

## Ellis Maxwell

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**From:** Gavin Cook  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2010 10:07 AM  
**To:** Ellis Maxwell  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

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**From:** Steve Powell  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2010 8:15:54 AM  
**To:** Gavin Cook  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Gavin, I don't expect answers to all of the questions below. I just throw them out as food for thought. I would hope you are already asking similar questions in your investigation. I spoke to my son Michael this evening about the narrative he was going to send to you, about [REDACTED] bizarre behavior at the Powell house a few nights ago. Michael said he had no internet access in Utah, and since arriving home has been busy helping unload Josh's and Susan's household into storage. He will e-mail that narrative of [REDACTED] visit to the Powell house to you tonight or tomorrow.

I am wondering if you have any other "persons of interest" in Susan Powell's disappearance. You told me the husband is a person of interest as part of standard procedure. We are developing a resume of sorts on [REDACTED], possibly to send to the media. First and foremost is his threatening behavior the other night at Josh's and Susan's house, where he quite frightened both of my sons to the degree they had to call for police help. It was a huge show Peterson put on for the Media. Why has he been playing the part of the showman, almost since this tragedy started? Why is he lying about Josh, for example, saying that Josh was his friend? Josh spoke to him maybe two or three times before Susan disappeared. Josh has told me, and I am sure he told you in interrogation, that Susan disappeared a number of times for hours, and he tracked her down at the Peterson house and brought her home.

You searched my house with my permission, and I did not really see the efficacy of that, except that we do not want any stone left unturned. Have you searched Peterson's house thoroughly? Have you searched the back of his pickup (of course, we all know that would be easy to hose down)?

Josh mentioned something about Peterson applying for a job "out in the desert" with some company. Could Petersons have a recreation property somewhere out in the desert? Has anything like that been checked out?

Peterson's current job is as a process server who travels throughout the state. Have there been other missing persons on his routes? Have his movements been under surveillance? Josh and Michael tell me there are some cameras watching the Powell house, mounted on the light poles. They did not know if it was your agency, the FBI, or the Media doing the spying. If it is WVPD or the FBI, that's a positive thing. I have heard that criminals like to return to the scene of their crimes ([REDACTED] did return to the house a few days ago, very agitated, perhaps off his meds, ostensibly to retrieve "his" swing set, which he "gave to Susan, not to Josh").

Are you aware, among other things, that [REDACTED] has told reporters that he was Susan's "marriage counselor," that he advised her to divorce Josh, after which Susan quit seeing him? Was he upset when Susan quit going to him for "marital counseling?" Josh is not aware that

she quit talking to him completely, even though that is what [REDACTED] seems to imply. Is it possible that she called him Monday morning December 7 for a ride to work?

Michael Powell said he called Josh's house about three weeks before Susan disappeared, and she mentioned [REDACTED], saying he was getting "too close for comfort." I nearly came unglued when Michael said he did not think of that when the police interviewed him. He said he sort of ignored Susan's comment because it sounded like one of those typically female reactions to unwanted advances. Michael only put two and two together after [REDACTED] showed up at the Powell house to retrieve his swing set in a very public way, realizing that he was the guy Susan was talking about.

Susan frequently jogged in the morning. Could she have been in the habit of jogging with [REDACTED]? Josh says Susan was missing from home a number of times when he arrived home from work, and he tracked her down at [REDACTED]'s house. So evidently she was not in the habit of letting Josh know when she went to see [REDACTED].

I understand that [REDACTED] is considered weird by the members of his Mormon ward. Most of those people have been supportive of Josh. Josh's neighbors are also supportive of Josh. [REDACTED], who was obsessed with Susan, appears to be trying to grandstand for some reason. Why is he so anxious to "pin" something on Josh, and to convince people that he is Josh's "former friend?"

Early on, I asked Josh about [REDACTED]. I wondered if there could be any connection between [REDACTED], and Susan's disappearance. Josh quickly dismissed the idea. Since [REDACTED]'s violent display last week, the night Josh and Michael returned to Utah, Josh is having second thoughts about his possible involvement in her disappearance.

I mentioned Susan's involvement with [REDACTED] to you in our interview at the South Hill Library here in Puyallup a few weeks ago. I did not know his name, and you never even followed up to find out who it was I was referring to. I was not as concerned about [REDACTED] then as I am now. Are you concerned about him?

Michael Powell tells me that when you interviewed him on the phone after I called you about [REDACTED] several days ago, you said [REDACTED] was just one of maybe 200 other leads you needed to follow up on. There is a growing concern among us that [REDACTED] is not one of 200. He is one of one.

Josh mentioned [REDACTED] several times to me over the last few months. A couple of times I asked him if there was anything between [REDACTED] and Susan. He gave a pretty definite no. After Susan disappeared I asked him again about [REDACTED], and if [REDACTED] might be involved in her disappearance. He again said no. Since [REDACTED] violent show the other night, Josh has begun to look at him differently, and was taken aback to since learn that [REDACTED] was trying to break up the Powells' marriage.

Clearly we are worried about what [REDACTED] may have done, or what he may do to Susan.

By the way, I am sure you know that [REDACTED] ran into Josh's fence and trailer repeatedly when he came for "his" swing set the other night. There were a lot of cameras taking it all in. What you don't know is that Josh received a bizarre message he did not understand from [REDACTED]'s wife earlier that day (the day [REDACTED] came to the Powell house to do his media show about retrieving the swing set). Since Josh did not understand what she was talking about, he deleted that message from [REDACTED]. The morning after [REDACTED] confrontation about the swing set, Josh received a strange and, I guess, more conciliatory message from [REDACTED], apologizing for the damage to Josh's property, and mentioning the damage he did to his own pickup. If that would be helpful to you, we can probably figure out a way to make a recording and e-mail it to you.

Michael should get that narrative to you soon. Thanks

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