National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale sur les femmes et les filles autochtones disparues et assassinées

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Truth-Gathering Process Part 1 Statement Gathering Private Residence Kitchener, Ontario



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Amy Miller, In relation to Denise Bourdeau

Statement gathered by Debbie Bodkin

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List of documents submitted with testimony:

1. June 29, 2010 letter to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission.

2. Three copies of photographs.

Kitchener, Ontario 1 --- Upon commencing on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 2:39 2 3 p.m. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. The audio tape is 4 5 on again. Again, it's Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018. It's now 2:39 in the afternoon. We're at [private residence 6 address] in Kitchener. I'm Debbie Bodkin the Statement 7 8 Gatherer for the National Inquiry. I have with me Amy Miller who is here voluntarily and comfortable with the 9 audio recorder. And you are going to speak, I know, about 10 your daughter. But if you wouldn't mind starting out just 11 introducing yourself, giving your date of birth, a little 12 bit of your background and then tell us -- tell myself and 13 the Commissioners more about Denise. 14 15 MS. AMY MILLER: Okay. My name is Amy

Miller and I was born in 1949. So that means I'm going to be 70 in January. And I had three daughters. Denise was the oldest one, she was my centennial baby. And I'm -- I'm doing this because I want to make a change in society. I will fight to the death to make a change so that there is equality, that people are not degraded, or manipulated.

I've had to fight the police right from day
one when they knew that Denise was being battered. She was
being raped, she had food withheld from her from this new
boyfriend of hers. The first month she was with him, she

ended up in the hospital because he threw an onion soup 1 bowl at her and hit her. 2 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: What year was that? 3 Like, when -- when are ---4 5 MS. AMY MILLER: Two-thousand-six. 6 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: --- we talking about. 7 Okay. 8 MS. AMY MILLER: Two-thousand-six. No, I'm 9 sorry. I'm sorry. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: 10 It's okay. MS. AMY MILLER: I have to correct that. It 11 was 2004, because she lived with him for two years and she 12 was murdered 2006. And the first month he put her in the 13 hospital. And it went to court, and he got three months' 14 15 probation. He had to go to anger management and he was to go to Alcoholics Anonymous. He was to stay so many metres 16 17 away from Denise and the apartment. And I found out after the fact that he left the court, stopped at the liquor 18 store, and went right back to the apartment. 19 And we had gone through so many detectives 20 that it took me nine and a half months to track the one 21 detective down so I could find out what was -- what was 22 going on. Like, this -- this is, like, three years after. 23 And he's still out on the road. They would always take 24 25 Denise out and place her some place. What ---

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: What -- what ---1 MS. AMY MILLER: --- happened -- what 2 Why wouldn't they take him out? 3 happened? MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And -- and what do you 4 5 mean? Who took Denise from where? 6 MS. AMY MILLER: The police would -- would 7 always go to the apartment. 8 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 9 MS. AMY MILLER: She was living with him. 10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 11 MS. AMY MILLER: And the police would always go and remove Denise. And most of the time, they would 12 bring her to our house. But they would never remove him. 13 And he's the batterer. I mean, you could see she was 14 15 battered. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Sorry. Maybe in the 16 17 meantime, what was Denise's -- can you tell me a little bit about her? Like, how old she was and stuff like that 18 19 before we get into -- and who this person is? MS. AMY MILLER: Denise would have been 36 -20 21 22 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 23 MS. AMY MILLER: --- in two weeks. 24 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: In two-thousand -- oh. 25 MS. AMY MILLER: Two weeks before her

1 murder.

2	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh, okay.
3	MS. AMY MILLER: She would have been 39.
4	And I can't think of a person that did not like Denise.
5	She had a sense of humour that if she come into this room
6	and there was five of six, she would have them all laughing
7	in an instant. And if I said, you know, "This is Debbie
8	from the Inquiry." "Oh, hello, Debbie, I'm so happy that
9	you're here helping my mom out," and she would hug you and,
10	"Oh, you look like you need a hug too," and she'd go and
11	hug somebody else. But she was very open, very friendly,
12	very loveable. She would laugh right from the bottom of
13	her belly, right from when she was a little kid.
14	And one time I was in Fairview Mall with
15	her, and [Denise's Son 1] was about three.
16	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And that's your son?
17	MS. AMY MILLER: That's Denise's
18	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Or her son.
19	MS. AMY MILLER: son.
20	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Denise's son.
21	MS. AMY MILLER: Denise's son. And I was
22	walking along with [Denise's Son 1] in front of me. I
23	didn't hold my his hand. He was in front of me. And we
24	
	went past this this window, and [Denise's Son 1] grabbed

and said, "I suggest you keep a -- a closer eye on your son." And I said, "Hey, he's not my kid. He's her kid." And Denise burst out laughing, and she says, "Mom," and she goes running after [Denise's Son 1] and takes -- gives the balloon back.

6 One time we were in a restaurant for breakfast and they always light candles for you, dinners, 7 8 right. Well, we went out for breakfast, Glen (ph) and Denise and I. And I wanted the candle lit. And I knew the 9 manager so I lit the candle. Well, when we're getting 10 ready to leave, you know, you always take your napkin, 11 scrunch it up, throw it on the table, and slide out. Well, 12 when I went to slide out, Denise is bent over the bench and 13 there were tears running down her eyes. And I said, "What? 14 What? What?" And she goes, she couldn't even laugh, she 15 just points. And I look back at the table and here we had 16 17 flames two and a half feet high in the air. And she's just 18 laughing. And the manager comes over and Kelly (ph) says, "Amy, are you causing shit again?" And I said, "No, it was 19 Denise. It was Denise." And I went to look. And she's 20 gone. I see her outside, bent over the vehicle laughing 21 because she thought it was so funny. She was always 22 pulling stunts like that. Always. 23

