



CHIEF OF POLICE
THOMAS FIGLIA

CITY OF BEACON POLICE DEPARTMENT

1 MUNICIPAL PLAZA, SUITE 3
BEACON, NY 12508
(845)831-4111
FAX: (845)838-5092



NEW YORK STATE
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To the City of Beacon Community:

This is not a press release, but rather a message from me as Chief of Police. I have received numerous emails and calls requesting updates regarding the January 14th case from Tioronda Ave. I have been trying to respond to them individually because I prefer to answer the thoughtful questions I've received directly and personally. In light of the volume of requests I'm receiving, however, I thought it would be a help to offer this update to the community. I hope that it covers most of the questions that, at this point, I cannot respond to individually. To be clear, I don't see these requests as unreasonable in any way, I just have to be honest about my capacity to respond to each one while we are also working on this investigation.

Since January 14th, your police department has been working non-stop to investigate and solve this case. We have spent untold hours poring over evidence because the absolute best thing we can do for this community is to solve it. Members of the department are going to bed thinking about the case and waking up doing the same. I'm not telling you that for any other reason but to say that this is currently the absolute top priority of this police department.

Fictional media often depicts complicated police investigations as taking mere days to complete. I wish that it were true. Unfortunately, the reality is that often times it takes weeks, months, or even sometimes years to go through mountains of potential evidence or to get forensic testing back. For example, just last year we made several arrests in a murder that occurred in Forrestal Heights in 2022. There was no lack of diligent or timely work on that case, but producing excellent investigations often takes an extraordinary amount of time. This painstaking work was proven successful when the first defendant to go to trial was found guilty after just about thirty minutes of jury deliberations. Please understand though, that I'm not so foolish as to think that this is anything more than cold comfort right now.

As a lifelong Beacon resident and parent of a young woman myself, I understand how upsetting this incident has been to everyone in our community. While I wish that I could share more, I always have to be *extremely* careful not contaminate investigations or release information that could be harmful to victims. Unfortunately, at this point, the most I can do is refer back to the information that we have released so far and to once again emphasize that we are devoting all available resources and investigative techniques, including assistance from other agencies, to this case. When we can responsibly share more information, I assure you that we will, but until then we do ask for your patience as we work through this complex investigation.

Many people have also asked what is being done by the City, and what they can do, to increase their safety. In addition to the investigative work that is in progress, our department has continued increased patrols focused in response to this incident. For individuals, the police cannot reasonably provide specific advice on when or where you are safe or not, as has been requested. The sad fact about crime is that, while it is comparatively quite low in Beacon, we do know that it can happen anywhere and at any time.

That being said, while these items are not specific to this case, it is important to practice as much vigilance as reasonably possible while going about our daily lives. Displaying awareness of your situation and surroundings, and making it clear that you are aware is always good advice. It is usually best, when out in public, to reduce personal distractions and limitations to peripheral vision as much as possible. At home, we always encourage you to double check that every one of your doors and windows are locked if you want them locked. We find this to be a very common oversight. Trust your instincts. If something or someplace does not feel right or safe it is okay to believe yourself. As always, report any activity or individuals which you may see as suspicious or dangerous. Self-defense classes and other personal safety decisions of that nature have to be made by each individual based on what they are comfortable with, within the law.

I know that this is upsetting and frustrating and that neither the community, nor the members of this department, will be satisfied until the case is closed. I hope that it is as helpful as it can be and look forward to a time when there is more to report. Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have reached out with information and cooperated and assisted with our investigative efforts thus far.



Thomas Figlia
Chief of Police