

New effort in dumped-body case

 buffalonews.com/news/new-effort-in-dumped-body-case/article_70b05530-d0cf-5894-ab02-b8d5ee6be20d.html

By Lou Michel

February 17, 2011

Family and friends of Amanda L. Wienckowski are attempting another outreach to encourage someone to come forward with information about who was responsible for dumping the young woman's body into a plastic trash bin two years ago.

Family members, friends and other supporters, including a contingent of volunteers headed by Ellicott District Council Member Darius G. Pridgen, will go door-to-door at 2 p.m. Feb. 20, distributing fliers and seeking information from residents in the Spring-Clinton neighborhood, where the 20-year-old Kenmore native's naked and frozen body was found Jan. 9, 2009.

"The reason I'm joining with them is to find information that would lead to who dumped Amanda's body there," Pridgen said. "That's why we are encouraging our own volunteers to join in."

On another front, a local businessman who wants to remain anonymous has donated the remaining \$4,500 needed to complete a second autopsy on Wienckowski's remains, according to attorney Steve M. Cohen of Hogan Willig, the law firm representing Wienckowski's family.

Pathologist Silvia O. Comparini is in the final stages of completing the autopsy and has requested an additional 30 days to review body tissue and other evidence, Cohen said.

State Supreme Court Justice Gerald J. Whalen is expected to make a decision on the extension by Friday.

"His honor is treating the evidence as potentially being evidence of a homicide and wants to maintain a pure chain of custody, so no one other than Dr. Comparini is permitted to have contact with the evidence," Cohen said.

Wienckowski's family has disputed the original autopsy findings by Erie County, which indicated she died of an accidental opiate drug overdose. Instead, they insist she was killed.

Prior to the latest donation, Cohen said, individuals and organizations had already given \$7,500 toward the second autopsy.

e-mail: lmichel@buffnews.com