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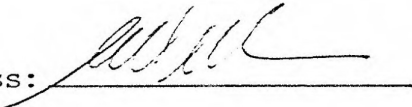
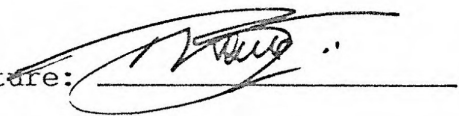
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the other one the key to the unit and whoever was staying at home would take care of the other one's dog or dogs, which ever the case was, until we returned. Up until Jim's death this arrangement was still current. Jim would not go out for any extended time without leaving a key to his unit with me or my flat mate so we could look after his dogs.

5. Up until Monday the 6th of March, 1995, I saw Jim on a regular basis, as I normally would. I would either see him walking his dogs in the park or on the common balcony on our level of ■ Block, where we sometimes stood out there and had a smoke or a cup of coffee together.

6. The second last time I heard from Jim was at 6.30am on Tuesday morning the 7th March, 1995, when he rang me at my unit and woke me up. I remember looking at the clock when I answered the telephone and cursed him to myself, for waking me, due to the fact I have been having difficulties sleeping. Jim rang and asked me if I had any smokes. I said no I had been out since Sunday myself. Then he said to me that he'd see what he could do and we ended the conversation and I hung up the phone. As I was awake I got up and had a morning wash and dressed. The next thing I knew it was 7.30am and Jim was at my door. He gave me a dozen HORIZON brand cigarettes, they were Jim's brand Not mine, I normally smoke WHITE OX tobacco and roll them myself or LONGBEACH tailor made. We talked for a couple of minutes, he did say he was going out for a little while and I can't remember who brought it up, but it was about looking forward to pension day tomorrow, being Wednesday the 8th of March, 1995 and that Jim owed me \$20-00 that he had borrowed the previous week down at South Sydney Leagues Club. Then Jim left and I last saw him walking along the common balcony on our level towards the foyer of the B block elevators.

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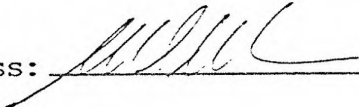
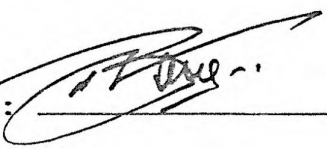
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7. When I last saw Jim I recall he was wearing long pants, a collared t shirt and a jumper of some sort over that. I can't remember what he was wearing on his feet, but I remember that during the last few weeks he has always been wearing rubber thongs when we has been walking the dogs in the park. I remember remarking to him about how he could stand the sand and the grass getting between the thongs and his feet.

8. I didn't worry that Jim had been gone for a few hours on Tuesday morning because it wasn't unusual for him to go out for a couple of hours and come home. It was usually only when he expected to be out for more than four to six hours that he would give me the key to his unit. He was like myself, he like to walk the dogs every couple of hours or so. Between 11.00am and midday, approximately, I went out of my unit to put some garbage out or something and I noticed that Jim's flyscreen door was slightly open, open about five or six inches. I went down and had a look and saw that there was a rolled up or part of a rolled up newspaper between the main front door and the flyscreen door of Jim's unit. I opened the flyscreen door and I knocked on Jim's door with my knuckles, then with the door knocker on the door. As soon as I knocked I heard Jim's dogs start to bark. I waited a few minutes and then I knocked again and the dogs barked again. I thought this was strange because of the newspaper between the doors and the flyscreen door was usually locked whether he was home or not. Also the dogs wouldn't usually bark if he wasn't in the unit with them.

