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December 4, 2016

Mr. Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.  
District Attorney  
New York County District Attorney's Office  
One Hogan Place  
New York, NY 10013

RE: Media Icon Dorothy Kilgallen Murdered: Investigation Warranted—Suspect Still at Large

Dear Mr. Vance,

As an attorney licensed in California and thus an officer of the court, I have a duty to report what I believe to be a crime, especially if a main suspect exists who is still at large today. This duty, I contend, extends to a crime committed whether it was five days ago, five years ago, or 50+ years ago, as is the situation here since there is no statute of limitations regarding murder.

During the course of my three-year biographical research regarding Pulitzer-Prize nominated journalist, investigative reporter, television celebrity, and New York City resident Dorothy Kilgallen, I have discovered compelling evidence warranting the view that her death in 1965 was not accidental but a case of homicide. Weighed and evaluated in the same manner I employed as a criminal defense lawyer and as the *USA Today*, *CNN*, and *ESPN* legal analyst for the Mike Tyson, O. J. Simpson and Kobe Bryant cases, this new evidence also points to her murder as having been effectively covered up, twice in fact, by those involved, which includes strong indication, at the time of her death, of corruption in the New York City Medical Examiner's Office.

With this new evidence in mind, investigating Kilgallen's death is judicially responsible. Even though the events surrounding her death are now five decades old, I do not believe your office's re-opening the investigation will result in futile posturing. There are strong leads based on credible witnesses and a primary suspect is indeed still alive.

While Kilgallen is best known as the star of *What's My Line?* (*WML?*)—the *CBS* game show of the 1950s and '60s watched by 25 million people every Sunday night—most people are not fully aware of her multiple careers. Called “The most powerful female voice in America” by the *New York Post* and “the greatest female writer in the world” by Ernest Hemingway, Kilgallen served as a columnist for *New York Journal-American* syndicated across the country to 200 newspapers, hosted a radio show listened to by millions of New Yorkers, and, most importantly, covered many of the high profile trials of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the Lindbergh baby kidnapping case, the Dr. Sam Sheppard case (which became the film *The Fugitive*), the Lenny Bruce free speech trial, and the Jack Ruby trial in Dallas.

Kilgallen was found dead at age 52 on November 8, 1965 in her Manhattan townhouse with the NYC Medical Examiner's Office concluding she died as a result of “Acute Ethanol and Barbiturate Intoxication: Circumstances Undetermined.” The case ended with this dubious decision despite apparent evidence to the contrary, including a

staged death scene and witnesses whose testimony was relevant to an alternative conclusion and who should have been interviewed at the time.

Fifty-one years later, fresh evidence buried for five decades will surface in my 25<sup>th</sup> book, *The Reporter Who Knew Too Much*, released Dec. 6 by Post Hill Press/Simon&Schuster. This evidence, which proves Kilgallen was denied justice at the time due to the lack of any real investigation of her death, derives from “primary sources” indicating the revered journalist was murdered in the line of duty as she researched a “tell-all” book about the JFK assassination for Random House.

This credible evidence includes the following:

- Proof that Kilgallen was conducting an 18-month investigation into the JFK and Oswald assassinations with the intention of completing a “tell-all” book for Random House.
- Proof that Kilgallen’s NYJA articles and columns criticizing FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover’s “Oswald Alone” theory, including one entitled “The Oswald File Must Not Close” where she wrote, “Justice is a big rug; when you pull it out from under one man, a lot of others fall too,” caused Hoover to become Kilgallen’s enemy and have motive to silence her.
- Proof Kilgallen was the only reporter at Jack Ruby’s trial to interview Oswald’s killer and that she exposed his testimony before the Warren Commission before its release date further infuriating government officials.
- Proof Kilgallen was planning a second trip to New Orleans to investigate Mafia Don Carlos Marcello, whom Kilgallen suspected of masterminding JFK’s assassination causing her to answer make-up man Carmen Gebbia’s question, “Is it [the] Kennedy [assassination]?” by answering, “Yes, and it’s very cloak and daggerish. I’m gonna meet a source whom I do not know but will recognize who is going to give me information about the case” while telling her lawyer Mort Farber, “I’m going to break the real story and have the biggest scoop of the century.” (Note: Kilgallen died within days of the intended trip to New Orleans.)
- FBI memorandums prove Kilgallen was under surveillance at the time of her death—due to her *New York Journal-American* (NYJA) columns dealing with Fidel Castro and JFK’s death—including placing a government informant into her inner circle.
- More than 40 recently discovered videotaped interviews with those who knew Kilgallen best, including her two closest friends, hairdressers Marc Sinclair and Charles Simpson, Katherine Stone (one of the last people to see Kilgallen alive), and Joe Tonahill (Jack Ruby’s co-counsel) prove the mysterious circumstances surrounding Kilgallen’s deserve further investigation:
  - Stone states that she saw Kilgallen with a “mystery man” at the Regency Hotel in NYC hours before her death talking “serious business” (she was never interviewed by the authorities).
  - Sinclair says Kilgallen was “scared for her life and her family” and that she had bought a gun and changed her will shortly before she died.
  - Simpson swears Kilgallen told him, “If the wrong people knew what I know [about the JFK assassination], it would cost me my life” while stating, “And she was dead shortly thereafter.”

