Homicide
11 Unit and Crime Scene Unit to assume control of the investigation.

12 Detectives Meeker, Figone, and Detective Sergeant Montonye responded to the scene. CSU
13 investigators arrived and conducted a preliminary assessment of the scene. Det. Meeker contacted
14 the RP who was still on scene. During the conversation Det. Meeker was informed that the victim
15 lived alone with her cats. The Victim did not have any children and had never been married. The
16 RP said that she had worked with the Victim at the Regional Medical Center Pharmacy for the past
17 30 years. The RP explained that they were friendly to each other but did not socialize after work.
18 She described that the victim was very private and kept to herself. The RP said that she knew
19 where the Victim lived from a previous occasion when she visited her at home. The Victim had a
20 hysterectomy in early 2017. After that surgery the RP said that she had come to visit her a few
21 times. The RP indicated that she believed that the Victim was not seeing anyone romantically.
22 She believed that the Victim's parents would be her next of kin and stated that they apparently
23 lived somewhere close by.

24 During the initial assessment of the scene, CSU personal noticed that there was at least one clearly
25 visible severe laceration near the top of the Victim's skull. The laceration was so deep that it was
obvious that the integrity of the skull had been compromised. Due to the length of the Victim's
hair, and the fact that her hair was soaked in blood, the investigators could not see any additional
injuries at the time. CSU investigators noticed that there was a pizza wrapped up in aluminum foil
on the counter. There were pieces of uneaten pizza found on the floor.

1 Based upon the scene, we contacted the Office of the Coroner to respond to the scene. Coroner's
2 Investigator C. Garcia #9 arrived at the scene and assessed the decedent. His initial assessment
3 was that the death was undetermined pending an autopsy.

4 Based on the circumstances, the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory was contacted to assist with
5 the processing of the scene in the event that the death was later deemed a homicide. Crime Lab
6 personnel responded to the scene to assist with evidence collection.

7 On 09-14-18, at approximately 0900hrs, Coroner's Investigator R. Vega from the Santa Clara
8 County Coroners Officer contacted the Homicide Unit. She informed detectives that they were
9 about to begin with autopsy of the victim. After their initial examination and X-Rays, they were
10 able to determine that the victim had suffered multiple skull fractures which were inconsistent with
11 being self-inflicted or accidental.

12 Homicide Detectives Meeker, Figone, and Ramirez immediately responded to the Coroner's
13 Office to speak with the Coroner's Investigators and Dr. Parson, the Medical Examiner performing
14 the autopsy of Victim Navarra. During her examination Dr. Parson shaved portions of the Victim's
15 scalp which revealed multiple deep and intrusive wounds to the Victim's head and facial areas.

16 The Victim's skull was severely damaged and fractured from several the wounds. She clarified
17 that a number of the wounds would have been instantaneously incapacitating. She explained that
18 Navarra could not have inflicted all of the wounds to herself. Dr. Parsons verbally informed Det.
19 Meeker that the death of the Victim would be classified as a homicide. She further explained that
20 the weapon used to inflict the wounds was most likely an object with a sharpened edge similar to
21 a small hatchet, or an axe.

22 Based on the totality of the circumstances and information received from Doctor Parsons,
23 Detectives believed the homicide of Victim Karen Navarra was staged to appear as though it was
24 a suicide.

25 After the meeting with Dr. Parson, Det. Meeker then spoke with Coroner's Investigator A. Whelan
to determine if she had any information associated to the Victim's next of kin. She provided us
with the Victim's parent's names. She said that she had spoken with her 92-year-old mother,
Adele Aiello on the phone. She informed me that Adele Aiello was married to the Victim's step-
father, 90-year-old **Anthony Vincent Aiello (DOB 01-08-1928)** and she provided Det. Meeker with
their phone number and address.

1 Det. Meeker then contacted Det. Sgt. Montonye and arranged to meet with the Victim's parents at
2 their home located at 3421 Mira Vista Circle, in the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara.

3 Det. Meeker and Sgt. Montonye drove out and met with Adele and Tony Aiello on 09-14-18 at
4 approximately 1336hrs. Tony Aiello opened the front door of the residence and invited them in.

5 Their interview was conducted together while they were seated at their kitchen table. They were
6 informed that their daughter was deceased at that we were investigating her death. During that
7 time, Meeker and Montonye asked about their daughter and her normal routines. They explained
8 that Victim Karen Navarra was a recluse. They said that she did not have many friends and tended
9 to keep to herself. They explained that when she was not working, she was at home with her cats.

