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FBI Detroit Office Does Not Have Jurisdiction Over Hoffa Investigation

Frank “the Irishman” Sheeran's corroborated confession to the Jimmy Hoffa murder should deprive the FBI Detroit office of jurisdiction in the case. According to Sheeran's confession, the murder occurred in the jurisdiction of the Detroit Police Department. Hoffa was never kidnapped, and neither he nor his body ever crossed state lines. An acknowledgment that the FBI lacks jurisdiction or that the case has been solved would likely result in courts requiring that the FBI make public its Hoffa files, something it has vigorously opposed through the years.

Two retired members of the original Hoffa Strike Force – FBI special agent Bob Garrity and U.S. Attorney Stan Huntington – have already publicly told members of the media that Sheeran's confession has the ring of truth. The FBI attempted repeatedly through the years to get Sheeran to talk – from 1975 to as recently as October 2001. Miranda stood in their way. But author Charles Brandt, a former homicide prosecutor, chief deputy attorney general for the state of Delaware, and a nationally recognized expert on interrogations took Sheeran's confession and detailed it in his best selling book *I Heard You Paint Houses*.

Though Brandt's book was published in the summer of 2004, not one word has been uttered, one way or the other, from the FBI about a confession from a prime suspect that has been corroborated by – among other things – Hoffa's DNA on hair in the car that transported Hoffa from the Machus Red Fox Restaurant outside of Detroit on July 30, 1975, the location of that hair in the car, the availability of the house to which Sheeran says Hoffa was driven, and the ease of performing an illegal cremation in Michigan in 1975 (Sheeran was told Hoffa was cremated nearby). The FBI tried repeatedly over three decades to take Sheeran's statement and failed. Once he did talk, they seemed uninterested in what he had to say.

Three years ago this week Sheeran, the only prime FBI suspect in Hoffa's murder to offer a corroborated confession to the crime, died in a Pennsylvania nursing home. The hit man who had killed 25 to 30 people, starved himself to death after recounting on audio and video tape how he was ordered to shoot his friend and mentor Jimmy Hoffa, and identified the home on Beaverland Street in Detroit where the murder took place.

Only one instance of corroboration to a confession from a credible witness is needed for a conviction in any court in the United States. Sheeran's confession has now been corroborated in a number of ways. Had he remained alive, he would have been arrested for Hoffa's murder.

In the end, Sheeran was more willing to face the truth than those in the FBI's field office in Detroit, who remain silent about Sheeran's account, and who wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on an excavation this past summer of a horse farm outside of Detroit based on a tip from a source who was not credible and who had no direct link to Hoffa and those who have long been suspected of his demise.

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