- Sinclair says that he found Kilgallen’s body in a bedroom she never slept in with her eyelashes, make-up and hairpiece in place wearing bedclothes she never wore to bed.
- Tonahill swears that shortly before Kilgallen died, “She didn’t show any indication of being an alcoholic to me. Or any drug use. She had a good mind and her mind was working. Very realistically and very effectively.”
- Never before released forensic tests prove the New York Medical Examiner’s official report to the public and the media that Kilgallen accidentally died of the barbiturate and alcohol combination deliberately concealed the presence of not one, but two additional barbiturates in Kilgallen’s system.
- Primary source statements prove that the New York Medical Examiner’s Brooklyn Branch, which inexplicably responded instead of the Manhattan Branch to Kilgallen’s townhouse when she died, was controlled by the Mafia and provided faulty ME Reports on occasion.
- Never-before-reported evidence from primary sources proves that two toxicologists in the ME Brooklyn Branch deliberately withheld evidence that would have launched a new investigation of Kilgallen’s death three years after she died.
- Further evidence proves that Kilgallen’s death scene had been staged and, despite numerous witnesses existing who did not believe Kilgallen died accidentally, no immediate investigation of any kind was launched to determine the true cause of death and how or why she died.
- Further evidence proves the inconclusive Medical Examiner’s report—including the mysterious words, “Circumstances Undetermined” added a few days following Kilgallen’s death and suggesting confusion about how she may have died—led to no investigation then or any time in the future.
- Further evidence about the Medical Examiner proves there was no investigation of Kilgallen’s death despite his telling the media he “would not speculate about the form in which Miss Kilgallen had taken the barbiturates” telling reporters, “We’d rather leave that up in the air. We don’t want to give that out—well, just because . . . ”
- Plausible evidence proves that the “mystery man” Kilgallen met with as a Midwestern newspaper columnist (named in the book) is still alive and living in Ohio who, while denying any complicity in her death, had the motive, means, and opportunity to be involved in her death while certainly benefiting from the crime since Kilgallen was threatening to expose his being the person leaking her JFK assassination evidence.
- Audiotape interviews with the Midwest columnist by this author and other primary sources indicate conflicting statements about the “mystery man’s” relationship with Kilgallen, his knowledge of her affairs and, most incriminating, two poems he wrote appear to directly connect him to Kilgallen’s death, especially regarding her being “silenced” and the possibility she was poisoned with a barbiturate combination.

A copy of the book and copies of Kilgallen’s articles, columns, photos, and several of the videotaped interviews I have included with this letter bolster this fresh evidence with all of the videos now available at [thedorothykilgallenstory.org](http://thedorothykilgallenstory.org) with more information at [thereporterwhoknewtoomuch.com](http://thereporterwhoknewtoomuch.com). I have also included a copy of the autopsy report for review.

District Attorney Vance, I realize your Cold Case division may have cases with more priority due to the time factor in Kilgallen's case, but murder is murder and murder is the most severe form of censorship. As a man with a true passion for justice, I hope that you and your team of assistant D. A.'s and investigators will read the book, examine Kilgallen's articles and columns, and consider carefully the videotape and audiotape interviews as well as several suspects who had reason to silence Kilgallen. If you do, I believe you will understand why I am fighting for this brave woman with a determination to see that she gets her "day in court," so to speak, and that she receives the justice she deserves.

I'm certain you will have questions but please keep in mind that the evidence strongly suggesting Kilgallen was the victim of foul play is based on primary sources and that with witnesses still alive, the opportunity exists to right a wrong committed so long ago. I appreciate the consideration and look forward to hearing that a full-scale investigation of Kilgallen's death will be conducted sooner than later.

Best wishes,

Mark Shaw

*Enclosures:*

1. Kilgallen *Journal-American* articles and columns
2. Kilgallen photos
3. Kilgallen autopsy report
4. CD #1 – Partial interviews with Ron Pataky, Marc Sinclair and Katherine Stone, copy of program, Person to Person with Edward R. Murrow re Kilgallen career
5. CD #2 – Videotape interviews with Sinclair, Simpson, Stone, and Joe Tonahill, Jack Ruby's co-counsel describing her interviewing Ruby
6. CD #3 – Ron Pataky audiotape interviews
7. CD #4 – Videotape interview with Stephen Goldner, Brooklyn ME office re corruption in that department