

CASE SUMMARY

Victim-Homicide: Steve L. McNair

Homicide Suspect/Suicide Victim: Sahel Kazemi

Complaint Number: 2009-527875

On July 4, 2009, at 1:35 p.m., a 911 call was placed to the Emergency Communications Center in regard to two apparently deceased persons inside an apartment/condo at 105 Lea Avenue in Nashville/Davidson County. The telephone call was made by Robert Gaddy. The Computer Aided Dispatch System shows that the first officer checked on the scene at 1:39 p.m. As a result of the initial contact with Mr. Gaddy, and a check of the crime scene by those officers who arrived first, it was confirmed that one of the victims who had been fatally shot was former Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair. It was decided that the centralized Homicide/Cold Case Unit would lead the investigation. Detective Charles Robinson was designated as the lead investigator.

As the result of the totality of the evidence and interviews with numerous persons, it was determined that Mr. McNair was murdered by his female friend, Sahel Kazemi, with whom he had a dating relationship. Kazemi then committed suicide. No evidence has been developed to the contrary. However, should new information come to the attention of the police department in the future, the murder/suicide case itself, and this summary, may be amended as appropriate.

The following is a synopsis of crime scene observations and several pertinent interviews which, in combination with the evidence collected and crime laboratory testing, led to the murder-suicide case classification.

Crime Scene Observations

Both bodies were inside the living room. McNair was seated on the sofa and his body was leaning to the left side. Kazemi's body was on the floor near McNair's feet with her body between the sofa and ottoman. Rigor mortis was set on both bodies and lividity was consistent with the positions of each body. McNair had a gunshot wound (contact) to his right temple, and an exit gunshot wound to his right temple. McNair also had a gunshot wound (non-contact) to his left temple and two gunshot wounds to his chest that

both exited through his back. Kazemi had a contact gunshot wound to the right side of her head and an exit wound on the left side of her head. A nine-millimeter handgun (Bryco Arms-Jennings) was located underneath Kazemi's head during the processing of the crime scene. Two bullet holes were observed in the wall above the sofa (one of which was caused by an entry/exit shot to McNair's head, the other was caused by an entry/exit shot to Kazemi's head). One of the bullet holes in the wall had remnants of hair and blood. The two gunshot wounds to McNair's chest exited his back and into the sofa.

An analysis of the crime scene, including the gunshot wounds, bullet holes in the wall, blood, etc., leads to the conclusion that McNair was seated on the sofa and was likely asleep due to the lack of any defensive wounds or defensive posture (McNair's blood alcohol level was 0.15%, nearly double the standard for legal intoxication, a factor that could support drowsiness). The totality of the evidence leads to the conclusion that Kazemi shot McNair in the left side of his head (non-contact), shot him twice in the chest, and then put the gun to the right side of his head and shot him again (contact wound). It is concluded that Kazemi sat on the sofa to McNair's left in such a way that she would fall into McNair's lap upon committing suicide by shooting herself in the head. The blood stains show that Kazemi's upper body was in McNair's lap before she slid down his leg and into the floor. The gun, which was under Kazemi's head, was heavily contaminated by blood. There was an impression outline of the gun in the carpet, created by the pooling of blood, consistent with it falling and indicating that neither the gun nor Kazemi's body had been moved prior to the arrival of authorities.

A black Lincoln Navigator, registered to McNair, and a black Cadillac Escalade, registered to both McNair and Kazemi, were outside the condo.

The TBI crime laboratory concluded that all five recovered bullets came from the nine millimeter semi-automatic pistol recovered at the scene and that all five shell casings recovered from the condo were fired from that same weapon. Gunshot residue testing on Kazemi's hands was inconclusive due to blood contamination according to a verbal report from the TBI on July 8; however, the lab verbally reported on July 8 that trace elements indicative of gunshot residue were found on Kazemi's left hand. This supports a scenario of her firing the gun using both hands. No gunshot residue was found on McNair's hands.

Interview of Carless Wayne Neeley

Mr. Neeley advised that he and McNair had been friends since 1997. He said that approximately 3 to 5 years ago, McNair told him that he was looking for a place to “chill.” Neeley said he rented a condo for McNair located at 105 Lea Avenue, #4, from Charlie Cardwell. Neeley stated no lease agreement was ever presented and signed, but that McNair normally paid the rent each month or would reimburse him if he (Neeley) paid the rent. Neeley advised both he and McNair had keys to the condo. He does not know whether McNair had additional keys made for anyone else.

