

April 2, 2012 Anchorage, Alaska

ANCHORAGE POLICE CHIEF MARK MEW

Good afternoon. I would like to begin by acknowledging that the last two months have been a very frustrating time for the Koenig family and for the Anchorage community. We have pursued theories that variously required us to regard uninvolved parties suspiciously and/or withhold information when people didn't understand why. I know the frustration extends beyond the family and the community to the detectives and agents involved with this investigation, and to you, our local media. I realize our silence has made your efforts to inform the public difficult. I can only reiterate and again assure you our joint decisions to not release more information were driven exclusively by our desire to maximize the potential for Samantha Koenig's safe return. Unfortunately, that potential no longer exists.

Earlier today, a forensic dive team discovered in Matanuska Lake, what investigators believe to be the body of Samantha Koenig. The Office of the State Medical Examiner will soon conduct a thorough examination to include verification of identity. As you know, Samantha was abducted the evening of February 1st. Investigators believe Samantha died within hours of her abduction, and we are continuing to investigate these facts. Investigators further believe the person responsible for Samantha's death acted alone, and we are confident that we have that person in custody. We are working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and charges for Samantha's kidnapping and murder will be forthcoming. On behalf of the men and women of the Anchorage Police Department, I offer our condolences to James Koenig and his family.

As we have said many times before, this investigation was conducted jointly by the Anchorage Police Department and the FBI, and in close coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office. I would now like to introduce my colleague Mary Rook, Special Agent in Charge of the Anchorage Division of the FBI. SAC Rook...

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, MARY ROOK

Good afternoon. I join Chief Mew and his department in expressing my sympathy and the condolences of the FBI to Mr. Koenig and his family. Although some questions have been answered today, I know those answers offer little consolation to the Koenig family and that many more questions remain. I know one question both the Koenig family and the people of Anchorage have asked from the outset is, why Samantha? The investigation continues, but I can tell you, investigators found no direct association between the abductor and Samantha or any member of her family. I believe it was largely the dissociative nature of this crime that so perplexed investigators, at least initially.

Although the outcome is tragic, I would nevertheless like to thank the citizens of Anchorage. When James Koenig needed your support, you responded from every part of the community. And, when law enforcement asked for your assistance, you again stepped up and answered our call. We received hundreds of phone calls from people in Anchorage and from many locations across the lower 48. Likewise, when assistance was required in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, local, state and federal authorities moved quickly to support and move this investigation forward. In fact, were it not for the efforts of several very alert and dedicated Texas law enforcement officers, Samantha's abductor may still be at large.

The investigation will continue until investigators believe they have uncovered all the evidence and answered as many remaining questions as possible. We would like to reiterate our request for information relative to the movement of the white pick-up truck. Specifically, we want to hear from anyone who may have seen the truck in the vicinity of Matanuska Lake.

While obviously our investigative efforts have shifted dramatically today, I must ask for your continued understanding and patience. While we are now able to reveal more information regarding this investigation we must also be cognizant of our joint responsibility to allow the judicial process to ensue. As such, there is still much information that we cannot disclose at this time.