

## **Police await autopsy on baby found dead in A.C.**

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Authorities conducting an ongoing investigation into the discovery of a dead newborn found three weeks ago in an Atlantic City trash can are waiting for medical results related to the child's cause of death, Atlantic County Prosecutor Jeffrey S. Blitz said Monday.

Little information has been released regarding the progress of the investigation that began when Atlantic City police Officer Charles Miller received information that led him and Sgt. Robert Clark to Texas Avenue shortly after 5 p.m. July 4. After discovering some blood-soaked items in an alley trash can, Clark looked inside a second trash can and found a trash bag with the full-term baby boy inside, wrapped in a comforter, the prosecutor said July 5.

"We're certainly aware that the case is of high interest," Blitz said. "Especially a criminal investigation concerning the cause and death relating to a newborn."

One person who has shown considerable interest is Susan Ferrier, co-founder of the Baby Blue Foundation, a group that offers assistance in honoring the short life of abandoned babies by providing burial services for the newborns.

"We need to raise awareness about the prevalence of these occurrences," said Ferrier, whose husband Bill opened a bag he found while walking on the beach in January 2004 and found the body of a newborn baby girl they named Blue. After reporting the incident, the two were later granted permission to give the child a proper burial.

"This latest incident has gotten to me more than when we found Baby Blue," said Ferrier, who has spoken to the Atlantic County Medical Examiner's Office about burying the child once the investigation is finished. "We need to get the word out so we can prevent this from happening and give these parents alternatives."

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Major Crime Unit Sgt. Robert Kelly and Atlantic City police Detective Steve Rando continue to investigate the incident under the supervision of Major Crime Lt. Bruce DeShields.

Anyone with information is asked to call Major Crime at (609) 909-7666. Information can also be called in anonymously to Crime Stoppers at (800) 658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading

to the arrest and conviction of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.

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