

**Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**

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**REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION****DECEDENT****Document Identifier** B201003098**Autopsy Type** ME Autopsy**Name** Antonio Dewayne Pettigrew**Age** 42 yrs**Race** Black**Sex** M**AUTHORIZATION****Authorized By** Deborah L. Radisch MD MPH **Received From** Chatham**ENVIRONMENT****Date of Exam** 08/10/2010 **Time of Exam** 13:30**Autopsy Facility** Office of the Chief Medical Examiner **Persons Present** Ms. Molly Hupp, Mr. Bill Holloman**CERTIFICATION****Cause of Death**

Diphenhydramine toxicity

**The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.****Digitally signed by**

Deborah L. Radisch MD MPH 11 October 2010 16:01

**DIAGNOSES**

Pulmonary congestion and edema, severe

Multiple simple cysts, bilateral kidneys

Intramyocardial coronary artery

**IDENTIFICATION****Body Identified By**

Papers/ID Tag

**EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION****Length** 74 inches**Weight** 165 pounds**Body Condition** Intact**Rigor** 4+**Livor** Faint purple - right posterior**Hair** Black - short; beard and mustache present**Eyes** Brown, right congested**Teeth** Natural in good repair

The body is that of a well developed, well nourished lean black man clothed in a pair of white athletic shoes, a pair of white socks, a dark orange striped polo shirt, a pair of khaki shorts with fastened brown belt, and a pair of gray jockey shorts. Valuables consist of a yellow metal band on the 4th finger of the left hand. There is a short linear well healed scar inferior to the right lower lip, and there is a possible short curved scar lateral to the right knee. Abundant pink foam is present in the nostrils and in the mouth.

**INJURIES**

None.

## DISPOSITION OF CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

### The following items are released with the body

Clothing and valuables.

### The following items are preserved as evidence

None.

## INTERNAL EXAMINATION

### Body Cavities

There are no adhesions or unusual fluid accumulations in the pleural, pericardial, or peritoneal cavities.

### Cardiovascular System

**Heart Weight** 330 grams

The epicardial aspect is unremarkable. The valves are normally formed with delicate leaflets. The chambers are not dilated and the walls are not hypertrophied. There are no myocardial scars or other focal lesions. There is a right dominant coronary artery system with no atherosclerosis of the main coronary arteries. A short segment of the mid left anterior descending coronary artery is intramyocardial. The aorta and its major branches are intact and unremarkable.

### Respiratory System

**Right Lung Weight** 670 grams

**Left Lung Weight** 650 grams

The hyoid bone is intact. There are no obstructing materials or lesions in the larynx. The pleural surfaces of both lungs are smooth and glistening. The parenchyma of both lungs shows diffuse moderate to severe congestion and edema. The tracheobronchial tree is filled with pink froth and shows a slightly hyperemic mucosa.

### Gastrointestinal System

The appendix is present. The esophagus is unremarkable and the stomach contains a small amount of thick brown liquid coating the mucosa. The small intestine is unremarkable and the colon contains a moderate amount of brown-green stool.

### Liver

**Liver Weight** 1220 grams

The capsule is intact and the parenchyma is unremarkable. The gallbladder contains a large amount of orange-green bile and the extrahepatic biliary tree is patent.

### Spleen

**Spleen Weight** 80 grams

The capsule is intact and the parenchyma is unremarkable.

### Pancreas

Normal anatomic location and configuration.

### Urinary

**Right Kidney Weight** 150 grams

**Left Kidney Weight** 130 grams

Both kidneys are similar. The cortical surfaces are interrupted by one moderate to large sized simple cyst and multiple small simple cysts, and the capsules strip with ease. The renal architecture shows multiple other small to moderate sized cysts and multiple small cysts. The ureters are patent and not dilated. The renal arteries and veins are unremarkable. The bladder contains a large amount of clear yellow urine. The wall and mucosa are grossly unremarkable.

### Reproductive

Normal adult male with slightly enlarged median bar of the prostate gland and scattered small well circumscribed parenchymal nodules.

### Endocrine

**Thyroid Weight** 35 grams

The thyroid gland is bilobed and non-nodular.

Both adrenal glands are grossly unremarkable.

**Neurologic****Brain Weight** 1380 grams

The meninges are intact and there is no blood in any meningeal compartment. The cerebral gyral pattern is fully developed. There is no evidence of edema or herniation. The vessels at the base of the brain are thin and delicate. Multiple coronal sections reveal no gross abnormalities.

**Skin**

No scalp lacerations or contusions are present.

**Immunologic System**

The lymph nodes are grossly unremarkable.

**Musculoskeletal System**

There are no skull, rib, or long bone fractures.

**MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION****Cardiovascular**

Two sections of myocardium show scattered myocytes with enlarged nuclei. There is no fibrosis or inflammation.

**Respiratory**

Sections from both lungs show moderate to severe congestion and moderate intra-alveolar hemorrhage of the upper lobe of the right lung. A central section of lung shows moderate congestion. There is no acute inflammation.

**Liver**

There is slight fatty change of the hepatocytes, and the portal tracts are unremarkable.

**Genitourinary**

A section of kidney shows scattered small simple cysts throughout the cortex and medulla. There is no acute or chronic inflammation associated with the cysts.