When it was her birthday, I had a -- a
doorbell that computed 28 different songs. Christmas

songs, birthday songs, Battle of the Republic, like, when 1 my in-laws came I would play Battle of the Republic. But 2 if I didn't have Denise's song on, Happy Birthday, a week 3 before her birthday, she would come into the house, change 4 5 the doorbell, go back out and ring the doorbell and walk in, "Happy birthday to me, happy birthday to me." And, 6 "Have you got my cake? You know I always want double 7 8 chocolate fudge so you better get working on it. You haven't got much time left." And then the evening, the 9 night before her birthday, I always go to bed at nine 10 because I had to work, about 11:00 the phone rings, 11 "Hello?" "Mom? Happy birthday to me, happy birthday to 12 me." And I said, "Denise, you know, payback's a shit, my 13 birthday's coming up in two weeks." So that morning of my 14 birthday, I phoned her two hours before she had to get up. 15 "Denise?" "Yeah." "Happy birthday to me, happy birthday 16 17 to me." "Mother, now, how am I going to get back to sleep again?" 18

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And what was Denise'sbirthday? I don't think you said.

MS. AMY MILLER: [Birthdate].
MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And what year? Sorry,
what was she born?
MS. AMY MILLER: Sixty-seven. She was a

25 centennial baby.

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh, that's right. You 1 said that. Oh, let him use the key next time. Okay. 2 MS. AMY MILLER: So she -- she was ---3 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Very fun loving by the 4 5 sounds of it. MS. AMY MILLER: Oh, oh, God. She -- she 6 got us this game called Atmosphere. And it's played with 7 8 the television. And you turn all the lights out and you light candles and you play this game. And there's a 9 gatekeeper, one of you are a gatekeeper. 10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah. 11 MS. AMY MILLER: And the gatekeeper's 12 supposed to keep track because if he says, "Whose turn is 13 it?" And you don't answer the right way -- the right 14 15 words, then you miss your turn. So Denise was always, always -- "It's my turn." "No, you didn't do it right. 16 17 You miss your turn." "Oh, geez," and she'd get all upset 18 about it. But she would -- she was so funny. She was so funny. And Glen and her had this connection. 19 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And who's Glen? 20 MS. AMY MILLER: My ex -- my second husband. 21 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Your husband now? 22 23 MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. 24 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Yes. MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. 25

1 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. MS. AMY MILLER: And they could say a joke 2 and it would go right over my head, and then the two of 3 them would sit and laugh at me. 4 5 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: So he's Denise's 6 stepfather? 7 MS. AMY MILLER: Stepfather, yeah. 8 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: So tell me a little bit about what did Denise do, like, after high school and stuff 9 like that? 10 MS. AMY MILLER: She actually got into the 11 partying for a while. After she had [Denise's Son 1], I 12 think that she got caught with the blues after and started 13 drinking to compensate. And then when she did go back to 14 work, she would work with different temp agencies but she 15 was working all the time. Like, she was working full-time 16 but it was always temp. If she was told not to come in 17 18 tomorrow, she'd be right on the phone to the temp agency the next morning and she'd be out working again. 19 But once she moved in with this Dave Thomas, 20 the one that murdered her, he was very much into the hard 21 liquor and cocaine. And I can't say whether or not Denise 22 used cocaine. They say it goes hand in hand but that's no 23 reason for him to murder. 24 25 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: M'hmm, yeah.

MS. AMY MILLER: Or to beat her. And she 1 was very strong, she was a strong-willed woman. And she 2 ruled everything. She -- she was the boss. And he 3 manipulated and controlled and tore her right down to 4 5 nothing, to believing that her parents didn't even love 6 her, didn't care for her because we put a stop to the cops bringing Denise to our house because that was just putting 7 8 a Band-Aid on it and it wasn't helping any. It was making their job easy. No paperwork, they just put Denise in the 9 car and drop her off at our place, and away they go. 10

And one night Glen and I, we talked, and we 11 said, "This has got to change." I mean, every time they 12 would take Denise out because of the battered wife 13 syndrome, Denise would eventually go back. And then he 14 walks up and says, "Well, I'm not doing anything wrong. 15 It's you that they're taking out. The cops are taking you 16 out, not me. You're the one that's doing the wrong, not 17 me." And he had her so degraded and humiliated that -- and 18 isolated. I couldn't phone her. She could only phone me 19 20 if he was passed out.

He used to lock her in the apartment with a -- he had a Yale lock and he had the only key. And she'd phone me crying. And I'd say, "Did he hit you again?" Yeah." I'd say, "Well, go over to the payphone and phone me and I'll pick you up." And she says, "No, mom, you

can't." And I said, "Why can't you?" She didn't want to 1 tell me about the lock on the door but I found out later. 2 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Was her son living with 3 them too? 4 5 MS. AMY MILLER: No. No. Her son was living with his dad. 6 7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 8 MS. AMY MILLER: And [Denise's Daughter] and [Denise's Son 2] were living with their father. 9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh, okay. These are her 10 other two children? 11 MS. AMY MILLER: Yes. Yes. Denise got to -12 - Denise got to the point where alcohol was more important 13 than anything. And rightfully so because she was trying to 14 dull the pain of the hurt, physically, emotionally, 15 mentally. Like, when I knew that she went missing, I knew 16 that he did it. And I was on my way over to his house with 17 18 a baseball bat one night. And I stopped, and I had a couple of fast shots on an empty stomach. I used to take 19 karate so I remembered some of that stuff and I know how 20 Dave opened the door. He opens the door and he leans up 21 against so his stomach is, like, wide open, you know. 22 Well, it wouldn't take much to -- because he 23 was always drunk. It wouldn't take much to -- to knock him 24 over and beat his legs up a little bit and then leave, and 25

I'd go back a couple months later and do it again. I 1 wouldn't want to kill him, just maim him for a while, you 2 know, because the cops weren't doing anything. 3 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And when did she go 4 5 missing? 6 MS. AMY MILLER: New Year's Eve. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Of what year, sorry? 7 8 MS. AMY MILLER: Of 2006. And I told her how to leave him safely. I said, "What you have to do is 9 you have to photocopy all your ID's, health card, 10 everything. You get a little cash that he doesn't know 11 about, buy little toiletries." And I said, "When you 12 leave, you leave your makeup there, you leave your 13 toothbrush there, you leave your purse there wide open so 14 he can see everything that's in it. And that's going to 15 bide you time but beware, as John Walsh on TV says, beware 16 17 the third day because that's when the predators go on the hunt." And that's when he went on the hunt. 18 He phoned [Daughter 1], who he didn't know 19 She had gotten out of an abusive 20 was out west. relationship. 21 22 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And who's [Daughter 1], 23 sorry? 24 MS. AMY MILLER: [Daughter 1] is my youngest 25 daughter.