On July 4, 2009, at approximately 12:40 p.m., Neeley said he drove by the condo and saw McNair’s vehicle parked outside. Neeley said he had been trying to contact McNair about making an appearance at a Little League game. Neeley advised he stopped at the condo, knocked on the door, and got no response. He said he used his key to unlock the storm door and then put the key into the lock on the main door, but does not recall if it was locked. Neeley advised he entered the condo and observed a male subject on the sofa and a female subject on the floor in the living room. Neeley advised he thought they were both asleep and walked past them to the kitchen. Neeley advised he got a beer from the refrigerator and walked back toward the living room. He said he observed blood on the victims and noticed two spent shell casings on the floor. Neeley said he picked up a cartridge casing, then placed it back on the floor, and immediately exited the condo. Neeley said he did not recognize the male victim as Steve McNair. He said he got into his truck and attempted to call McNair’s cell phone (400-5612) but got no answer. Neeley said he left a message on McNair’s cell phone and also sent him text messages, which, records from McNair’s cell phone account reflect, read “call me urgent.” Neeley said he attempted to call McNair’s friend, Raymond, but got no answer and left a message. Neeley said he then called Robert Gaddy, who is a long time friend of McNair from college. Neeley said he told Gaddy that he found two people shot inside the condo. Neeley said Gaddy told him not to go back inside until he arrived.

Neeley said approximately 15 minutes later, Gaddy arrived and they both then entered the condo. Neeley said Gaddy exclaimed, “Oh my God, it’s Steve!” Neeley said they went back outside and that Gaddy called 911. Neeley said he then left the scene and telephoned General Sessions Judge

Casey Moreland. Neeley said Moreland essentially told him to go back to the scene immediately and tell the police everything.

Judge Casey Moreland

General Sessions Judge Casey Moreland stated that has been friends with Wayne Neeley for approximately 15 years. Moreland said Neeley telephoned him at 1:47 p.m. on July 4, sounded shaken, and said that he had just found someone shot in the condo. Neeley told Moreland that he was not sure who had been shot, but that it was a man and a woman. Neeley told Moreland that he had picked up a shell casing and then put it back down. Moreland asked Neeley if he was still on the scene. Neeley replied that he was on his way home. Moreland said he told Neeley to return to the scene, to call police, and to tell the police everything he did and touched. During the conversation, Neeley received a telephone call and told Moreland he would call him back. Neeley did so and told Moreland that the caller was Gaddy and that Gaddy also told him to return to the scene. Moreland said he again told Neeley to return to the scene and to tell the police everything. Moreland showed detectives his cell phone log, which reflected he received the first call from Neeley at 1:47 p.m. The call lasted 3 minutes 35 seconds (3:35). The second call was received at 1:51 p.m. and lasted 1 minute 51 seconds (1:51).

Robert Gaddy

Gaddy advised that he slept in on Saturday, July 4, and was still in bed when he received a telephone call (confirmed from phone records as being placed 12:51 p.m.) from Neeley. Gaddy said Neeley told him that he found someone shot inside the condo, but that he didn't recognize the person. Gaddy stated he drove to the condo and located Neeley, who was sitting inside his pickup truck near the dumpster. Gaddy stated that he and Neeley both entered the condo and he recognized the male as McNair. Gaddy said he then went outside and called 911 (at 1:35 p.m.).

July 2, 2009 DUI Arrest of Kazemi

During the early morning hours of July 2, Kazemi was stopped by Officer Shawn Taylor on Broadway and arrested for DUI. McNair and a friend, Vent Gordon (also known as Casper), were inside the vehicle with Kazemi when she was stopped. McNair and Gordon took a taxicab away from the

location of the traffic stop. McNair and Gordon later took a taxicab to Free at Last Bonding Company and arranged for Kazemi's release from jail.

Fowzi Said Ali

Ali is a driver for Yellow Cab Company. Ali said McNair, and McNair's friend, Doug Crowe, had his cell phone number and would call him whenever they needed a ride. Ali said late on the night of July 3, Crowe called him to come to the Blue Moon Lagoon night club to pick up McNair and him. Ali said that he arrived at Blue Moon Lagoon, 525 Basswood Avenue in West Nashville, and that McNair gave him the keys to his Navigator. Ali said he then drove McNair, Crowe, and Crowe's girlfriend in the Navigator to Loser's night club, 1911 Division Street. Ali said the three passengers got out, and that McNair told him he would be back in a minute. Ali said McNair was gone approximately 15 to 20 minutes before he returned to the vehicle. He asked Ali to drive to the condo on Lea Avenue. Ali said McNair made a telephone call while they were en route. Ali said when they arrived at the condo, he recognized Kazemi's Cadillac Escalade. Ali said he parked the Navigator behind the Escalade. Ali said McNair paid him \$140 and that he (Ali) called a taxi for transportation away from Lea Avenue. Ali said he and McNair arrived at the condo between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m. on July 4.