10 The Aiello's explained that Karen Navarra had been a pharmacy technician for the past 45 years
11 at Regional Medical Center.

12 Adele Aiello said that Victim Navarra did not have a boyfriend and had not seen anyone
13 romantically for many years. She said that she lived in the house alone.

14 During the conversation, Tony Aiello recounted that he last saw Victim Karen Navarra on
15 Saturday, 09-08-18. He explained that he made a pizza and biscotti that day. After cutting the
16 pizza in equal pieces he removed 3 of the pieces for him and his wife. He wrapped up the
17 remainder and took them over to the Victim's house at about 1500hrs. He placed the pizza on a
18 white paper plate with blue trim and covered the pizza in aluminum foil. When he got there, he
19 stated that Karen Navarra was alone in the house. He said that she was excited that he brought her
20 pizza and immediately started eating a piece. Tony Aiello said that he stayed there at her house
21 for about 15 minutes before driving back to his house.

22 Tony Aiello then mentioned that he was outside later that same day. He said that while he was
23 standing outside, he heard a car honk. He looked up toward the roadway and saw Victim Karen
24 Navarra's car westbound on Noble, passing by his residence at 3421 Mira Vista Circle. He said
25 that she waved at him and continued towards Piedmont Rd. Tony Aiello mentioned that there was
a second figure in the passenger seat that he did not know. He was unable to tell if the person in
the passenger seat was male or female.

1 During that interview, Adele Aiello was asked if she would be willing to sign a consent to search
2 form for the residence and her vehicle for evidence related to her daughter's death. She signed the
3 document in my presence.

4 After concluding the interview with Adele and Tony Aiello, Det. Meeker and Det. Montonye then
5 met with Video Forensic Technician C. Triggs and Det. L. Ramirez in front of Karen Navarra's
6 residence. Det. Meeker asked that they canvass the area near the Aiello residence for additional
7 video around the time that Tony Aiello claimed that he went to Navarra's home and when she
8 would have driven past his residence on 09-08-18.

9 Shortly after speaking with Triggs and Det. Ramirez, the Crime Scene Unit arrived with members
10 of the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory who assisted them in processing the scene for
11 additional items of evidence.

12 During their canvassing on 09-14-18, Triggs and Det. Ramirez recovered video footage from
13 several locations in an attempt to corroborate the information provided by Tony Aiello about his
14 movements and Karen Navarra's routine on 09-08-18.

15 While recovering video, C. Triggs recovered video footage from a Ring camera system mounted
16 to the front of 3472 Noble Ave. That particular camera covered the intersection of Noble Avenue
17 and Terra Nova Way. The camera pointed to the northwest and captured the driveway of the
18 Victim's residence. Her driveway and portions of the front of the Victim's house could be seen in
19 the upper left portion of the screen. That camera was set by the homeowner to record on motion
20 detection only. The video footage was not continuous. Due to connectivity issues, the Ring system
21 indicated that it recorded multiple events that day, but some did not record properly and were
22 blank.

23 Triggs and Det. Ramirez also recovered video footage from 3305 Noble Avenue. That particular
24 residence was west of the Aiello residence located at 3421 Mira Vista. In the event that the victim
25 drove by the Aiello home on 09-08-18 at approximately 1700hrs westbound on Noble, just as Tony
26 Aiello described, the Victim's car would have been visible on the footage.

27 Later that same day Adele Aiello called the San Jose Police Department Homicide Unit to speak
28 with Det. Meeker. She asked if officers had found the cats that belonged in the house. During the
29 course of that conversation, she was asked which car that Tony Aiello had used to drive down to

1 the Victim's house. She indicated that Tony Aiello drove their gray 2007 Toyota Corolla. A
2 record check with the Department of Motor Vehicles indicated that there was a 2007 Toyota
3 Corolla registered to Adele Aiello at 3421 Mira Vista, San Jose, CA. The license plate assigned
4 to that car was CA Lis 5XRJ815 (VIN 1NXBR32E07Z865171).

4
5

5 At the time that the victim was found, she was wearing a Fitbit Alta HR device on her left wrist.
6 The Fitbit device was ultimately removed during the autopsy and turned over to Det. Meeker. Det.
7 Meeker then transferred the Fitbit to Crime Scene Investigator Martinez #4084. CSU Investigator
8 Martinez booked the Fitbit device into the SJPD technical evidence room.

9 Based on my personal experience, I know that some Fitbit models have certain proprietary features
10 that monitor heartrate and physical movement, exercise periods, and step count. Some models are
11 Bluetooth enabled allowing those devices to communicate and upload information to paired
12 computers or cellular phones. The Fitbit Alta HR is one of those specific devices that monitors
13 heartrate and other activities and is enabled with Bluetooth technology allowing it to communicate
14 with other electronic devices without being physically docked.

