

# Worker found slain in locker ; Bedford Park cops probe stabbing at storage facility - Archives: Chicago Tribune

Bedford Park police are trying to determine if a prospective customer fatally stabbed a 27-year-old Alsip woman Saturday and left her in a locker at the Public Storage facility where she worked.

Police received a call about 6:15 p.m. from someone who heard banging and a call for help from an adjacent storage locker at the facility, 6990 W. 79th St., Chief Leo DuBois said in a statement.

Firefighters were needed to get into the locker, where employee Jennifer Boyd was found with multiple stab wounds. Attempts to revive her were unsuccessful, DuBois said.

Lisa Rice, Boyd's cousin, said the family was outraged Boyd was working alone until the 5 p.m. closing.

"I don't feel like Public Storage is very secure," said Rice, who lives in Hazel Crest.

"There are about 425 units here, and one young girl working in that office. She has to lock the office and go out to show units herself. If there was another employee, maybe this could have been stopped."

A supervisor at Public Storage declined to comment.

Boyd may have been attacked while showing a prospective renter one of the lockers, police said. Access to the facility is through a metal gate that is operated by a key-code.

It is not known if anything was taken from the office, the storage lockers or Boyd, said Bedford Park Detective Steven Lindich.

Bedford Park police and officers from the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force were interviewing workers Sunday at nearby businesses. The 3-by-5-foot locker is off a dimly lit hallway that is visible from Sayre Avenue.

Officials would not say whether Boyd was locked inside. A dispatcher said the locker was latched.

Family members called police when Boyd did not show up to play bingo with her mother and grandmother, said Douglas Rice of Chicago, Boyd's uncle.

Rice and his wife, Catherine, set up a memorial for their niece Sunday while police scoured the complex for clues. They placed purple flowers and handwritten notes on the chain-link fence bordering the facility.

"She was the kind of daughter parents dream of," Douglas Rice said. She lived with her grandmother and mother.

In a note on the fence, Rice thanked her "for giving me the honor of being your dad for an evening at the father-daughter dance. God, what fun we had."

Boyd's cousins left notes thanking her for inspiring them to attend college and work hard. Boyd graduated from Lewis University in Romeoville with a degree in child psychology.

"I know that if I have a tough time at school, all I have to do is think of you," wrote Michael Rice, Boyd's 19-year-old cousin. "You were the first one in our family to make it through college, and I know if I think of you, I can do it also."

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