

**From:** Peter Lance <[pl@peterlance.com](mailto:pl@peterlance.com)>

**Subject:** Your latest statement today

**Date:** November 24, 2021 at 10:22:47 AM PST

**To:** Tom Shevlin <[TShevlin@cityofnewport.com](mailto:TShevlin@cityofnewport.com)>, Angela McCalla <[amccalla2019@gmail.com](mailto:amccalla2019@gmail.com)>, "Charles Holder Jr." <[CMHolder@ymail.com](mailto:CMHolder@ymail.com)>, Jeanne-Marie Napolitano <[Jeannenapolitano45@gmail.com](mailto:Jeannenapolitano45@gmail.com)>, Lynn Underwood Ceglie <[ceglie@gmail.com](mailto:ceglie@gmail.com)>, Jamie Bova <[jamie.bova@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.bova@gmail.com)>, Elizabeth Fuerte <[elizabethfuerte4@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethfuerte4@gmail.com)>, Kathryn Leonard <[kateleonar@aol.com](mailto:kateleonar@aol.com)>, "Joseph Nicholson Jr." <[jnicholson@cityofnewport.com](mailto:jnicholson@cityofnewport.com)>

Tom,

I assume you saw today's attached story in [The Associated Press](#). I've copied it below. I just spoke to RJ Heim of WJAR who is preparing a piece for tonight. He told me that you had sent him **yet another statement** on the summary closure of the case.

First there was [this statement on 11.18.21](#), then [this statement yesterday on 11.23](#) and now there's this third one in which you are now taking the position, that despite the massive evidence [I sent to Det. Wuest](#) proving that Doris Duke killed Eduardo Tirella with intent the City of Newport is holding fast to Chief Joseph Radice's corrupt "accident" conclusion because "you do not believe there is any way to determine what was going on" in Doris Duke's mind at the moment she crushed Eduardo to death?

**"In no way does Ms. Duke – or her estate - hold any sway over the City, it's Police Department, or the civil servants who carried out the review. The City has nothing to gain and nothing to hide. We simply do not believe there is any way to determine what was going on in the mind of a woman during an incident that took place more than a half a century ago. We approach all of our police matters with extreme care and respectfully stand by the review of our investigative professionals.**

That was never the standard of proof that caused Det. Wuest to reopen the case in the first place. People who never take the stand at trial are convicted of intent-to-kill murder every day and, absent their testimony, evidence of their inner thoughts is never the determination of guilt. Doris Duke's actions are provable by objective evidence and now, once again, The City of Newport is twisting itself into pretzel-like contortions in order to protect her.

The nature of a "cover-up" vs. transparency is that the evidence suppressed always leads to more speculation. While, this latest statement denies that "Ms. Duke – or her estate" holds "any sway over the City, its Police Departments, or the civil servants who carried out the review," your actions at denying any evidence speak otherwise.

As a Newporter I have to ask – and I invite the members of The City Council copied on this to ask – how do you think all of this makes Newport, RI look in the eyes of the world?

When I began this investigation I had no pre-conceived notion about Doris Duke's guilt or innocence. I conducted it, as I have for [all of my HarperCollins books](#), objectively and without fear or favor. The facts that I uncovered in [HOMICIDE AT ROUGH POINT](#), documented in [60 pages of annotations](#), were provable and undeniable. They speak for themselves.

We don't have to get into Doris Duke's mind to know that Chief Joseph Radice lied [when he told the press in 1966](#) that "the car leaped forward and she crushed Tirella against the gates." That's the conclusion the City is embracing today, 55 years later.

I never met Bob Walker before he introduced himself to me the day after he'd been interviewed by Det. Wuest who found him "credible" and reopened the case. As it turned out, his memory of the events synched precisely with the findings of Sgt. Fred Newton as told to me by former patrolman Edward Angel, the first officer on the scene. Bob's story, which [I reported in my VF piece](#) on 8.5.21, was so compelling that the editors of VF compiled it [in this short video](#) and [The A.P. took the story worldwide](#) as they have again today.

Only this time the story is about the continuing cover up by The NPD, which has been ratified by The City Manager. That is nothing for a Newporter of any age to be proud of.

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