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Letter from Erin BREEN to John GALWAY.

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**SIMMONDS+PARTNERSDEFENCE**

Robert E. Simmonds, QC + Rosellen Sullivan + Erin K. Breen + Michael N.R. King + Jeremy D. de Jong

April 8, 2015

Constable John Galway  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Holyrood Detachment  
Via e-mail: [john.galway](mailto:john.galway) [REDACTED]

Dear Cst. Galway:

I write to you on behalf of my client, Ms. Meghan Dunphy, whom, as you are aware, is the daughter of Mr. Donald Dunphy killed in a shooting at his home in Mount Carmel on Sunday afternoon. I understand from Ms. Dunphy that you are the officer who has been assigned to communicate with her on behalf of the RCMP and as such I write to you to share her concerns to date and to make certain requests.

Ms. Dunphy is Mr. Dunphy's only child. She is 27 years old. She has no siblings. Her mother died when she was 2 years old. Her father raised her as a single parent. Ms. Dunphy and her father were extremely close. She had just had Easter brunch with him at the Woodstock Restaurant in the hours before his death.

Ms. Dunphy is still in a state of shock over the shooting and tragic loss of her Dad. She is extremely distraught, confused, and is searching for answers. She is highly frustrated with the information being provided to her by the RCMP.

Ms. Dunphy is aware that you are likely not the officer who is making the decisions as to what information may be shared with her or with the public. She is aware that you are carrying out your duties as per instruction. She was most dismayed yesterday evening when she went to the funeral home and was told for the first time by the funeral director that she should not view her father's body. She had been asking police since she arrived at the scene on Sunday whether she could see her father. She was repeatedly told that she could see him later. Yesterday evening, the director of Dunphy's Funeral Home told Ms. Dunphy that her father had been shot twice in the forehead and that he was concerned about her viewing of him as his head was covered in a bag. Instead Ms. Dunphy entered the room and simply held her father's hand. She did not see her father before he was cremated as she had hoped. To say that her heart is broken and her mind tormented over this new information is an understatement.

Ms. Dunphy does not understand how she was not given this information by the police. While she appreciates the concern for the integrity of the investigation, she is confused by the RCMP

releasing other details to the media that also go to the heart of the investigation - i.e. that her father purportedly pointed a loaded firearm at the officer and that he had a change in demeanor 15 minutes into a conversation. I am at a loss to explain to her how certain details are being released to the public while other information - crucial information - was not even given to her as Mr. Dunphy's daughter. She feels at this time that the police are selecting information for public release that puts her father in a negative light.

Ms. Dunphy was interviewed by Corporal Monty Henstridge at her home on Sunday evening. She has explained to me that she felt that the interview was somewhat hostile for a victim's family member and that in her opinion the questioning was clearly focused on getting her to confirm that her father was mentally unstable or out of control. I understand that the statement was recorded and obviously I am not privy to the statement.

I met with Ms. Dunphy yesterday evening at length at which time she shared with me other information that was not provided to Corp. Henstridge on Sunday evening but which I feel is crucial to the investigation. I am asking that she be re-interviewed today (Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015) if possible as her father's wake and funeral take place tomorrow and Friday. I also request to be present with her for the interview. I am available this evening for this purpose if it can be arranged.

Ms. Dunphy also told me that she has been followed by members of the media in her community. She is very fearful of the intrusion of the media at her father's wake and funeral. Is there any assistance that the RCMP can offer to her for these two days to put her mind at ease?

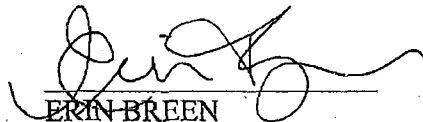
Finally, I am wondering whether Ms. Dunphy could possibly be referred to victim services at this early stage in order to avail of any trauma/grief counselling? I am aware that this is not normal process however this is certainly not a normal case. Ms. Dunphy is, in my mind, deeply in need of same and is unable to obtain on her own. Is there any assistance the RCMP can offer?

Ms. Dunphy is well aware of the traditional media/social media frenzy that continues in the wake of her father's death. She is not interested in joining or feeding that frenzy. She simply wishes to have access to information that she is seeking and obtain the assistance she requires. She is anxiously awaiting the results of the investigation.

If you could please provide a response to me today it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

  
ERIN BREEN  
PARTNER