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 1 MS. AMY MILLER: Six months before Denise 2 was murdered, [Daughter 1] ended up in court because her 3 ex-boyfriend took a baseball bat to her head. To me, 4 5 that's attempted murder, or aggravated assault intending death. So we just got [Daughter 1] out of that, and she is 6 totally disabled now mentally. She has, like, shaken baby 7 8 syndrome. So we got her sent out west. And she went through all the tests and everything, and that's what they 9 found out what had happened. 10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And that was by a -- a 11 boyfriend or something? 12 MS. AMY MILLER: A boyfriend, yeah. A 13 boyfriend, six months before Denise. And Dave phoned 14 [Daughter 1], not realizing she was out west, and asked if 15 he could talk to Denise, he wanted to wish her a Happy New 16 17 Year. [Daughter 1] says, "She's not here." "Oh, she must be down at Niagara." So he phoned my other daughter, 18 [Daughter 2], in Niagara. And he said the same thing to 19 [Daughter 2]. And I was next in line. He phoned me and he 20 said, "I -- well, I just want to wish her a Happy New 21 Year." And I said, "Well, isn't she with you?" And he 22 says, "No, she's not. And I know she's not at [Daughter] 23 1]'s and she's not at Jennifer's so I know exactly where 24 she's going to be tonight." And that was the third day she 25

had left. And he did track her down in a -- a family
restaurant bar, grill sort of thing where she was
celebrating the new year. And he went in, and a long story
short, dragged her out, and that was the last time she was
seen alive.

13

6 The police knew for two years, they were 7 there at least three times a week, if not four times a 8 week. They knew he did this. The one that took the 9 baseball bat -- the ex-boyfriend that took the baseball bat 10 to my youngest daughter, the only thing he got out of it 11 was he had to give his DNA, and three months' probation, 12 and stay away from [Daughter 1].

13 So when I went down to Parliament Hill, and 14 I was in the round room, and I heard all these women crying 15 and having their -- their hearts torn right out all over 16 again. And it come up to my turn, and I said, "Carolyn," 17 and I called her Carolyn because she's no different than I 18 am -- Carolyn Bennett.

19

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.

20 MS. AMY MILLER: She puts her pants on the 21 same way I do, she pees the same way I do. I said, 22 "Carolyn, I'm not going to tell you the story about Denise 23 because you've heard it here, and here, and here, and here. 24 But I am going to tell you the story about my younger 25 daughter whose boyfriend took a baseball bat to her head.

She's got a metal plate in her cheek, she had to have her 1 jaws wired, she had to have all new teeth put in. The 2 metal plate is up too high on her cheekbone so it 3 interferes with her eye, and she's got this disability now. 4 5 So what I want from you, Carolyn, is I want to know what the fuck is wrong with this justice system." 6 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And whereabouts did that 7 8 happen? Where did [Daughter 1] live? MS. AMY MILLER: [Daughter 1] was ---9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: You said out west? 10 MS. AMY MILLER: No, she wasn't out there. 11 12 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh, sorry. 13 MS. AMY MILLER: We sent her out there after 14 _ _ _ 15 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh, okay. MS. AMY MILLER: --- after all this. 16 She 17 lived in St. Catharines. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. So it was Niagara 18 19 Regional Police who did that investigation? MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. Yeah. And that's 20 all he got. No aggravated assault with intent of death. 21 You know, nothing like that. I said, "I want to know 22 what's wrong with this fucking justice system? That's all 23 I want to know." And she says, "Well, on that note, we'll 24 take a break unless anyone has any other questions." 25

"Carolyn?" She says, "Yes, Amy?" I said, "Why is that 1 young man over there," and the guy's looking behind him --2 I said, "Yes, you. Why is he allowed to be in this room 3 texting and laughing under his breath when these women are 4 5 having their hearts torn out over here? Why are you 6 allowing this?" MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And what -- what was 7 8 this gathering? Like, what was the event? Or was it a -specifically put on by some group? 9 MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah, it was the North --10 North America NWAC. 11 12 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 13 MS. AMY MILLER: Native Women's Association of Canada. 14 15 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah. Okay. MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. It was them. 16 And we 17 were there to talk to parliament to tell them our stories. But I wouldn't tell her my story because I didn't think I 18 needed to. I wanted to find out what was wrong with this 19 stupid fucking justice system. And then she says, "Well, 20 on that note," so I saw her go down and talk to him, this 21 young fellow that was laughing on the phone. He was not 22 allowed back in the room again. And she come over and 23 apologized for him. There was a -- a member of parliament 24 25 from Winnipeg that was there, he come over and apologized

for him.