Keith Norfleet

Keith Norfleet is Kazemi's ex-boyfriend. He said that lately, Kazemi had begun calling him and sending him text messages concerning her relationship with McNair and her financial problems. Norfleet said Kazemi was having financial difficulties as the result of her roommate moving away and leaving her with rent payments (approximately \$1,000) she couldn't afford. Norfleet said another close friend of Kazemi failed to make payments on a Kia she (the friend) agreed to purchase from Kazemi and suddenly returned the vehicle. Norfleet said Kazemi had to make monthly payments of approximately \$800 on the Cadillac (which was financed through Old Hickory Credit Union). Norfleet said Kazemi told him she knew the truth about McNair and said that he (McNair) wasn't a good person and that he had been lying to her the whole time. Norfleet's time sheet from White Castle, 5805 Old Hickory Boulevard in Hermitage, showed that he worked on July 3, 2009, from 6 p.m. until 3:09 a.m. on July 4. His presence at the restaurant until 3:09 a.m. was verified by a co-worker.

After getting off work, Norfleet said he picked up a friend (Matthew Coleman) and the two of them drove to Norfleet's apartment where they watched television. Norfleet said both of them fell asleep in his living room. Norfleet said he later awoke and went upstairs to his bedroom. He said he got up for the day around noon on July 4. Coleman corroborates being picked up by Norfleet, going to Norfleet's apartment, and falling asleep in the living room. Coleman said he contacted another friend and was picked up at Norfleet's apartment around noon on July 4

Emily Andrews

Emily Andrews is Kazemi's former roommate who recently moved back to Pittsburgh, PA. Andrews, who formerly worked at Dave & Busters at Opry Mills with Kazemi, said Kazemi and McNair met in December 2008 at the restaurant. Andrews said McNair and Kazemi had been on trips together and had met each other's family. Andrews said Kazemi and McNair planned to get married once his divorce was final. Andrews said she later found out in June 2009, during a trip to Las Vegas, that Kazemi was having financial difficulties. Andrews said she and another friend paid Kazemi's expenses because Kazemi had only \$32. Andrews said Kazemi told her she was really worried and was receiving telephone calls from numerous bill collectors. Andrews said Kazemi also told her that she suspected McNair was seeing other women. Andrews said Kazemi told her that she (Kazemi) found a tampon in the bathroom wastebasket in the Lea Avenue condo, and on another occasion, saw a female leaving the condo.

Tony Farahani

Tony Farahani is the General Manager of Dave & Busters. He said Kazemi had worked there for approximately one year. Farahani said on the week of her death, Kazemi was not her usual self. Farahani said Kazemi came to him crying and said she was going through some tough times in her personal life and was having financial difficulties. Farahani said on Thursday, July 2, he recalled Kazemi spending an unusual amount of time (approximately one hour) talking to an unknown male black who was not eating or drinking (this individual was not Adrian Gilliam or Steve McNair). Farahani said he told Kazemi to end the conversation and to get back to work. Farahani said when Kazemi took her 30 minute break, she did not return to work for two hours. When she did return, he sent her home for the rest of her shift. A subsequent check of Dave & Busters time accounting showed that the events Farahani

spoke of occurred on Wednesday, July 1. Farahani acknowledged he was mistaken by one day.

Sonya New

Sonya New, Dave & Busters Shift Manager, said she noticed that something seemed to be bothering Kazemi on Friday, July 3. New said Kazemi was not her usual self and seemed down. New said she asked Kazemi if everything was alright, to which Kazemi replied, “My life has just turned to shit!” New said Kazemi told her about the DUI arrest. New said she was aware of Kazemi’s living situation (roommate moving). New said she asked Kazemi about McNair’s divorce and she (Kazemi) just rolled her eyes. New said at the end of their conversation, Kazemi said, “My life is just shit and I should end it!” New said business was slow that night (July 3) and Kazemi asked if she could leave early. Kazemi clocked out at 10:07 p.m. on July 3

Note: Kazemi’s home computer, from her apartment at 3504 Crystal Springs Road (Cherry Creek Apartments) shows it was used to access the Internet from 10:55 p.m. until 10:58 p.m. on July 3.

