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June 28, 2021

Stuart Cameron, Chief of Police  
Suffolk County Police Department  
30 Yaphank Avenue  
Yaphank, NY 11980

Dear Chief Cameron,

On behalf of the victims, their families, and a countless number of constituents who have contacted me over the last decade demanding justice, I write to request that you make certain information public relating to the early investigation into the notorious Gilgo Beach/Long Island Serial Killer (LISK) case.

As you are undoubtedly aware, recent media coverage, podcasts and movies have brought renewed interest in the case and heightened the frustration that the killer or killers have never been caught. What is even more sad is that there is a large and growing number of people who strongly believe that one of your predecessors, former Suffolk County Police Chief of Department James Burke, was either directly or indirectly involved with these heinous crimes, and that certain members of the SCPD assisted in a coverup to protect Burke. We all pray that these allegations are not true, but I believe that your now making certain information public may answer the questions swirling around this case.

Specifically, I request that you make public what investigative actions were taken to solve the Gilgo Beach/LISK murders in the weeks, months and years immediately after James Burke was named Chief of Department by newly elected Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone on January 1, 2012.

Let me first refresh your memory on the timeline of these tragic events. On December 11, 2010, the skeletal remains of Melissa Barthelemy were found off Ocean Parkway. Two days later, the remains of three additional victims were found within 500 feet of Melissa's. It was immediately obvious that law enforcement was dealing with a serial killer or killers and, on December 15th, the Federal Bureau of Investigation offered their considerable resources to assist in finding possible additional victims and to help apprehend the perpetrator.

In the succeeding months, six more bodies were discovered in the brush along Ocean Parkway as local and federal law enforcement worked together gathering evidence and beginning to create a profile of this serial killer in an attempt to solve these heinous crimes and protect other women.

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In November of 2011, Steven Bellone was elected as Suffolk County Executive and one month later, named Detective Investigator James Burke as his Suffolk County Police Chief, despite Detective Burke's long history of professional misconduct.

Soon after upon being named Suffolk County Police Chief by County Executive Bellone, James Burke let it be known that he no longer wanted the FBI involved in the Gilgo Beach/LISK investigation. Requesting that the top law enforcement agency in the world, with tremendous experience and technological resources, leave a major investigation made no sense to anyone. In fact, Geraldine Hart, head of the FBI's Long Island office at the time of Burke's request, told Erin Mortiaro of "48 Hours" that "not having the FBI involved consistently from the beginning has definitely hindered the investigation." Mr. Burke, it should be noted, not only kicked the FBI off the case but he also immediately forced the retirement of Suffolk County Police Chief of Detectives, Dominick Varrone, who had been lead investigator on the Gilgo Beach/LISK case. Incredibly, Mr. Varrone has stated that he was not even permitted to share what he had learned about the case with the new lead detectives before retiring.

So there are really two questions to be answered.

The first, why was one of James Burke's first actions after being named Suffolk County Police Chief by County Executive Bellone to remove the FBI from the Gilgo Beach Serial Killing investigation. Unfortunately, we may never really know Mr. Burke's motives and he is not talking.

The second question, and perhaps one that we can shed some light on the situation, is what investigation of the Gilgo Beach/LISK murders did Chief Burke oversee in the weeks, months and years after he removed the FBI from assisting on the case.

That is why I am requesting documentation and information relating to the steps taken by then-Chief Burke relating to the Long Island Serial Killer case during this period. I am fully cognizant that this is an ongoing investigation and you may be limited in what you can share with me and the public.

HOWEVER, I am not requesting the names of any individuals interviewed nor the specific findings of any particular forensic test. I would just be interested in receiving information on the number of witness interviews completed, the number of forensic tests conducted, or any additional investigative actions undertaken by the Suffolk County Police Department on the case from January 1, 2012 until the FBI was officially welcomed back onto the case in October of 2015.

Specifically, and most importantly, on behalf of my constituents and the 1.5 million residents of Suffolk County, I demand that you make public whether former Suffolk County Police Chief James Burke has ever been questioned and cleared of any involvement in the Gilgo Beach/Long Island Serial Killer case. If the former Chief was questioned, we demand to know when that occurred and who did the questioning.

Chief Stuart Cameron

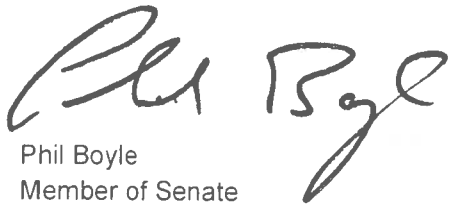
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As you are undoubtedly aware, Chief, during my long tenure in elected office, I have consistently been a strong supporter of the Suffolk County Police Department and law enforcement in general. That is why I believe we cannot allow more time to pass while Suffolk residents wonder if individuals at the highest levels of our local law enforcement and county government were not doing absolutely everything in their power to win justice for the Gilgo Beach/LISK victims and remove a murderous criminal from our streets.

Thank you, in advance, for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil Boyle  
Member of Senate

