



**City of Philadelphia**  
**Office of the Medical Examiner**

321 University Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Case Number : 11-00420  
Date of Death : 01/26/2011  
Investigator : Stephen Olszewski  
Date Today : 04/15/2011

**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Decedent: **ELLEN R. GREENBERG**

**ORIGIN AND DETAILS**

On 1/26/11 at 1931, Det. Sierra 9103 of Homicide, called to report the death of the above decedent found in her apartment with a knife in her chest.

**AT SCENE**

I arrived to the scene at 2027 and was met by Fifth District Police, Snipes 6358 and Young 6960, holding the log. NWDD Sgt. Ferguson 446, Det Veal 9216 and Det Revell 9020, the assigned. DC 11-05-001577. Homicide Sierra 9103 and Peters 851 arrived a short time later. The decedents fiancé, Samuel Goldberg DOB: [REDACTED], along with his family and some friends are also present

**BACKGROUND**

The decedents Fiancé, Samuel GOLDBERG DOB: [REDACTED] /a reportedly left the decedent at the apartment around 1645 to go to the gym. He returned around 1715-1730 and was unable to get into the apartment. He opened the door with his keys but the door was secure from the inside. He proceeded to try and contact the decedent via text messages, telephone calls and emails for approximately an hour before he forced entry into the apartment. An apartment security man was reportedly present during the entry. He immediately discovered her and called 911, radio time is at 1833. He was briefly instructed to start CPR until he noticed a knife in her chest, then was instructed to stop. PFD Medic-5 responded and pronounced death at 1840.

**BODY AND VICINITY**

The location of death is in the kitchen of the decedents apartment located at the Venice Loft Apartments, 4601 Flat Rock Rd unit 603, Philadelphia, PA 19127. It is a two bedroom apartment on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the building, shared by the decedent with her fiancé, Samuel GOLDBERG. The apartment is well kept, clean. The inside lock to the front door, a common latch/solid bar door guard, is broken with the screws on the door loose, obviously forced in when in a locked position. Throughout the entire apartment, there is no evidence of a struggle. Furniture and items appear in place, nothing is obviously missing or disturbed. There are numerous valuables present, money, keys, 3 laptop computers; one in the kitchen on the island (appears to be GOLDBERG'S), one in the master bedroom suite on the floor (appears to be the decedents, as evidenced by wedding material and one on an additional bedroom desk (appears to be the decedents work computer, as evidenced by numerous teaching materials). The decedent is a teacher. There is no note found or anything indicative of suicide on the computers or in the rest of the apartment. The only way to exit the apartment with the front doorway locked is through a rear slider leading to a patio. The patio is 6 stories high. There is snow present with no tracks or footprints, completely undisturbed. The ambient temperature is inside the apartment reads 69 Deg F on a thermostat. The incident occurred during a winter snowstorm.

Prescription medication are recovered from a bed stand located in the master bedroom, Prescriber, Dr Ellen Berman (██████████) Rx: alprazolam, clonazepam and zolpidem. A paper booklet is in the decedents pocketbook that's on a chair at the living room island, resembles a journal of her medications and her state of mind while taking, last dated 1/16. (see evidence for details). The decedents cell phone is in the master bathroom. Review of her call and message log reveals:

1. last outgoing call was to a number ██████████ on 1/26/11 at 1433 duration 30 seconds
2. last missed call was to a programmed, ██████████. Additional missed calls from a programmed Sam Goldberg on 1/26/11 between 1730-1742 and programmed Venice Lofts ██████████ 1/16/11 between 1807-1810
3. last outgoing text to a programmed ██████████ on 1/16/11 at 1547
4. last incoming texts and an email from a programmed Sam Goldberg on 1/26/11 between 1732-1754
  1. Hello
  2. open the door
  3. what r u doin
  4. im getting pissed
  5. hello
  6. you better have an excuse
  7. what the fuck
  8. ahhh
  9. u have no idea

The decedent is on the hardwood kitchen floor, located just inside the door entrance. The decedent is found supine with her head and some of her upper body/shoulders resting against the lower half of the white kitchen cabinets next to the range. Her body, starting with the head is facing north and the legs west. She is clad in a zipper up dark colored shirt overtop a t-shirt, grey sweatpants, underwear, and light brown UGG boots. A pair of eyeglasses are on the floor to the right of the decedent. A white towel is grasped in her left hand. A hair tie or scrunchie is on her right wrist. There are no personal effects on the body.