**Endocrine**

A section of the enlarged thyroid gland shows normal colloid-filled follicles with no inflammation, fibrosis, or malignancy.

**Neurologic**

A section of hippocampus is unremarkable.

**SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION**

The decedent was a 42-year-old black man who was found in his locked vehicle along the side of a road.

Autopsy examination showed no external or internal trauma. Internal examination was remarkable for severe pulmonary congestion and edema with froth throughout the tracheobronchial tree. Incidental findings included a short segment of intramyocardial left anterior descending coronary artery, multiple simple cysts in both kidneys, a slightly enlarged thyroid gland, and slight enlargement of the prostate gland. An ethanol (alcohol) concentration of blood obtained at the time of autopsy was negative. A lethal concentration of diphenhydramine was detected in central and peripheral blood specimens, 4.0 mg/L and 5.4 mg/L, respectively, and in the liver in a concentration of 59 mg/kg. No benzodiazepines, cocaine, fentanyl, opiates, oxymorphone, or other organic bases were detected. In my opinion, the cause of death in this case was due to diphenhydramine toxicity.

**DIAGRAMS**

1. Adult (front/back)

State of North Carolina

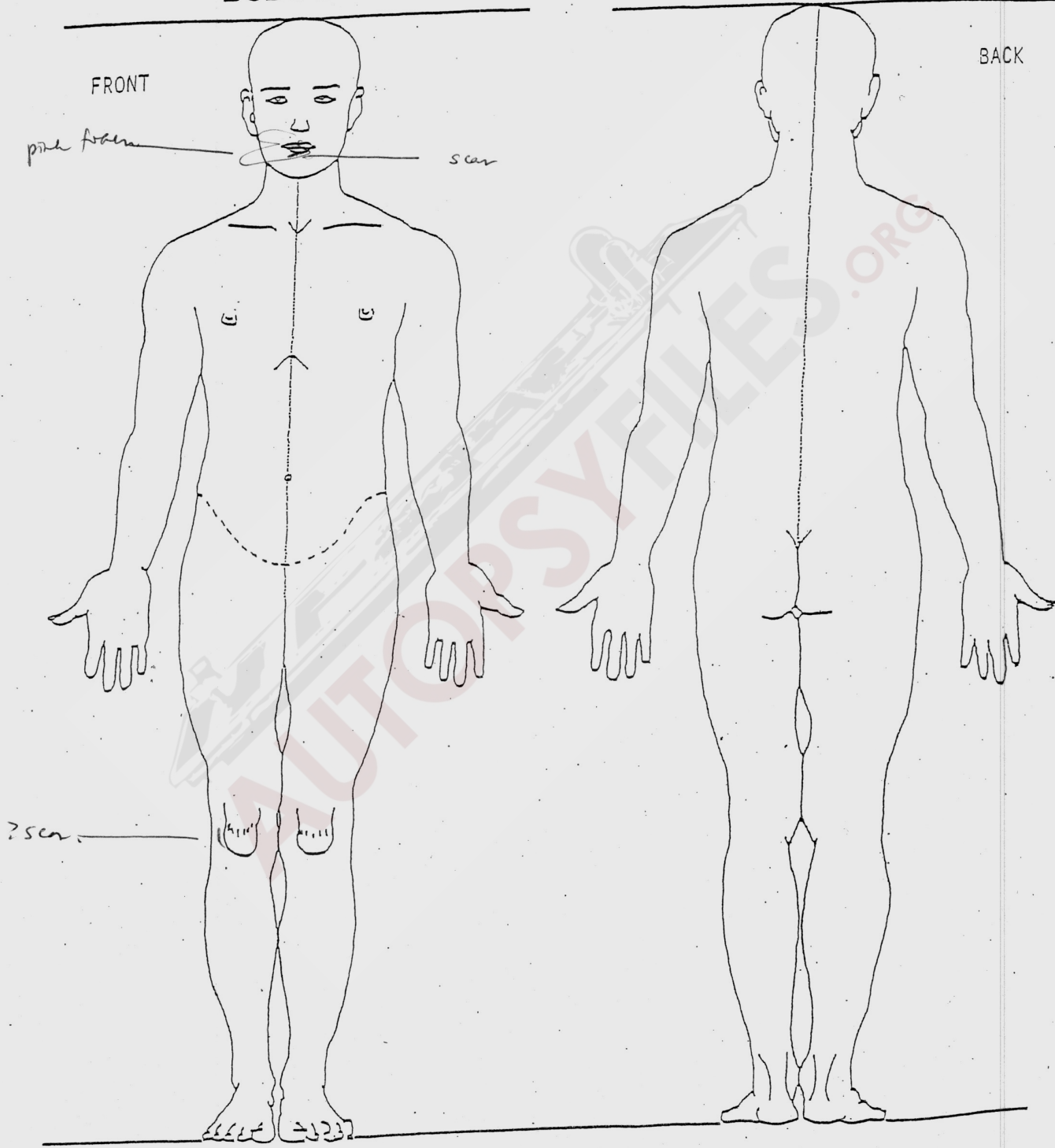
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Autopsy # B10-3098

Examined By: d Date: 8/10/10

**BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)**



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Medical Examiner

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