9. Then between midday and 1.30pm on Tuesday, I got a phone call from Gail McKAY. Gail lives in a Department of Housing unit in Devonshire Street and is a member the committee of the Northcott Combined Tenants Association and is also a member of the Estates

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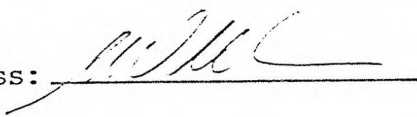

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Advisory Board of Surry Hills. Gail was worried about Jim and the fact that he hadn't attended a meeting of either the Estates Advisory Board or it's sub-committee, which met on Tuesday morning. I couldn't help Gail and told her that I hadn't seen Jim since early that morning. After Gail hung up I wrote a note on a blue piece of paper from a notepad for Jim to ring Gail and stuck it on the main door of Jim's unit with sticky tape. I also knocked again on the door and received that same reaction from the dogs, but no answer from Jim.

10. Not long after that, that I heard someone knocking on Jim's door and went out onto the balcony and saw Michael LAWRENCE, who lives in A block of Northcott, at Jim's door. When I came out we started inquiring of each other where Jim was. We banged on the main door of Jim's unit and also on the glass of the Kitchen and Bathroom windows and the only reaction was from the dogs, who began to bark. Over the course of the afternoon several other people who I don't know by name, but only by face as being residents of the Department of Housing Estate, came inquiring about Jim. Michael LAWRENCE also came up a number of times checking for Jim.

11. The last time I saw Michael come up looking for Jim on Tuesday, was about 7.30pm when I was on my way out to walk my dog Katie and he met on my way to the ■ block lifts. Then we went back to Jim's unit and knocked and still only got the barking from Jim's dogs. Michael, myself and my dog then started back to the lift foyer, I was going to take Katie out for her walk. We stopped in the foyer on level 12 and talked for a few minutes waiting for the lift and also what we should do. The Bob the security guard came racing in and asked both Michael and myself how long we had been standing there. We told him about ten

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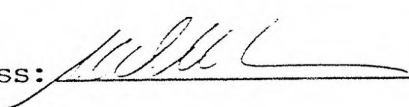

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minutes and he told us that there was a young hoon racing around and had we seen anyone. We said no we hadn't. Bob was about to depart and we called him back and told him about Jim being missing and he went back down to Jim's door with us and again banged on Jim's door. Still only the reaction from the dogs and I felt at that stage as the security guard had been told of the situation I could leave it in his hands at that stage. I then walked the dog and was out for about 15 or 20 minutes and then came back to my unit and watched television until late and then I went to bed.

12. About 6.00am - 6.30am on Wednesday morning the 8th March, 1995, I got up showered and got dressed, then me and my flat mate Peter MADDOCK, went out to the ATM at the Westpac Bank in Crown Street and I withdrew some money from my account. It was pension day and because my pension is paid directly into my Commonwealth Bank account I can withdraw money via my keycard. Then we went to the Crown Hotel for a few beers. I sent Peter down to the hotel to get the beers while I went to the newsagent in Cleveland Street and bought some cigarettes for each of us and some phantom comics. I met Peter at the hotel and we drank until about 9.00am. Then we went and did some shopping and went home together.

13. When we got home Peter took the dog for a walk and whilst he was doing this I rang a couple of friends for some advice on what to do about Jim. Then I sat there for about 15 minutes thinking about what they had told me. Then at 10.24am I telephoned Surry Hills Police and spoke with Constable JOB and explained my concerns about Jim MEEK. He took my details and Jim's address and said that the first available car would attend. I then waited until approximately 12.30pm and as I had an appointment at the Uniting Church at Ashfield, I called a cab and left a short time later for the church.

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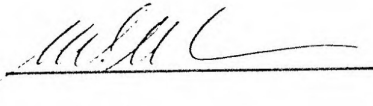
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14. About 3.30pm that afternoon I arrived back at my unit and saw that Bill COFFEY, a female Police officer, Constable RICHMOND and a couple of other people coming and going from Jim's unit. I went into my unit and took off my backpack and coat, whilst I was inside my flatmate told me that Jim was dead, but I had already figured that there was something serious and I went back out to Jim's unit. When I got there Bill COFFEY challenged me and asked me what I wanted and I said to Constable RICHMOND, that I was the person that called the Police at 10.24am this morning and did they want to speak to me. She indicated that she did and a short time later she spoke to me on the balcony and I made a statement which she recorded in her notebook and I signed.

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

