***Virginia:***

**In the** **Circuit Court of the City of Virginia Beach**

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| **Commonwealth of Virginia,**  **Plaintiff**  **v.**  **Paul Stephen Bricker**  **DOB 05/03/1985**  **SSN 609-28-1839**  **Defendant** | **Docket #:** **CR10-4199** |

**Stipulation of Facts**

The Commonwealth’s Evidence would show that on July 30, 2009 Dawn Curran reported to police that her estranged husband, Gerard Curran, was missing. That same day police found Mr. Curran’s vehicle at First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach. His wallet and other personal property were in the vehicle. Police released to the media information about Mr. Curran’s status. On August 1, 2009 two women responded to the media release and reported that they had seen Mr. Curran walking slowly in the park two days before. The women said he looked depressed and tired, and would not make eye contact with them. They waited to see in which direction he went, and then they walked in the opposite direction.

As a result of this information, a search was conducted in the park. Mr. Curran’s body was located a short time later. The area around his body was undisturbed. No weapons or other foreign material were found in the vicinity of the body. His body was markedly decomposed and was identified by fingerprint analysis. Cause of death was found to be one stab wound to the chest which perforated the lung and caused internal bleeding. See Autopsy T-375-09.

The autopsy revealed a healing superficial stab wound to the chest. On April 26, 2009 Mr. Curran had reported to Virginia Beach police that an intruder had come into his home, attacked him, and stabbed him. Subsequent investigation revealed that this injury had been self-inflicted, and that there had been no intruder.

Mr. Curran was a chief in the United States Navy. The defendant, Paul Bricker, was an ET-2 who worked under and looked up to the chief. The defendant was questioned by NCIS personnel and later by Virginia Beach police. After being advised and waiving his Miranda rights, the defendant told police that Mr. Curran had told him that he wanted to commit suicide, and he wanted his wife and children to receive government benefits after his death. Mr. Curran told the defendant that he wanted to kill himself and make it look like a robbery. He wanted the defendant’s help in case he was not successful in committing suicide. They agreed to meet at the park, where Mr. Curran said, “Let’s get this over with.” The defendant said that Mr. Curran wrapped a rubber physical therapy band around his own neck and choked himself until he collapsed. The defendant said that Curran appeared dead. Bricker waited a few minutes and then stabbed Mr. Curran once in the chest. He waited a few minutes, then took the knife and rubber band and left the area. The defendant said that he had stabbed Mr. Curran because Mr. Curran had asked him to help him. The investigation revealed no benefit, pecuniary or otherwise, to the defendant for his role in the victim’s death.

**WE AGREE THAT THIS WOULD BE THE COMMONWEALTH’S EVIDENCE.**

Respectfully submitted,

HARVEY L. BRYANT, III

COMMONWEALTH’S ATTORNEY

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By: Patrick J. Connolly

Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney

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Suzanne G. Moushegian, Esquire Defendant

Counsel for the Defendant

OCA File VAB10-6171 Judge