

RIVERSIDE P.D.'S MIXED SIGNALS

During a 10/6/21 interview conducted by WUSA (CBS) Reporter Mike Valerio, our forensic team leader, Tom Mauriello, was told that the Riverside PD PIO just claimed that "no one had asked them to compare their DNA" on Cheri Jo Bates. Mauriello stated that was not correct: *"I personally sent them an email requesting the examination, and they said they would not."*

For clarity, here are the actual exchanges between The Case Breakers team and the agency:

From: Tom Colbert [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Pitchford, Phil [REDACTED]
Subject: [External] RPD/PIO Phil Pitchford: Per call message -- Cheri Jo Bates

PIO Phil Pitchford
Riverside Police Department
Friday, 4/30/21

Re: Very Confidential

Phil:

Per my message this morning: My name is Tom Colbert and I'm currently working on a 5-part doc series. Wife and I organized a cold case team, led by former FBI agents, that is now in its 10th year (Corp Bio and Team List [attached](#)).

I'd like to quietly confirm that your department (or the CA DOJ's Berkeley DNA bank?) has the hairs found in the clenched hand of Riverside homicide victim **Mary Jo Bates** (10/30/66). Our volunteer investigators believe they have identified a viable suspect for a potential comparison.

TJC PUT IN A DNA REQUEST; PD COLD CASE SQUAD DID NOT RETURN CALL.

On Fri, Apr 30, 2021 at 2:29 PM Railsback, Ryan <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Got the message and I passed it along to our Robbery-Homicide Unit. You can probably expect a call back sometime next week.

Officer Ryan J. Railsback

Riverside Police Department
Public Information Officer
Community Services Bureau
[REDACTED]



TWO MONTHS LATER, TJC DIRECTED 3 OF HIS FORENSIC MEMBERS TO TALK TO THE RIVERSIDE PD. THEY TURNED DOWN OUR REQUEST FOR A CODED DNA COMPARISON.

From: Tom Mauriello <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 3:12 PM
Subject: Re: Riverside PD/PIO Ryan Railsback: Per chat today, Cheri Jo Bates
To: Tom Colbert <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Railsback, Ryan <[REDACTED]>, Kelly Elkins <[REDACTED]>

Off. Railsback,

Thank you for your time. Dr. Elkins and I would appreciate the opportunity to talk with members of your Robbery/Homicide Unit reference discussing the DNA evidence you have involving the Mary Jo Bates (10/30/66) Case.

If your department allows, we would like to have a Zoom video call with them. Dr. Elkins has a number of questions related to the NDA evidence that was collected in that case. I can set up the ZOOM call and forward the link to them at their convenience.

We recognize there is a three-hour difference, so whatever works for them I will make the connection with Dr. Elkins. Hopefully we can make this happen in the next few days.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and appreciate the cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully, TOMM

Thomas P. Mauriello, M.F.S. (TOMM)
CEO/Founder/Consultant



From: Railsback, Ryan <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 9:50 AM
Subject: RE: [External] Re: Riverside PD/PIO Ryan Railsback: Per chat, Cheri Jo Bates
To: Tom Mauriello <[REDACTED]>, Tom Colbert <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Kelly Elkins <[REDACTED]>

Good morning Tom,

We've been extremely busy at the police department and I apologize for taking so long to get back. After talking with our Homicide Cold Case Unit, we are not going to participate in any further projects regarding the Cheri Jo Bates homicide. In fact, our detectives have been working behind the scenes lately on some updated information where we can say without doubt this case is not related to the Zodiac Killer case. We will probably release information about this publicly either this week or next. But the detectives are extremely busy with their cold cases, as well as open homicide investigations, and said they are not available to participate with any outside organizations or group. We thank you for the interest in this case but we are going to decline any further involvement at this time.

Officer Ryan J. Railsback

Riverside Police Department
Public Information Officer
Community Services Bureau