1

2 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. MS. AMY MILLER: And I said, "Well, I thank 3 you very much for apologizing but you still haven't 4 5 answered my question. What the fuck is wrong with the justice system?" I mean, neighbours of Denise's would 6 phone the police week after week after week because she was 7 8 being beaten. And they could hear -- these neighbours could hear her -- hear him say, "I want you dead. I want 9 you dead." And Denise stayed with -- with me in the month 10 of July in 2006. And she wrote a letter to Dave but she 11 didn't mail it. And she left it behind in a purse that I 12 lent her because she left with nothing. She had her 13 toiletries, some makeup but we went out and bought a 14 wardrobe for her. 15 And we said, "The only stipulation is that 16 you don't drink in the house." We have no control over if 17 18 she drinks outside the house but she was coming home with black and blue strangulation marks on her neck. And the 19

20 one time I phoned the police and she went upstairs and she 21 wouldn't come down. And that officer didn't even date the 22 record of his visit. I dated it.

And when we reported Denise missing, two officers came, and eventually the one officer said to the other one, "Oh, she's probably downtown doing whatever she

has to do to get her next fix." And I said, "Excuse me? 1 What the fuck did you just say?" And he said, "Oh, I'm --2 I'm sorry." And that cop -- I wasn't in the courtroom but 3 it came back from my grandson, but that cop lied in court. 4 He said he did not say that. And he did. Because 5 [Daughter 1] was on speakerphone, I was there and my 6 husband was there. And that cop lied and he got away with 7 8 it.

Okay. So then there was one time we lost 9 our detective who was working on the case and it took me 10 nine and a half months to find out, to phone, and phone, 11 and phone, and phone, who was on Denise's case. Well, a 12 red flag should've gone up right off the bat as soon as I 13 heard the name because his name was [Detective 1]. So I 14 finally got a hold of him and I said, "We have a lot of 15 questions." And this was maybe two-thousand -- he wasn't -16 - Dave wasn't arrested yet. He wasn't arrested until 2011 17 so this must have been 2009 when -- when [Detective 1] was 18 on that. I've got papers on here with dates. And he said, 19 "By all means, have the appointment, ask me any questions 20 you want as long as they don't impede the investigation." 21

I had 25 questions myself. Number one, why is Denise continually taken out? Why isn't he taken out and locked up? He was on probation for two years. And in those two years, the cops are there three or four times a

week because she's being beaten and they take her out.
What ever happened with the red flag, "Oh, hey, you're on probation here. Let's go." No, they take Denise out.
Well, one time when Glen and I talked, we
said, "No more. They're not bringing Denise here anymore.
They're going to do their job." So a female officer -- a

female officer, she phoned and coerced Glen for 45 minutes, 7 8 to bring Denise over to us. And he said, "Okay." I was in bed. And I said, "Who was that?" "Well, that's the 9 detective. They're bringing Denise over." And I threw the 10 blankets and after he peeled me off the ceiling, I said, 11 "No fucking way." And I went over and pushed Star-69 and I 12 retrieved the number she phoned from. And I was very nice. 13 I said, "Is this an officer?" "Who is this and how did you 14 get this phone number? This is my private cell number." 15 And I said, "Well, you tell me. You're the cop. If you 16 17 don't want your number phoned, block it or don't use it." "Who is this?" And I said, "This is Denise's mom." "Oh, 18 well, we're en route to your house right now." And I said, 19 "No, you're not." She said, "Yeah, your husband said that 20 we could bring Denise over." And I said, "Let me put it 21 this way, my husband is Denise's step-father, I'm her 22 biological mother, which gives me the seniority and I'm 23 telling you that you're not bringing Denise here." "Well, 24 what are we supposed to do with her?" And I said, "Well, 25

that seems to be your problem. You never know what to do 1 with her." "Well, can she stay there until her sister 2 comes up from Niagara and picks her up." And I said, "No, 3 because I don't have [Daughter 2]'s phone number and I 4 don't know where she lives." 5 6 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: [Daughter 2]'s another sister? 7 8 MS. AMY MILLER: [Daughter 2]'s the one that 9 lives in Niagara. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 10 MS. AMY MILLER: And she had moved and 11 wasn't talking to me because of all this going on with 12 Dave. They didn't want me to fight the police. They said, 13 "Mom, you are the dirt under the bug, under their boot. 14 You're Native. They're not going to do a thing." And I 15 wouldn't listen. I fought -- I fought for four years by 16 17 myself. And then when we were in this [Detective 1], 18 I asked three questions, he couldn't answer them and he 19 told us so. And I said, "Why is it that you can't answer 20

one question?" And he sat in his chair and linked his hands behind his head, and he leaned back and he said, "Well, actually, I haven't read the file." And I started to shake because I came from the hospital to that meeting. And I said, "This meeting is over." And he looked at me,

and he leaned forward, he was about as -- that far away.
He leaned forward, looked directly in my eye, pointed his
finger in my face, and said, "And you -- I know all about
you." What does that mean? That was the first time I met
him.

6 So I kind of lifted my butt off the chair, and I pointed my finger, and I had direct eye contact with 7 8 him, and I said, "That's just fantastic. Then you know that you better get your fucking ass up out of that chair 9 and start working on her file or there's going to be big 10 trouble." I said, "This meeting's over, people, let's go." 11 And he shook hands with everybody in the family, and they 12 all laughed and I went outside and I broke down. 13 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And when you say, 14 15 "Everybody in the family," who else was there? MS. AMY MILLER: [Daughter 1], and [Daughter 16 17 2] and Glen. 18 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And who, sorry? MS. AMY MILLER: Glen. 19 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Glen, okay. 20 MS. AMY MILLER: Yes. Yeah. And the next 21 day from the hospital, I phoned the Chief of Police. Of 22 course, they don't answer their phones. And I said, "Why 23

is it that you give [Detective 1] my daughter's case and he doesn't read it? What's going on down there?" I never got

a phone call back. Glen went down to the cop shop, and he 1 went up to the secretary, and he said, "I want to speak to 2 the Chief of Police -- Chief of Detectives." And she says, 3 "What for?" And he says, "I don't have you tell you. 4 5 You're just a secretary. You get him down here." So she 6 brought him down and he said, "Please -- please, just phone Amy once a month just to see how she's doing. You don't 7 8 have to talk about the case," because the very first detective team that we had, they used to come over to our 9 place once a month ---10

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Sorry. Again, I had to
re-start it with fresh batteries. It's 3:13. So we might
have missed just a couple words. Now it's good.

