

**Public Comment of Stephen & Dianne Valiante**  
**New Jersey Transit Board of Directors**  
**December 14, 2022**

**Good Morning:**

Our daughter, Tiffany Valiante, was 18-years-old when on July 12, 2015, she was struck – about midnight near Mile Marker 45 - by a New Jersey Transit, Atlantic City Rail Line train heading to Atlantic City from Philadelphia. She was barefoot, partially clothed, and less than five miles from home.

Unknown to this day is whether Tiffany was struck and killed by that train. Or if she was murdered before being placed on the tracks for the train to conceal the crime.

As you may know – as you should know by now - NJT police and the N.J. Medical Examiner, never conducted a complete investigation into Tiffany’s death. For example,

- The scene was never secured, never treated like a crime scene.
- A full autopsy was never conducted
- A rape test kit was never performed
- Evidence, including a long-handled, possibly blood-stained axe, and a rental car key chain, recovered near the scene, was lost while in NJT custody
- And false and misleading statements were given about the incident by operating train engineers

We simply want to know Why?

More than seven years after Tiffany’s death, we are more convinced than ever that investigators – including members of your police department - were wrong – that they rushed to close her case as a trespasser/suicide – and we want to know why.

We also want to know why, within just hours of Tiff’s mysterious disappearance and death, one of your own public relations employees openly talked to the press about what she considered a suicide? Isn’t that against your own policy?

Who allowed that to happen, before Tiffany's body parts had been recovered, funeral arrangement were made...and long before it was learned that your train personnel – including a student engineer in training - changed their stories about what they think they saw that night?

This Board, this agency, has never answered these and the many other deeply disturbing questions about the investigation into Tiffany's death, questions raised again very recently in the Netflix-Unsolved Mysteries documentary, Mystery at Mile Marker 45 – which has been viewed by millions of people from New Jersey and around the world; it is quite possible Tiffany was murdered, according to independent investigations that were conducted after the hurried, dismissive inquiry relied upon to quickly close her case.

We were disappointed that previous attempts to be heard at your November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were unsuccessful.

Hopefully, you hear us today, you'll agree to meet with us in the very near future, and you will see it as your solemn duty to direct an independent investigation of New Jersey Transit's handling of the Tiffany Valiante investigation.

Thank you.

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