DA: Body Found at Beach Missing Head, Arms, Legs

By JAMES KINSELLA

Law enforcement officials Friday afternoon asked the public’s assistance in identifying an African-American man whose body, found Wednesday evening at Town Neck Beach in Sandwich, was missing a head, both arms and both legs.

At a press conference at Barnstable Superior Court House, Cape & Islands District Attorney Michael O’Keefe appealed to anyone in New England who could help identify the man, who was wearing a blue promotional T-shirt distributed by the Cranston Windustrial business of Warwick, Rhode Island.

The body was found inside a tarp affixed to a dolly. In addition to the T-shirt, the deceased was clothed in black sweat pants.

Officials distributed glossy photographs of the front and back of the T-shirt, as well as of the dolly, to members of the media to convey to the public.

Mr. O’Keefe said the man had died fairly recently, but he did not provide a more precise time frame.

Officials calculate that the man was 70 to 72 inches in height (or just under six feet to six feet), and weighed from 220 to 230 pounds. They said he showed no sign of natural disease, but had a surgical scar, measuring three to four inches, in his abdominal area.

Mr. O’Keefe said the torso itself showed no sign of injury. He said the severing of the head or any of the limbs would have caused immediate or eventual death.

In a written statement, the district attorney appealed to anyone who recognized the T-shirt and may have seen someone fitting the general description of the deceased man to call police at 508-790-5799.

He further appealed to anyone who recognized the dolly or knows someone missing a dolly of that description to call police at 508-790-5799.

At about 8 PM Wednesday, Mr. O’Keefe stated, a passerby at the Town Neck Beach parking lot noticed a suspicious object wrapped in a tarp and called Sandwich police.

The Sandwich police in turn alerted state police detectives assigned to the district attorney’s office.

Crime scene investigators processed the scene through the night. Careful removal of the wrapping revealed the headless, limbless torso.

At the Friday afternoon press conference, Mr. O’Keefe said the body had been transported to and dropped next to the beach parking lot. As such, investigators are treating the place where the body was found as a secondary crime scene, with the primary crime scene still unknown.

Mr. O’Keefe said investigators believe the body was left next to the parking lot sometime from Monday to Wednesday.

He asked that members of the public who may have been in the vicinity of Town Neck Beach from Monday, June 2 through Wednesday, June 4 to report any suspicious vehicles or unusual activity they might have observed in that area during that period of time. Members of the public may report such activity by calling the police at 508-790-5799.

Following the discovery of the T-shirt on the torso, Mr. O’Keefe said, investigators traveled to Warwick to interview members of Cranston Windustrial, which sells automatic faucets.

The district attorney said people at the business have been very cooperative. They told investigators that particular T-shirt, was a promotional item given to customers about six to eight years ago. The shirt carries the motto, “I Got Serviced.”

In response to questions at the press conference, Mr. O’Keefe said that although they are appealing to New England residents for help in solving the case, the man may have died outside the region – or, on the other hand, somewhere else on Cape Cod.

A possible sign that the crime was committed off-Cape is that Town Neck Beach is one of the first major beaches east of the Sagamore Bridge.

As for the residents of Sandwich, police chief Peter Wack said yesterday at the press conference that the case has not placed them in danger.

==============================

Investigators Hope DNA Will Help Identify Body Found on Beach

By JAMES KINSELLA

Authorities have developed a DNA profile of a man whose headless, limbless torso was discovered June 4 at Town Neck Beach in Sandwich.

Cape & Islands District Attorney Michael O’Keefe said yesterday that investigators hope to use the profile to help discover the identity of the man.

In about a week, Mr. O’Keefe said, investigators should be able provide more precise details about the man.

The district attorney said the investigators will be better pinpoint the man’s age.

And while investigators believe that the man was African-American, Mr. O’Keefe said the data also may able to provide further details, such as if he were of Cape Verdean heritage.

At present, investigators calculate that the man stood 5-foot-10 to six feet in height, and weighed from 220 to 230 pounds. They said he showed no sign of natural disease, but had a surgical scar, measuring three to four inches, in his abdominal area.

Investigators hope to find a match for the man’s DNA in various databases.

The district attorney said he is confident that authorities “in the fullness of time” will be able to identify the man.

Following a request for the public’s help at a press conference June 6 at the Barnstable County Superior Courthouse, Mr. O’Keefe said investigators had received what he calls “numerous” tips about the blue Cranston Windustrial T-shirt found on the torso, and about the dolly to which the torso was attached.

The torso and dolly were discovered off the Town Neck Beach parking lot wrapped in a tarp and plastic garbage bags.

So far, Mr. O’Keefe said, the tips have not provided investigators any promising leads.

But he also said that “we’re pursuing everything that comes our way.”

The district attorney said investigators process tips very methodically, so as not to be lured off the track by information that first looks promising but later is not.

Investigators also have been reviewing missing person reports, but have yet to find any promising candidates.

Mr. O’Keefe said that the nature of the torso’s discovery has slowed what is typically a painstaking process even further.

Just the careful unwrapping and forensic examination of the tarp and plastic bags for evidence such as hairs or fibers delayed for hours the eventual arrival at the torso.

Mr. O’Keefe continues to ask that anyone who witnessed any unusual activity in the vicinity of Town Neck Beach between June 4 and 6, or recalls an individual wearing that T-shirt (which Mr. O’Keefe said had distinctive lettering), or knows of a dolly of that description get in touch with police at 508-790-5799.

=========================

Authorities Pursue Search for Headless Man’s Identity

By JAMES KINSELLA

For investigators trying to identify a headless, limbless torso found June 4 at Town Neck Beach, the good news is that they have a perfect DNA profile from the remains.

The bad news is that the profile has yet to match any profile in the available DNA databases, according to Cape & Islands District Attorney Michael D. O’Keefe.

Mr. O’Keefe said yesterday that the office continues to pursue additional avenues to help identify the deceased individual, whose torso was found attached to a wheeled dolly inside a tarp and plastic garbage bags next to the Town Neck Beach parking lot.

To bring in evidence more quickly, Mr. O’Keefe said, the district attorney’s office is paying for a private forensic laboratory to give a more precise reading of the man’s ethnicity. He anticipates he will learn those results about July 28.

The district attorney also plans to meet next week with an anthropologist who can give investigators a better sense of the dead man’s age.

Mr. O’Keefe, who already has held one press conference to describe the body and to appeal to the public for tips, anticipates holding another one once the more recent findings have been compiled.

So far, investigators believe that the man was African-American, stood 5-foot-10 to six feet in height, and weighed from 220 to 230 pounds. They said he showed no sign of natural disease, but had a surgical scar, measuring three to four inches, in his abdominal area.

The victim was wearing a promotional T-shirt put out about six to eight years ago by Cranston Windustrial, a company based in Rhode Island. The shirt carries the motto, “I Got Serviced.”

Investigators also have been reviewing missing person reports, but have yet to find any promising candidates.

Mr. O’Keefe asks that anyone who witnessed any unusual activity in the vicinity of Town Neck Beach between June 4 and 6, or recalls an individual wearing that T-shirt get in touch with police at 508-790-5799.