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THE COUNCIL OF
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January 31, 2024

Mr. Edward Caban
NYPD Commissioner
Police Plaza
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Caban,

I am writing to you as an elected official and a concerned citizen who deeply values justice and the preservation of truth in our society.

Today, I wish to bring to your attention the case of Dorothy Kilgallen, a revered journalist whose name was synonymous with courage, tenacity and an unyielding pursuit of the truth. Her mysterious death on November 8, 1965, not only robbed the world of a journalistic titan, but also left a cloud of suspicion and unanswered questions that have persisted for nearly six decades.

Kilgallen, also well-known as the star panelist on the CBS hit program, "What's My Line?" was a pioneer, a celebrated journalist who navigated and excelled in a field dominated by men. She was a force to be reckoned with, possessing a rare combination of wit, intelligence, and a fearless commitment to unveiling the truth. From challenging the Mafia's connections to Frank Sinatra to boldly questioning the circumstances surrounding Marilyn Monroe's death, Dorothy never shied away from contentious and dangerous truths.

Dorothy's investigative work, particularly concerning her friend John F. Kennedy's assassination, was not only groundbreaking but also, as it tragically turned out, perilous. The reported scare tactics, surveillance, and threats she endured just prior to her death speak volumes about the potential gravity and sensitivity of the information she possessed. Her sudden and mysterious demise, under circumstances that many believe were meticulously staged, raises grave concerns about the integrity of the lackluster investigation that followed.

The official narrative of Dorothy's death, hastily labeled as a drug overdose did not just tragically misrepresent her legacy but also conveniently silenced a voice that was on the verge of perhaps revealing epochal truths. The subsequent looting of her Manhattan

home, the disappearance of her files and “tell-all” book manuscript about the assassination, and the defamatory portrayal of her character in the media are all glaring indications that the story presented to the public was, at best, incomplete and, at worst, a deliberate obfuscation. 2

In light of recent revelations by Dr. Michael Baden acknowledging the mistakes in the Kilgallen autopsy and the premature conclusions drawn by the Manhattan Medical Examiner's office, it becomes not just an opportunity but a moral imperative to re-examine this case. Mark Shaw, a noted historian and bestselling author, possesses a remarkable amount of highly relevant documents and credible statements from nearly 30 witnesses who swear Kilgallen did not overdose that will be crucial to an investigation as will the new evidence Shaw has uncovered.

Without question, Shaw's contributions, which I have reviewed, can significantly aid in uncovering the truth about why and how Kilgallen died in 1965. There thus exists a pressing need to unearth the truth, not just in the name of justice for Dorothy Kilgallen but also to honor the principles of journalistic integrity and truth she valiantly stood for.

As Lois McMaster Bujold aptly said, "The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is the duty of the living to do so for them." Dorothy Kilgallen was more than an iconic journalist; she was a beacon of truth in a world rife with concealment and deceit. Opening an investigation into her death is a step towards rectifying a historical wrong and a testament to our commitment as a society to uphold truth, justice, and the values Dorothy so fiercely championed.

I urge your office to consider this request earnestly and to take the necessary steps toward opening and diligently pursuing an investigation into the mysterious death of Dorothy Kilgallen. Let us strive to bring closure and justice to a case that has lingered in the shadows for far too long.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope the truth will finally see the light of day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. F. Holden", written in a cursive style.

Robert F. Holden
Council Member, District 30