15 Detectives intended to retrieve the data to ascertain when the victim's movement and heartrate
16 stopped. That information would potentially determine the date, and time of death, of homicide
17 Victim Karen Navarra.

16
17

17 After discussing the attempt to retrieve the information from the Fitbit device with the Santa
18 Clara County Crime Lab staff, CSU Sgt. A. Lee learned that the Crime Lab did not have the
19 ability to retrieve the information contained within the device. We were informed that the
20 company was based in the City of San Francisco and that they would be the best resource to
21 retrieve and document the data contained within the device.

21 On 09-19-18, Det. Jennings assisted in the investigation by applying for a search warrant related
22 to the Fitbit device recovered from the Victim's wrist by the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office.
23 The warrant sought the digital data from the device to include information associated to the
24 Victim's heartrate and movement. The Honorable Judge S. Chapman reviewed the application
25 and found good cause to issue the order.

1 Sgt. Lee contacted and spoke with Fitbit Director of Brand Protection Jeff Bonham. Bonham
2 drove down to the San Jose Police Department and took custody of the device and a copy of the
3 search warrant ordering the production of the associated records. Bonham took custody of the
4 device from Sgt. Lee on 09-19-18.

4
5

5 Homicide Unit Video Forensic Technician C. Triggs reviewed the footage retrieved from 3472
6 Noble Avenue and from 3305 Noble Avenue.

7 Beginning on 09-19-18, she began reviewing the video from 3305 Noble Avenue. This view
8 covered the westbound lanes of Noble Avenue in between Mira Vista, where the Aiello's lived,
9 and Piedmont Road. Based on Tony Aiello's statement, she would have driven past the camera
10 on 09-08-18 at approximately 1700hrs. Using a known photo of the Victim's vehicle, she
11 attempted to find the vehicle driving into view. She was unable to locate the Victim's vehicle on
12 the footage. This would have contradicted Tony Aiello's account of Karen Navarra driving by his
13 residence while he was outside.

13 Triggs then reviewed the video footage from 3472 Noble Avenue. That camera was set for motion
14 activation and recorded data in small snippets. That particular camera was a distance away from
15 the Victim's home, but the driveway was identifiable. During the recording beginning on 09-08-
16 18 at 1458hrs, Triggs noted that the driveway was clear and that there were no cars parked in front
17 of the residence. The next video clip which began at 1512hrs that same day showed a small dark
18 gray compact car similar in design to a Toyota Corolla parked in the driveway. The following
19 video clips at 1514hrs, 1519hrs, 1521hrs, and 1533hrs that same day showed that the same vehicle
20 was parked in the driveway of the Victim's residence. The clip beginning at 1535hrs showed that
21 the vehicle was no longer in the driveway of the residence. Based on the review of the video, the
22 vehicle was parked in the victim's driveway for a period of at least 21 minutes.

23 There were no video clips showing the vehicle either driving toward, parking in the driveway, or
24 driving away from the Victim's home.

22
23

23 On 09-20-18, Sgt. Lee informed Detectives that he had received verbal information back from
24 Fitbit Director of Brand Protection Jeff Bonham. Bonham informed Sgt. Lee that the Fitbit found

1 on Victim Karen Navarra's wrist was in communication with the server. He indicated that it was
2 connected via Bluetooth to either a computer or cellular phone which would have been nearby.
3 He indicated that the device was communicating with its paired device and was reporting data
4 every fifteen minutes. He suggested that the Fitbit must have been within close proximity to the
5 paired device for that to occur. Victim Karen Navarra was located in her dining room
6 approximately five to ten feet away from her desktop computer which was in the same room.

7 The information provided from the Fitbit server, which maintained records associated with that
8 specific device, indicated that the last recorded movement of that Fitbit was on 09-13-18 at
9 approximately the same time that Karen Navarra's remains were retrieved by the Office of the
10 Coroner.

11 Prior to that, the device showed that there was no movement, step count, or heartrate for a number
12 of days prior.

13 Bonham said that the last recorded heartrate data and indication of movement was on 09-08-18.

14 The data recorded that there was a significant spike in Karen Navarra's heartrate at 1520hrs,
15 followed by a rapid slowing. He indicated that the Fitbit ceased registering heartrate data on 09-
16 08-18 at 1528 hrs.