MS. AMY MILLER: Okay. [Detective 3] was our first detective, the lead detective and he used to come over and have coffee once a month, just to see how we were doing. I could call him from the hospital in London and he would talk to me on the phone. We wouldn't talk about the case, just how we were doing.

But the one time when he was on the case and they took over Dave's apartment, he phoned me just before they went into the apartment and he says, "Now, the team is going to go in -- the forensics team is going to go in the apartment so if Dave calls you, you don't let him know, but you call me." I said, "Okay, I will." And he says, "Amy,

whatever you're doing, because I was telling him all about 1 what the psychic was telling me, and he was following with 2 -- with the psychic, he was working with the psychic. And 3 he says, "Amy, whatever you're doing, you keep doing it 4 because it's right. I went to this one spot that she 5 6 mentioned and it was exactly the way she said it was. And I don't know how she could have ever see that. So just 7 keep doing what you're doing." 8

All the other detectives, they didn't even 9 want to hear about a psychic. Oh, my God, no. Until the 10 very last month. Then they wanted the tape of my psychic 11 conversation. And I said, "Am I going to get this tape 12 back? Because everything I give you guys, I never get 13 back." And he says, "No, no, no. You'll get the tape 14 back." It was a little digital tape. Well, we did get the 15 tape back but the tape was erased. 16

17But luckily, all the while that tape was18going, I was taking notes. So I have all of her notes and19she was right on the mark with everything. Every -- I20mean, imagine telling what was at Denise's site even before21she was found. And I miss [mistaken name of Detective 2].22[Detective 2] -- no, that's [Detective 2]. I'm sorry.23MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Another detective that

24 was on it?

25

MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. Yeah. He was almost

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as bad as [Detective 1] because I was getting so frustrated 1 with him because they wouldn't answer any questions. And 2 when we went to get victim's compensation, the one 3 detective, or the one -- what was she? In the victim 4 5 witness program or something. But she had to show up in front of this team to see whether or not I qualified for 6 compensation. And they had asked her for the autopsy 7 8 report, toxology (Sic.) report, pathology report, all those reports. And one by one she says, "I didn't bring that. I 9 didn't bring that one in." They got mad at her and they 10 said, "Well, you are no use to us. You can leave now." We 11 still haven't seen those papers. 12

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And when was that? 13 MS. AMY MILLER: That was before court 14 15 because I had applied for victim's compensation. And when I had trouble with that [Detective 1], I got a hold of 16 17 ombudsman. Right? [Detective 1] was the one that crossed his fingers behind his head and said -- yeah. I got a hold 18 of ombudsman and he said that they don't deal with the 19 police, however, get a hold of the Ontario Civilian Police 20 Commission or the Ontario Independent Review Board. Those 21

not happy. So I let them know -- I let the police know
that I notified these other two organizations and I was
going to have them investigated.

two are the ones that will investigate the police if you're

Well, then this female officer negotiator 1 comes over to the house. And she offered me money. She 2 didn't tell me how much it was going to be but my psychic 3 and [Daughter 1], my youngest daughter's psychic, said they 4 5 were going to offer me \$70,000. But she told me it wasn't 6 going to be, like, \$100,000. And I said, "And what is this money for?" "Well, it's additional stress that you had 7 8 from [Detective 1]." I said, "No, it's not." MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And was this female from 9 10 ___ 11 MS. AMY MILLER: Waterloo Regional. She was the ---12 13 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. MS. AMY MILLER: --- negotiator from 14 15 Waterloo Regional Police. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Do you know her name or 16 17 no? MS. AMY MILLER: I had it written down. 18 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: No worries. Go on. 19 20 MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: It's okay. No worries. 21 MS. AMY MILLER: But I had my girlfriend 22 there to take notes, Glen was there, and she's talking 23 about this money. Like, "What do you want?" And I said, 24 "I want [Detective 1] reprimanded for talking to me the way 25

he did, for lying to all of us the way he did. I want him 1 penalized. I want him reprimanded." "Well, we can't 2 really do that, however, we could give you a -- a 3 settlement." And I said, "A settlement for what?" "Well, 4 5 we can offer you some money for the additional stress that you went through." And I said, "That -- that's not for 6 stress. That is blood money. It's shut up money. It's go 7 8 away money." I said, "You get the fuck out of my house right now before I throw you out." Muffin, my little 9 Pomeranian was on my lap, and I stood up, she stood up and 10 Muffin jumped off my lap, and she's -- this negotiator was 11 going to the door. Muffin was running up the back of her 12 leg, and Muffin's fine with -- she's good with people. And 13 the -- the liaison said, "Well, she's going to bite me. 14 Your dog is going to bite me. She's going to bite me." 15 And I said, "Not if you run fast enough." And I slammed 16 17 the door behind her.

And then that's when I got a hold of this 18 Ontario Civilian Police Commission and Ontario Independent 19 Review Board. One of them come back and said my complaint 20 -- and I've got documentation here to prove that I notified 21 them and what their response was. One of them said my 22 complaint was put on a little computer chip and the 23 computer chip was misplaced. They didn't ask me to send my 24 complaint in again. They just said it was misplaced. And 25

the other one said that they're sending it back to Waterloo
 Regionals to be investigated. So I go back to Waterloo
 Regionals and nobody gets back to me.