Vera Buckner (Decatur, AL resident)

Buckner said she, her daughters and her boyfriend came to Nashville on June 24, 2009, and went to Dave & Busters for a meal. Buckner said Kazemi was their waitress. Buckner said her daughters took a photograph with Kazemi. Buckner said while her boyfriend and the kids were away from the table playing games, Kazemi confided in her about problems she was having in her relationship with McNair, including Kazemi’s impression that McNair was not wanting to spend as much time with her.

Chris Wall

Wall provided security for McNair and his family. He said he was aware of the relationship McNair had with Kazemi. Wall said that lately McNair had slowed down seeing Kazemi and was becoming annoyed with their relationship. Wall said McNair told him she (Kazemi) would call when he was with Mechelle and the kids, and that he was getting tired of her doing so.

Adrian Gilliam & Handgun

During the course of the investigation, detectives interviewed several individuals regarding the nine millimeter pistol used in the shooting that was found under Kazemi's head. A firearms trace conducted by ATF in conjunction with the investigation revealed that the firearm was purchased on January 3, 2002, from Household Pawn #4 located at 6118 Charlotte Avenue in Nashville by an individual identified as MP. Detectives located and interviewed MP on July 5, 2009. MP advised detectives that he purchased the nine millimeter pistol and another firearm from the pawnshop in his name. He further advised, however, that a second individual, identified as DP, was with him at the time of the purchase and was the actual purchaser of the nine millimeter pistol.

Detectives subsequently located and interviewed DP on this same date. DP confirmed that he was the purchaser of the nine millimeter pistol from the pawnshop. He further advised detectives that he previously sold the pistol for approximately \$100 to Adrian Gilliam. Following the interview, DP put detectives in contact with Gilliam to arrange an interview.

Shortly thereafter, on the same date, detectives made contact with Gilliam at his residence in Lavergne. Detectives explained to Gilliam the subject matter of the interview, and Gilliam was agreeable to speak with the detectives. Gilliam, in sum and substance, advised detectives that he purchased the nine millimeter pistol from DP for approximately \$100. Gilliam stated that he purchased the firearm for protection after his previous residence was burglarized. A check of Metropolitan Nashville Police Department records revealed that Gilliam filed a burglary report in January 2007. Gilliam further advised detectives that he sold the nine millimeter pistol to a white female a few days prior for approximately \$100. Gilliam stated that the sale took place outside of Dave and Busters at Opry Mills. Gilliam identified a photo of Kazemi as the person to whom he sold the pistol.

In a subsequent telephone interview of Gilliam later that night, Gilliam indicated to detectives that he sold the pistol to the female on July 2, 2009. However, in subsequent statements to detectives and agents, Gilliam has admitted that the sale took place on the evening of July 3, and that he had come to know Kazemi in the weeks immediately prior to the sale. A review of cell phone records and cell site information place Gilliam in the area of

Opry Mills Mall and in contact with Kazemi near the time Gilliam maintains the sale occurred.

*Additional detail regarding Gilliam is not provided in this summary at this time in light of, and to not interfere with, the criminal matter now pending in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, for which sentencing is scheduled for December 2009.

Leah Ignagni

Leah Ignagni was developed as an individual who was possibly also dating McNair. She confirmed the dating relationship and recalled a day, two to three weeks before McNair's murder, when she was leaving McNair's Lea Avenue condo and observed a female inside a black Cadillac Escalade parked outside the building. Ignagni said she noticed the Escalade follow her as she drove to her apartment, which is located in the Gulch area of downtown Nashville. Ignagni said she noticed the same vehicle on several other occasions one to two weeks prior to McNair's murder parked outside her apartment building or circling the block.

Ignagni said McNair came to her apartment at approximately 4 a.m. on July 2 and related to her that a good friend named "Jenni" had been arrested for DUI. Ignagni said late Thursday, July 2, at approximately 10:30 p.m., McNair returned to her apartment and spent the night. Ignagni said when she awoke on the morning of Friday, July 3, McNair had left her apartment. She believes he went to go open his restaurant.

Cell Phone Records

Cell phone records were subpoenaed for persons to include McNair, Kazemi, and Gilliam. Kazemi's cell carrier, T-Mobile, responded that it does not retain text messages sent/received by its subscribers.

McNair's text messaging showed correspondence with multiple females.

Kazemi's text messages to McNair reflected some of the stress she was experiencing over her finances.

Text Message Excerpts Between McNair & Kazemi on July 3 & 4

Note: The below information was sourced from information provided by McNair's cellular carrier, Sprint-Nextel, pursuant to subpoena. The text detail provided by Sprint-Nextel used the Eastern time zone (EDT). The times have been converted to the Central time zone (CDT) in this summary.

July 3, 2:03 a.m.