17 The video from 3472 Noble Avenue showed Tony Aiello's vehicle parked in the driveway of the
18 Victim's residence from 1512hrs to at least 1533hrs. Tony Aiello told Det. Meeker and Det. Sgt.
19 Montonye that he was at the Victim's house at approximately 1500hrs that day.

20 Comparing the statements provided by Anthony 'Tony' Aiello, the video footage of the driveway
21 of the Victim's house, and the data from the Fitbit, I believe that Anthony Aiello is responsible
22 for the murder of his 68 year old step-daughter, Victim Karen Navarra.

23

24 On 09-25-18, the Honorable P. Colin reviewed a Ramey warrant for Suspect Anthony Aiello for
25 a felony violation of PC 187 (Murder). He found good cause to issue the order.

26 That same day, the Honorable P. Colin also reviewed a search warrant application for Anthony
27 Aiello's home located at 3421 Mira Vista Circle, in the City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara.
28 The application sought items of evidence related to the homicide of Victim Karen Navarra. He
29 found good cause to issue the order.

.....

1
2 On 09-26-18, the Covert Response Unit located and arrested Suspect Anthony Aiello. He was
3 transported to the San Jose Police Department Homicide Unit for an interview.

4 During the interview, members of the Crime Scene Unit and the Santa Clara County Crime
5 Laboratory assisted by conducting a search of the suspect's residence pursuant to the search
6 warrant. During that search, they recovered a number of items of evidence sought in the warrant.

7 During the search, officers found a pair of men's pants hanging in the master bedroom closet that
8 had visible indications of red/ brown stains on the knees. The stains on the knees of the pants
9 tested presumptive positive for blood using an O-Tolidine test. Officers then located a white
10 tank top and a gray button down shirt in a clothes hamper in the converted garage living space.

11 Both of the shirts had multiple small reddish brown stains consistent with blood on the front of
12 them. The stains on both the tank top and the button down shirt tested presumptive positive for
13 blood using an O-Tolidine test. In addition officers used a LCV (Leucocrystal violet) test to
14 attempt to locate any non-visible blood in the sinks of the residence which could indicate clean
15 up, or concealment of blood evidence. The presumptive positive test indicated that there was a
16 presence of blood in the sink in the converted garage living area and also in the master bedroom
17 sink.

18 Suspect Anthony Aiello was interviewed by Det. Sgt. Montonye and Det. Meeker at the San Jose
19 Police Department Homicide Unit. During the interview, Aiello was read his Miranda rights.

20 During his custodial interview, he repeated what he had previously told investigators about his
21 actions, and timeline on the last day that he saw the victim on 09-08-18. During the custodial
22 interview Aiello confirmed that he was present at the victim's home that afternoon at
23 approximately 1500hrs. He indicated that he drove his wife's dark gray Toyota Corolla to the
24 victim's residence and parked the vehicle in the driveway when he arrived. He believed that he
25 was at the residence for about 5-7 minutes. He said that the victim let him into the house and he
dropped off the pizza that he had made for her. Aiello indicated that he did not see anyone else
in the house and did not hear any indication of anyone else in the house. Aiello said that when
he left the residence the victim walked him to the door as he left and handed him two roses when
he exited. Aiello said that he then drove directly home.

1 During the interview, Aiello was confronted about the information from Fitbit and the
2 corresponding surveillance video indicating that his car was in the driveway. After explaining
3 the abilities of the Fitbit to record time, physical movement, and heartrate data, he was informed
4 that the victim was deceased prior to his leaving the house. Aiello stated that could not be true
5 because she had walked him to the door when he left the residence. I explained that both
6 systems were on internet time and there was no deviation. He denied that he was present when
7 she was killed and suggested that someone else might have been in the house.

8 During the interview, Aiello was told that investigators were searching his home pursuant to a
9 search warrant. Aiello was informed that two shirts with blood splatter was found in the clothes
10 hamper in his garage. He explained that he cuts himself frequently. He was told that the
11 deposits of blood were not localized in one area and were more consistent with splatter. Aiello
12 indicated that he might have cut his hand and shaken it while he was wearing those shirts.

13 After concluding the interview, detectives exited the interview room. Aiello could be heard
14 talking to himself on a number of occasions. Among other things, he repeated the statement,
15 "I'm done," a number of times.

16 Based on the totality of the investigation I believe that Suspect Anthony Vincent Aiello is
17 responsible for the murder of Victim Karen Navarra.

18
19

20 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the aforementioned
21 synopsis of the police reports and documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. The
22 investigation is continuing at this time.

23
24
25

[Signature of Affiant]
Det. Brian Meeker #3272, San Jose Police Department.