Now, about a year ago January, and I've got 4 5 the printout off the computer, [Police Chief 1] was the Chief down in Cambridge and he come up to clean up Waterloo 6 Regional. I messaged him and I told him that we know 7 8 absolutely nothing other than Dave murdered Denise. We have no documentation, nothing. We don't even have 9 anything that belonged to her. And then I thought, well, 10 maybe we had to wait until his appeal come up before he 11 could talk to me. Well, his appeal come up last June and 12 I've sent messages to him. I've sent seven messages to him 13 and I've printed them out. The very first message, it just 14 happened that there was a playwright in the court. And 15 Denise wrote this letter and she left at my house in that 16 purse. Remember I ---17

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MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Yeah.

MS. AMY MILLER: --- mentioned that? And I gave that letter to the cops. And there was a playwright in court following the case. And he come over to me one day, and he says, "Could I write a play on Denise's letter?"

24 "Oh, my God, no, no, no, no." None of the25 other girls, [Daughter 2] and [Daughter 1], or Glen have

read that letter. I was the only one that read that 1 letter. And they weren't allowed in court so they -- they 2 wouldn't hear that letter. But it was all -- the letter 3 was all about how he wanted her dead, and he was going to 4 crush her skull and put her body in the bush where no-one 5 6 would find her. And if someone did find her by chance, what's seven years for murder anyways? But nobody's going 7 8 to be looking for you because you're -- you're nothing but a stupid, dirty, filthy, nitch. Okay. 9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And when was he 10 convicted? What -- what year? 11 MS. AMY MILLER: He was convicted July 5th, 12 2015. They didn't arrest him. She was murdered 2006. 13 They didn't arrest him until 2011. They knew it was him, 14 they wouldn't tell us anything until finally on day, from 15 the hospital again, I was fed up, and I phoned both 16 17 detectives, [Detective 2] -- I forget who the other one was but they were a team. I phoned and I left three messages 18 on their answering machines on a Saturday when I knew they 19 weren't going to be there. And I said -- and I was going 20 home on Monday, right. So on Sunday, or Saturday I said, 21 "There's going to come a day where you guys are going to 22 regret even hearing my name because I couldn't get you 23 investigated, however, I can go and have a full front page 24 write-up in the KW Record as to how you treated our family, 25

1	Denise's case. And then when that comes out on Monday, on
2	Tuesday, I'm going to get a hold of W5, and I'm going to
3	get an interview on there. And then on Wednesday, I'm
4	going to get a hold of Fifth Estate and I'm going to tell
5	them my story. And my story's going to go straight across
6	Canada like wildfire. So you will regret the day that you
7	ever met met me."
8	I said, "I want absolutely no contact
9	whatsoever from you people. As of now, you are fired. I'm
10	getting my own attorney, my own lawyer, but I just want you
11	to know, this is what I'm going to do before I hire those
12	two people."
13	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And was that message
14	before the conviction, or was this after the court case was
15	over?
16	MS. AMY MILLER: This was before the
17	conviction.
18	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.
19	MS. AMY MILLER: Because they weren't doing
20	anything. For four years they did nothing. Nothing. All
21	they said was, "Well, people are reluctant to come
22	forward." Dave refused to take a lie detector test but
23	they weren't doing anything. So I thought, "Okay, fine.
24	I'll take take charge and go to the newspaper, W5, Fifth
25	Estate. No contact whatsoever. I don't want you phoning

me, I don't want you buzzing to get into the building, I 1 don't want emails from you. Absolutely no contact." 2 Well, early Monday after they -- phone rang. 3 And I come out of the bedroom and I said, "Who was that?" 4 And Glen said, "The detectives." I said, "What do they 5 6 want? Don't they understand no contact?" And he says, "Well, they're coming up." I said, "Fuck, geez, do you not 7 8 understand what no contact means?" And I thought, well, I don't have to talk to them. I go down to the bedroom. And 9 then I thought, Glen is definitely passive, he is going to 10 underdo everything that I ever tried to do. He's just 11 going to, "Oh, well, she wouldn't do that." He didn't know 12 it -- it was already in the newspaper and that's why they 13 were coming over. 14

And they walked in and I said -- I sat down 15 there in the front because I didn't want Glen left alone 16 with them. And I said -- and I said, "How are you today, 17 18 Amy?" And I looked him straight in the eye and there was fire. And I said, "How do I look?" And he says, "Well, 19 you look like you don't want to talk." And I stood up, and 20 I looked him straight in the eye, and I said, "What fucking 21 part of no contact do you not understand? Get the fuck out 22 of my house before I phone the cops and have you removed." 23 And he stood there for a minute, quiet. And I said, 24 25 "Well?" And he said, "Well, we just stopped to tell you

that as we speak, Dave is behind bars." 1 That's -- it took four years of fighting, by 2 myself, and threats to get him arrested. And then the one 3 Crown didn't want to take it to court. But the -- another 4 5 Crown said -- he -- he gave it to the -- to the one judge and he says -- I forget what the guy's name was, the -- the 6 one Crown but he says -- the judge says to the one Crown, 7 8 "You've tried cases with far less than this and you've won them. So I suggest you take it." So he took it. 9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And maybe you already 10 told me but I forget. What was he convicted of and how 11 long did he get? 12 MS. AMY MILLER: He was convicted of second 13 degree murder, and he got -- the jury come back where they 14 all said 25 years, 25, 24, 22, 24, 23, 21. But one didn't 15 give anything. So the judge says, "All Denise wanted was 16 to be loved and respected. And you took her, and you took 17 her out, and you beat her." First he -- this, I got from 18 my psychic -- first he strangled her because that's what he 19 always did to get her down. And then he started kicking 20 her with his steel work boots because he was a plumber. 21 And if that wasn't bad enough, he stripped her of all of 22 her clothing and threw her body in the Grand River. 23 24 And the judge says, "All she wanted was love. And that's what you do to her? Do you have anything 25

