

Police actions under review

Detective investigates officers' actions night woman was murdered

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EDMONTON - As police investigate the murder of Stephanie Rae Butler, they are trying to determine what their officers knew, when they knew it and if they could have connected the dots quicker.

While homicide investigators focus on who killed Butler, another detective is piecing together a chronology of the officers' actions that started with a disturbance call on April 4 and ended three days later with the discovery of a body.

"His role is to review the whole picture," said police spokeswoman Karen Carlson.

"Part of the investigation will be to ask officers why they couldn't connect the dots."

Police took the rare investigative step because of the extraordinary nature of the incidents, Carlson said.

On the night of April 4, Kenneth Butler arrived at his brother Michael's house at 4204 38th Street. He banged on the door and tried to get inside. Michael and Stephanie Butler, knowing Kenneth's violent history, called police.

Kenneth was picked up and released the next morning on \$300 bail, on condition that he stay away from his brother's home.

That Friday, police were called to investigate the beating of 61-year-old cab driver Pavan Chohan, who was found on the Butler's block.

Chohan is still in hospital.

Police believe Stephanie Butler, 25, was attacked and killed in her home, while officers were outside investigating the Chohan assault.

A half-hour after police arrived on-scene, Kenneth Butler climbed into the

back of a squad car and identified himself as the suspect in the beating.

Officers did not know about the homicide until Stephanie Butler's body was found by her parents the next day.

Kenneth Butler has s been charged with aggravated assault and further charges are pending in the death of his sister-in-law. On Tuesday, he was ordered to undergo a 30-day psychiatric evaluation. He will be back in court May 9.

Michael Butler said he will file a complaint with the Edmonton Police Commission.

"I'm going to file a complaint, for sure, 100 per cent," he said Wednesday, after speaking with Solicitor General Fred Lindsay. The complaint would go through Chief Mike Boyd's office before an internal investigation is conducted.

Butler had little to say about Boyd's Tuesday news conference on Stephanie's death. "I'm not interested in the politics to be honest, I just want things to change."

Boyd had told reporters there was nothing police could have done to save Stephanie Butler's life. Though a police dog tracked Kenneth Butler's scent to his brother's fence, the trail then led to the cruiser he climbed into. Also, onboard police computers are designed to identify previous incidents on an address-specific basis, not by block or neighbourhood.

"They wouldn't have had any reason to type in that house address more than any other at the time," Carlson said.

Stephanie Butler's injuries were severe enough that it would have been difficult for police to reach her in time to save her, Carlson said.

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