Kazemi: u love me

July 3, 2:04 a.m.

McNair: I love u baby

July 3, 2:09 a.m.

Kazemi: Im gonna have all of u soon

July 3, 2:24 a.m.

McNair: Yes u will

July 3, 8:14 a.m.

McNair: Hey are u up

9:56 a.m.

Kazemi: hi baby

9:56 a.m.

McNair: Where are you

9:57 a.m.

Kazemi: home

9:58 a.m.

McNair: Why your phone been off

9:59 a.m.

Kazemi: Im at the store tryin to fix it

10 a.m.

McNair: Did u stay at the condo because I came by there this morning

10:02 a.m.

Kazemi: yes but I have people comin to look at the furniture 2day

10:05 a.m.

Kazemi: Baby I might have a break down im so stressed

10:06 a.m.

McNair: Everything gonna be ok

10:12 a.m.

Kazemi: baby I need to pay the cell phone bills n the hospital.can u transfer 2000 to my acc

10:21 a.m.

Kazemi: baby I might need to go to the hospital.baby whats wrong w me i can hardly breath

10:27 a.m.

McNair: Where are u

10:28 a.m.

Kazemi: just got home

10:29 a.m.

McNair: Set down baby and rest for a minute. Drink some water.

10:30 a.m.

Kazemi: im tryin I just want this pain in my chest to go away

10:32 a.m.

McNair: You want me to come see about u

10:34 a.m.

Kazemi: im gonna try to sleep. If it dnt go away im goin to the hospital.

10:35 a.m.

McNair: Ok please let me know. I'm here if u need me

11:54 a.m.

McNair: Are u feeling better baby

3 p.m.

Kazemi: baby I wanna pay some of my bills b4 I go to wrk. All this bills n everythin else is stressin me out

3:53 p.m.

Kazemi: baby what are u doing

4 p.m.

McNair: At the pool with the kids. I got the guy transferring the money

4:01 p.m.

Kazemi: do u have my acc number

4:03 p.m.

McNair: Yes darling

4:04 p.m.

Kazemi: baby I have to be w u 2nite. I dnt care where

4:16 p.m.

Kazemi: tell me u gonna be w me

8:34 p.m.

Kazemi: baby where u gonna be at when i get off

8:50 p.m.

McNair: I'm at home now baby what time u get off

8:51 p.m.

Kazemi: round 11

9:10 p.m.

Kazemi: Where u gonna be at baby

9:15 p.m.

McNair: at home til the kids fall asleep

9:18 p.m.

Kazemi: k ill call u when I get off

10:23 p.m.

Kazemi: do u wanna get out n drink

10:35 p.m.

McNair: Probably not baby having trouble with the kids getting to sleep

10:45 p.m.

Kazemi: k im going to the condo in a min

10:59 p.m.

McNair: ok

11:28 p.m.

Kazemi: they asleep babe

11:34 p.m.

McNair: they are on the way

July 4, 12:38 a.m.

McNair: On my way

12:38 a.m.

Kazemi: k

12:48 a.m.

Kazemi: u want me to open the gate

12:52 a.m.

McNair: No open the front door

12:52 a.m.

(repeat) McNair: No open the front door

1:14 a.m.

Kazemi: its open

July 4, 2:23 a.m.*

Kazemi: im going to the store

*The 2:23 a.m. message, which was received by McNair's phone at that time, appears to be oddly placed and out of sync when considered in totality with the other text messages. While McNair's Blackberry at 2:23 a.m. on July 4 received the last text message originated by Kazemi's cell phone, it is not known specifically when it originated. Inspection of Kazemi's phone (a T-Mobile device) showed the text in question, but there was no reflection of the time of day it was sent. T-Mobile Subpoena Compliance Specialist Melanie Caldwell said neither she nor her associates had any idea why a message that was sent wouldn't indicate a time and date. Ms. Caldwell was asked if there could be a delay of hours before a sent message was received. She said yes, such a delay could be caused by various issues, including server and technical problems. Thus, it is very possible that the message in question was actually sent hours earlier, was delayed due to technical or other issues, and was not received by McNair's phone until 2:23 a.m.

Video footage was collected from various businesses in the area that had exterior surveillance cameras. Most footage was not useful to the investigation, with the exception of video from Blackburn & McCune law firm. That video shows the backside of the Lea Avenue condominium, and did not reflect any suspicious activity or any departure from the area of either McNair's or Kazemi's vehicle during the time period in question.

Fingerprints

All legible fingerprints found in the condo by police department crime scene experts have been identified. The fingerprint work does not alter the murder-suicide classification.