

Autopsy: Don Cornelius Plagued by Seizures before Suicide

Written by Forward Times Staff
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E! News has obtained the graphic autopsy results on “Soul Train” founder Don Cornelius, who died in February at the age of 75.

The documents reaffirm the coroner’s ruling issued then: the cause of death was a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head which entered through the right temple.

The autopsy report states that Cornelius had suffered an aneurysm about 15 years ago which caused him to develop seizures and “as time went on the decedent’s health continued to decline regardless of his medication.”

It notes that on Feb. 1 at approximately 3 a.m., the 75-year-old “Soul Train” host phoned his son and said, “I don’t know how long I can take this.” Moments later, Cornelius apparently shot himself.

His son later told investigators, “[I] found the back door open and detected the odor of smoke ... then found him unresponsive on a chair. 911 was dialed.”

The report, which includes vivid depictions of Don Cornelius’ wounds, reveals that he had been “very depressed about his failing health” for the past six months.

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After paramedics failed to revive him with CPR, the impresario was pronounced dead at 4:56 a.m. No suicide note was found and no foul play was suspected.

The autopsy report also reveals that Cornelius shot himself in the left temple and the bullet exited his right temple.