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to say for yourself before I sentence you?" So he comes 1 out of the box and he says, "Why shall thee be punished 2 when thou has done nothing wrong?" He took a passage out 3 of the Bible -- because I went home and I found in in 4 5 Corinthians. And in the meantime, when I'm on the stand 6 and he's in his little box, he has his hand in the shape of Glock gun. And he shot every single one of the jury. He 7 8 shot the Crown, the assistant Crown, the judge, looked me straight in the eye and -- and nobody mentioned that. 9 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And what did he get 10 11 convicted -- or how long, sorry? MS. AMY MILLER: He did get 25 years. Now, 12 that day, apparently, he wrote up a seven-page appeal that 13 his lawyers didn't know about it. And that appeal, he was 14 convicted July 15th of 2015. He was arrested July the 15 11th, four years earlier. Yeah, 2011. 16 17 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: How long it took for the 18 case. Right. 19 MS. AMY MILLER: So he's got, you know, four years served time. We went to his appeal last June and it 20 was denied. And one of the things that they were arguing 21 about was a conversation that he had with me on the phone 22 after they found Denise. They said that that should not 23 have been allowed in court. And the statement was I told 24

them that he had called me and bang, bang, bang, bang,

bang, "What did the body have on? Where is the body now?
Did you give the body to the police and leave it there?
Where is the body now?" Not, "I'm so happy that they found
her." Or, "My condolences." The first thing was, "What
did the body have on?" That nailed him. Denise's letter
nailed him. I mean, everything was circumstantial. They
did find blood in the car.

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8 They knew, way in the beginning, the first two months, that Denise wrote this letter because I gave it 9 to them and they had a writing analyst expert confirm that 10 it was her writing. And they still didn't do anything. 11 They wanted me to give them a card so they could compare 12 the writing. And I said, "Am I going to get this card 13 back?" "Yeah, you'll get it back." Yeah, right, I got it 14 15 back. They did give me the tape back. No-one will talk to me down there. I don't know who to contact to find out if 16 she has anything left that could be given to me. I would 17 very much like to see the toxology (Sic.), pathology, all 18 of these reports because I had heard from my grandson that 19 was in court almost every day, [Daughter 1]'s son -- my 20 youngest daughter, that there was no alcohol or drugs in 21 her system. There was a little bit of alcohol in her chest 22 but they figured it was just from the -- from the 23 fermentation of the body. 24

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She had multiple broken ribs, there were

cuts -- well, he beat her to death with his metal boots on 1 and then he strips her and throws her -- he's -- he's no 2 different than Pickton. You know, he killed them and the 3 pigs would eat them. He -- he didn't care. He had no --4 5 no remorse whatsoever. No remorse. And I am hoping to 6 hell that he is getting the shit beat out of him every day in there. I really am. Just -- just to -- you know -- and 7 8 I asked the corrections, "Can you tell me if he's in any fights?" "No, we can't do that." "Can you tell me if he 9 ever gets a pass to go out to a hospital?" He says, "Yeah, 10 we can tell you that." I said, "Okay. I don't know how 11 he's getting along in there then." 12

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Is there any specific
things you want to suggest that you hope to see come out of
the Inquiry -- you sharing your story with the Inquiry?

MS. AMY MILLER: I want Trudeau to 16 17 investigate every single police force. And I want them to treat people with respect. When [Police Chief 1] come up 18 from Cambridge, there was six rape victims that were turned 19 away. Now, if you've got rape kits and the cops turn you 20 away, well, now they have to investigate those six rape 21 kits -- or those six people with rape. How were they 22 treated? Demeaned, demoralized. I would like to say that 23 I would like to see respect from authorities but that will 24 never, ever happen. Never. And now that they've got 25

marijuana on the road, the cops are allowed to decide 1 whether or not you're impaired. So they just went and gave 2 the fucking cops more power. I quess you can tell I don't 3 like police officers. 4 5 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I got the feeling. 6 MS. AMY MILLER: And, you know, my [family member] was an RCMP out west and then he went to be a 7 8 retired detective and now he's retired completely. However, that being said, he did sexually assault me when I 9 was a child. So like Glen says, "The Native men are 10 killing the Native womens." Well, we were taught police 11 are there to help serve and protect. 12 And when I was in court, they would not let 13

me read my impact statement. Just before I went in the --14 on the stand, they took me out into a little room, and they 15 said, "Let me see your impact statement." So shoved it 16 17 across. They shoved another one back at me and they said, "This is what you'll read." Because I was going to tell 18 them about Freddy Kruger, right? Because that's what it 19 felt like. And I thought that impact statement was to have 20 me explain to them how I felt. And I was told not to look 21 at Dave. And then I thought, well, I'm on the stand and 22 I'm going to keep talking until somebody stops me. So I 23 said, "Does any -- did anybody here -- were you raised with 24 the knowledge that the police officer is there to help 25

serve and protect?" And I looked right through the whole 1 court. I said, "Did they help serve and protect my 2 daughter to the best of their ability? No, they didn't." 3 And I turned to the judge, and I looked at the judge 4 5 straight in his eyes. I said, "Did they help serve and 6 protect my daughter? No." And then I said, "God, grant me the serenity 7 8 to do -- accept the things I can't change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the 9 difference." 10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Good words to live by. 11 MS. AMY MILLER: Because I had to accept 12 that they were not going to do anything. I wasn't -- I 13 wasn't going to get any justice. And when the offer you 14 money, I mean, that -- that's deplorable. How -- and this 15 compensation, how can you replace a life? 16 17 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: You can't. 18 MS. AMY MILLER: With \$25,000. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I -- I don't think I 19 ever asked you, did Denise go by same surname as yourself? 20 I didn't get that. 21 22 MS. AMY MILLER: No, she went under 23 Bourdeau. 24 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay. 25 MS. AMY MILLER: B-O-U-R-D-E-A-U.

