

Lifeguard Lee Jones was in the cash box area and had just told Ann-Margaret that they had now gone to two lifeguards. Shortly thereafter, a gentleman asked where the phone was to dial 911 and he informed her of the drowning. Lifeguard Jones stayed with the brother of the victim in the picnic area during the 911 call. She then helped the brother call his grandfather and told him to come to the pool. Lifeguard Jones has talked to the victim previous to this date and she states he could swim long lengths of the pool without coming up for air. She states that the victim previously was told not to do that because it scared them. She was amazed at him swimming under water. She states that the grandfather came to the scene shortly thereafter and picked up the victim's brother John.

Writer also interviewed seven additional witnesses who were in attendance at the pool.

Dean Henry states he got to the pool between 1:30 and 1:45 P.M. and, when he came out of the locker room, they were clearing the pool. When he first observed the victim he was out of the pool and breathing, however, Mr. Henry states victim's breathing was shallow. He observed the lifeguard check for and find a pulse on the victim. He further observed the victim spit up blood and water. Shortly, the lifeguard inserted a breathing tube and started CPR. Mr. Henry states that in general the response and treatment of the victim by the lifeguards was good.

Dale Phillips states he was on the opposite corner of the pool when the lifeguard cleared the pool. He ran over and helped the lifeguard pull out the victim. He observed the victim gasp and appear to be trying to breathe. The lifeguard seemed panicked and he tried to help the lifeguard by attempting to roll over the victim. The lifeguard then told Mr. Phillips not to touch the victim. After approximately one minute, Mr. Phillips states that the victim was rolled over by the lifeguard, himself and another gentlemen. The lifeguard tried to do CPR but it appeared to him, Mr. Phillips, that she didn't know what she was doing. Mr. Phillips further states that the Livonia Fire Rescue workers took their time in getting to the victim. At one point during the rescue, Mr. Phillips was going to push on the stomach of the victim in order to try and pump water out of his lungs and the lifeguard told him not to touch the victim.

Debra Belz was at the deepend near the lifeguard station when the incident occurred. She heard the lifeguard clear the pool. She observed the lifeguard go to the side of the pool and she heard the victim's brother tell the lifeguard that, "he was okay he holds his breath for a long time". The pool was not especially crowded. She goes there occasionally and has seen it much more crowded. Ms. Belz states that the lifeguard appeared to do everything she could for the victim.

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Fatal Drowning Investigation
Location: City of Livonia
Clement Circle Public Pool
Livonia, Michigan 48150
Investigator: Ken Ascher

Information requested and released
through the Michigan Freedom of
Information Act, Public Act Number
442 of 1976 as amended.

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