

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:35 AM
To: MDCRDirector <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Testimony

Hello,

I am a surviving spouse of Fletcher Waddell, a former GM retiree of 40+ years of services. He died Feb. 22 of this year. There days before his death, he, myself and my best friend had a conversation about the role of GM in the water crisis; how GM dumped toxic chemicals in the Flint River even years and years ago. Even then we wouldn't have known the river's toxicity with the poor sampling methods deployed and the misaligned geomapping by zip code. It appears the river's toxicity was well known as early as 2004. Additionally there haven't been studied conducted on the effects of lead poisoning on the elderly and or doesn't appear to be important to presiding officials. My husband did have existing ailments. I discovered the effects of lead poisoning can accelerate death in older adults. My husband had been a patient of McLaren Hospital in a couple of occasions during the time the Flint River was being used as a water source. When he died, the Genesee County Medical Examiner refused to accommodate my autopsy request staying my husband hadn't seen his doctors in a year. The hospital had someone inexperienced and still studying to be a death investigator to call me staying that his doctors refused to sign death cert. This turned out to be false. On his record of death, a hospital report, the hospital had the same individual (Thomas Boaz) listed as a medical examiner. The hospital erroneously had my husband's remains released without my consent and sent to a funeral facility other than I had specified. The county ME ruled his ailment (congestive heart failure) as the cause of death. However, I witnessed the moments before his death as being a violent death (death accelerated). When I spoke with Mr. Boaz, on a subsequent call after his initial call to me, I expressed my concern about the Legionnaires outbreak and the symptoms, he stated he didn't know what the symptoms were. Mr. Boaz owns a casket company and sells crematory containers. This statement raised some red flags. Just after my husband died at McLaren, within 24 hrs. of being admitted via emergency, a resident nurse came to me and stated, "they're thinking it (the cause of death) was a blood clot to the lung. The county not the hospital didn't want it to be known or discovered Legionnaires may have been the cause of his death. It took almost 2 wks. to finalize his arrangements; causing even more grief than usual. In finality, I feel it was and is a cover-up to avoid having my husband's death added as a Legionnaires statistic.

Thank you,
Sheila Bailey-Waddell

[REDACTED]