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: 1 Thank you. MS. AMY MILLER: And this playwright -- this 2 play has gone from the east coast to the west coast. And 3 every city or town that it plays in, all the proceeds go to 4 help shelters, or counselling for the women, or to help get 5 them out, or to help get them started. And the first play 6 come out, it was four dollars a ticket. Now the tickets 7 8 are \$40. MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And what's the name of 9 10 it? The play? MS. AMY MILLER: Well, the -- the play was 11 called Rage Against Violence. So now they have something 12 about Courage With a Voice and then Rage Against Violence 13 underneath it. And Gary was -- I mean, they go into 14 15 shelters and they get the -- the true stories right from the women. And then they get actors to act out the exact 16 words that those women have said. And Denise is the very 17 last one. They had Amy -- Amy Smoke, she's Native ---18 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I've heard of her, yes. 19 MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. And she does such a 20 fantastic job on Denise's. And I had a picture of Denise 21 on -- this picture on the stage. And Gary knew I was going 22 to put this on the stage. And he had three floodlights 23 over top of the picture. One magenta, one cobalt blue, and 24 one royal purple over top of the picture. 25

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: That sounds beautiful. 1 MS. AMY MILLER: And then they gave me a 2 candle, and they said my name, and I turned around and I 3 held the candle up. And there were other mothers there 4 that were given candles and they would hold their candle up 5 6 for their child. And everybody was facing. You know, it was almost like a vigil. 7 8 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Oh, that's beautiful. MS. AMY MILLER: And the second one I went 9 to, I was late so I was way in the back with Gary and --10 and Wade (ph). But the guy who was organizing it there, he 11 said that Gary and Wade would like to say something. So 12 the two of them got up on stage and they said, "Denise's 13 mother would like to say something as well." So I stood 14 15 up, and I said, "I am going to do anything and everything in my power to make changes." 16 17 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Good for you. MS. AMY MILLER: "But just know that no-one 18 will ever forget Denise." 19 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: You mentioned that you 20 had some other documents. Are there some you want me to 21 copy and submit to the Commission? Or do you just want to 22 23 ___ 24 MS. AMY MILLER: Well ---25 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: --- leave it as

1 mentioned? I took the pictures of some of the pictures you
2 had.

MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah, there was -- oh,
[Officer 1]. When I phoned [Police Chief 1] -- not phoned
him, when I ---

MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: That's the Police Chief? 6 MS. AMY MILLER: Now. And he was the police 7 officer in Denise's play in Cambridge the very first time 8 it started. So that's why I thought I would reach out to 9 him and ask him about an investigation. And -- I'm going 10 to put my other glasses on. I want it to be known that I 11 did contact the Chief of Police. February the 13th, 12 there's no year on here. "Thank you for your email, I will 13 connect to set up a meeting with you. Just out of the 14 office until Thursday. Thank you for the call -- thank 15 you, will follow up with staff members who are 16 coordinating. Much appreciated." And that's when I told 17 18 him about the play -- how -- how good the play is doing. But he -- I can't find it here. He thanked 19 me for reaching out and he said that -- maybe it's here. 20 "I will connect with you to set up a meeting with you." 21 Yeah, he was -- he was going to get a hold of -- of the 22 Detectives and set up a meeting for an investigation and 23

24 call me in.

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And this one here is from the Ontario

Civilian Police Commission that I contacted. And I think 1 Ontario Civilian Police Commission, they -- yeah, they were 2 the ones that told me that it was on a memory stick, and 3 the memory stick was misplaced. But they didn't ask me to 4 send them the -- the complaint again. The complaint was 5 6 about [Detective 1]. And the Ontario Independent Review Board, 7 8 they said that they would not investigate, and they were sending it back to -- and it was about -- the complaint was 9 about [Detective 1] with his badge number. This was March 10 15th, 2010 when I contacted them. 11 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And, sorry, who was 12 that? What agency? 13 MS. AMY MILLER: This is the Ontario 14 15 Independent -- Ontario Independent Police Review Board. And then when I was in respite house -- yeah, orpeds (ph) 16 or whatever they call -- they said that they were going to 17 check into what -- that they would send it back to the 18 Waterloo Regionals to investigate. Ontario Civilian 19 Police, they -- they just said that it was misplaced and 20 they didn't ask for it back. So I had been fighting to get 21 an investigation into her file because she was a wrongful 22 death. I told him in the -- in the letter I -- I sent them 23

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that.

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MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And I see you have a

whole bunch of police cards. Is there any police numbers? 1 Like, file numbers? 2 MS. AMY MILLER: Well, let me see. [Officer 3 2] and [Officer 3]. 4 5 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Is there a police file 6 number? A report number on any of them ---MS. AMY MILLER: Oh. 7 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: --- written on any of 8 the ---9 MS. AMY MILLER: A file number? 10 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I see writing on some of 11 the cards. Is there -- one of them saying a file number? 12 MS. AMY MILLER: "Attention Mr. Sheldon 13 Prior (ph) Case Manager OCPC." This was my complaint that 14 15 went in. The police let all these things happen to Denise and they didn't -- if you want to photocopy that and send 16 17 it in. 18 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Which one? This -- that form there? 19 MS. AMY MILLER: Yeah. 20 MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: I can do that. 21 MS. AMY MILLER: Because this is -- this is 22 the complaint that I sent to them. So there's that page 23 24 and there's that page. "Everyone who knows Denise's last two years of life are shocked, appalled, disillusioned and 25

1	confused that this so-called police force allowed her death
2	to happen. Their minds have also been dramatically changed
3	towards the police force. My daughter was certainly a
4	wrongful death. No-one should be should should be
5	subject to torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading
6	treatment."
7	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: Okay.
8	MS. AMY MILLER: And they don't want to
9	investigate it.
10	MS. DEBBIE BODKIN: And that's okay.
11	I'll take copies of that as well. Okay, Amy
12	Upon adjourning

LEGAL DICTA-TYPIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jackie Chernoff, Court Transcriber, hereby certify that I have transcribed the foregoing and it is a true and accurate transcript of the digital audio provided in this matter.

Jahin Cherry

Jackie Chernoff December 14, 2018