Upon further examination of the body, the decedent has a knife embedded in her left chest, through her clothing. There are multiple stab wounds examined at the scene; at the chest where the knife is located, a few superficial grouped nearby, one to the left upper chest near the clavicle, 2 more at the mid chest between and just below the breasts. There are defects to the shirts consistent with the underlying wounds. There are no defense injuries to the hands, wrists or forearms. The right hand is closed in a loose fist. Postmortem findings at arrival at 2027 and 2155 are the same. The body is mostly flaccid. The hands appear to be slightly stiff. The body is cool to the touch at the extremities and warm to the touch at the torso, front and back. Lividity is inconspicuous. Findings are consistent with current position of the body.

Blood is present on the head, in the hair and neck. The right hand has blood on it. On the front side of her shirts, along her pants on the front side and on the top of both of her boots is blood. The right boot has blood on the sole. The blood around her his generally confined to the area of the body, on the floor underneath and on the face of the cabinets behind her. One small blood spatter is on the cabinet to the left of the body. Two separate drops of blood spatter are on the granite counter top above her (see pictures).

Two kitchen knives are in the sink adjacent to the body. They are free of any blood or tissue. The sink underneath is dry and also bears no evidence of blood or tissue. A knife block is on the counter between the sink and range. It is turned over to the side. The three utensils are a spatula, fork and peering knife, all that bears no evidence of blood or tissue. The knife in her body is consistent with the knife set found in the sink and in the block.

## INTERVIEWS

Police at the scene provided the information described in the background section. Uniformed police briefly canvassed the hall. At the time, no neighbors reported any loud noises or arguments.

**Fiancée. Samuel GOLDBERG:** Police initially interviewed him. He provided the information described in the background section. He was taken to NWDD for further interviews.

**Parents: Joshua and Sandra Greenberg.** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Interviewed 1/27/11 at 0741.

The identification was completed via telephone by the decedents parents, Joshua and Sandra GREENBERG. They were notified of the death by the parents of the decedents fiancée.

Mom states she last talked to the decedent the same day at 0700 when they were both on their way to work. They had a pleasant conversation. She gave no indication that something was imminently wrong. The decedent has been battling issues with anxiety since the end of last year. Mom states she was "struggling with something", for which she urged her to seek help. She was seeing a Psychiatrist, Ellen BERMAN, in Merion Station. The decedent as described as anxious, insecure, not sure of herself and not liking how she felt, characteristics that were not the norm her entire life. The decedent expressed to the parents that she was a bit overwhelmed with her classroom work. The decedents occupation is a teacher for the School District of Philadelphia, currently teaching at Juniata Academy Elementary School, employed for 3 years. She is described as a bright woman, who was very successful and recently received her master's degree in Education and certified in Reading specialty. The day the incident occurred is the same day that school grades were to be handed in.

The decedent was in a committed relationship with Sam GOLDBERG. They have been together for 3 years, recently engaged over the summer. The parents have no reservations about their relationship. They described the fiancé Sam as a "fine young man." They were happy to have him as an in-law. They have no knowledge of any verbal or physical abuse.

The parents deny any previous suicide attempts or ideations. The incident is a surprise to them despite her issues with anxiety.

**Psychiatrist: Ellen Berman.** [REDACTED] Interviewed via phone 1/27/11 at 1130.

When notified of the death, BERMAN was upset. She states that the decedent was a new patient of hers, only seeing her 3 times 1/12/11, 1/17/11 and 1/19/11. She was scheduled for an appointment 1/27/11. The decedent presented initially as severe anxiety for 2 months. During her brief sessions it was believed that she was having difficulty with work, overwhelmed and felt pressure. She did mention that she was doing well but the school district changed some regulations. She also had issues with difficult students. She didn't know whether to quit or work through it.

BERMAN was in the process of developing a treatment plan and was in contact with the decedents mother who called expressing concerns for her daughter. There was never any feeling of suicidal thoughts. When asked about her fiancée, the decedent had nothing but good things to say about him, mentioned they were getting married, and he was wonderful. BERMAN even noted a smile when she spoke of him. BERMAN recalls asking about abuse, the decedent denied any verbal or physical confrontations.

The decedent was initially prescribed medication, although she expressed the uneasiness of taking medication. She tried Zoloft first, and then switched to a low dose of xanax. After no success, BERMAN prescribed her ambient and clonopin to help her get sleep. There was never any indication of abusive behavior.

#### ACTION

The scene and body were examined, interviews were conducted, and photographs were taken. The Knife was kept in place during transport. The Rx meds and small booklet was taken as evidence. The body was ordered for transportation to the MEO via Police Wagon for further postmortem examination.

#### COMMENTS

The knife recovered from autopsy is a single edged serrated blade approximately 12.5 cm in length and 1.5 cm wide. The handle is also approximately 12.5 cm in length. It is a CUTCO brand steak knife.

Video is available. For further information on surveillance, contact [REDACTED]

*\*Refer to the scene photographs and case file for further reference.*



Stephen Olszewski, INVESTIGATOR