

Mark and Marsha,

Attached is Nick's statement. I've also given you a few of my top line points in an effort to dissuade you from doing the piece at all. I still think it's a red herring designed to throw fraudulent mud at Nick during the Mayoral race.

First of all, these deaths happened years ago. To think that anyone would recall details from an event so long ago, especially when in shock, is a big reach. Nick, the kids, and other family members were in a state of shock and would probably be unable to recall details of the day because the deaths were so sudden, shocking, and jarring. It's just common sense to understand that I think.

Secondly, Lorraine's use of drugs was raised. You folks say that the children didn't know their mother used drugs. Nick strongly disagrees with this. They may be in denial or simply bestowing sainthood to their mother in death, as most of us do to loved ones, but they absolutely knew she had a drug problem. Nick loves the kids and does not want to call them out, but he is puzzled, mystified, and hurt by their selective memory.

Nick faltered when you asked him about this because he was still reeling over the kids' denial of Lorraine's addiction. He just couldn't believe that. Indeed, many people were well aware that Lorraine was abusing drugs. This is reflected in the statements that the children drafted for the intervention. They couldn't make up that kind of stuff, nor would they. And they surely would not be naïve enough to do whatever Nick told them to do, as you told me, all because of his "father figure" status. No. They knew their Mother abused drugs. No doubt about that.

Lorraine's drug use was the reason for the instability in the family for many years. Her mood swings, constant sleeping, slurred speech, incoherence—all signs of substance abuse. All behaviors Nick has recounted to me time and again. It is possible that the children didn't see their mother actually consume any drugs; however, that doesn't mean that they were unaware of her drug use. As you know, addictions flourish even while shrouded in secrecy. What Nick didn't say last week was that he knew, as did the children, that Lorraine was abusing prescription drugs and had an addiction. The NA/CA literature she left around the house made Nick believe she had a cocaine addiction, too. I truly hope you can find the counselor they used. I think she would shed light on this. Then again, she may have scant recollection, too.

As to Mary: Nick contacted Mary's brother soon after learning that Mary had taken her life. It is likely that Mary's brother asked Nick, "What happened?" and Nick responded that she hung herself. Mary's brother could then have asked, "How?" and Nick could have speculated in shock, as he chose not to view the scene. In any case, it is all hearsay. He never looked in the garage because he didn't want to, and he had no idea how she committed suicide. His repeated comments to me were that he can hardly remember anything from that day. He certainly remembers nothing about a ladder.

Finally, on this "bachelorette" business: I reiterate, he flat out denies saying that. It was likely a mistake by the reporting officer. And he rightly says, "Why would I ever say that when I knew her son was right there with me, and would say we were all at a birthday party days before? I

knew he was with her the night before." No, as I told you, my guess is that the reporting officer misstated "bachelorette" for "birthday" because there had been talk of people going to a bachelorette party for an upcoming wedding during the mayhem that transpired immediately after she was found. That is quite likely how it happened. Plain and simple. If there were nefarious intentions, why would Nick use something the son could easily disprove later?

All of which points to my belief that these police reports are often fraught with inaccuracies. Policemen are fallible workers like all of us and when writing these reports, I think they frequently make mistakes. Furthermore, they never include all of the information they gather. They don't have time to write such lengthy reports, I suspect. Lorraine's son most certainly spoke with the police, and the police in turn spoke to his commanding officer. Those comments just weren't included in the report.

Bottom line is this: I really hope WGN doesn't declare Nick guilty of something or even "suggest or hint" he might be guilty without real evidence. And the simple truth is there is zero evidence here. Only hearsay and stirring the pot of suspicion by one questionable character. Thank you.