

[Material that is irrelevant to Los Tocayos Carlos and contains sensitive personal information about one or more persons has been removed.]

To: DeLuna Investigation Team
From: Susan Montez
Re: Meeting with Linda Perales Ayala
Date: July 24, 2004

Linda Perales Ayala
[Material removed]

I met with Linda Perales Ayala in her home **[material removed]** [in] Corpus Christi, TX on July 20, 2004. Linda is the older sister of Mary Ann Perales Benavides. The Perales sisters were a part of Carlos's alibi for his movements on the night of Wanda Lopez's murder. The following are my impressions.

[Material removed] I knocked on the door and it was a while before Linda answered. She said it was not a good time because she was cleaning, she had kids there, the kids had made a big mess, she was dirty, etc. I told her I just wanted to talk to her, I didn't care how the house looked and I loved kids. She laughed and told me to come in. Linda looks quite a lot like her sister Mary Ann, only a little heavier, a little older and more tired. The house was not as bad as she'd described. It was a little messy because there were three very busy little kids running around. Linda said they were three of her grandchildren. Linda's house was in marked contrast to her sister Mary Ann's. The floor was not carpeted and the furniture was old and worn. Linda looked tired and sweaty but her manner was very friendly, like her sister. The kids quieted down and went into another room to play.

Linda remembered Mary Ann calling her up at the time of Carlos DeLuna's trial and

telling her that they would have to go to court and that the police would be contacting her. No one ever contacted Linda, and she never went to court. She was vaguely familiar with the story about the skating rink and the yellow car. Linda's mother had owned a yellow pinto when Mary Ann and Linda were attending Tom Brown Junior High. A kid living next door to them had put sugar in the gas tank and the car had been junked. That happened way before the girl got killed in the store.

Linda thought she had been at her sister's shower that night, but could not remember specifically because there have been a lot of baby showers in her family. It was true that her husband at the time, Herbert "Beto" Vela, was very jealous and would not let her even talk with her brother because he was a man. If she had not attended the shower, it was because of Beto. Linda was married to him for eighteen miserable years. All she did during those eighteen years was raise kids – four of her own and the ones from Beto's family that he brought home for her to raise, including Lindsey, the baby girl Beto's daughter Priscilla had with her half-brother. Lindsey is now 17. Beto had been married to Paula, Priscilla's mother, but he'd also had kids "all over the place."

Linda knew Carlos DeLuna because she liked and hung out with his brother Manuel. She was surprised to learn that Carlos was the younger brother, because "Carlos looked older." Linda remembered Carlos as being "real hyper." He talked fast and drank a lot. They all hung out at the Casino Club. Linda loved that place. She loved to go there and dance.

Linda went to Manuel's house twice. She thought their mother was mentally abusive to them. The mother was especially hard on Rose, who had to do all the cooking and cleaning for Manuel and Carlos. At that time, Linda thought Manuel was a real sweetheart. She remembered Carlos getting into trouble and going to juvie, and some kind of boot camp. He was not a

fighting person. Linda remembered that at some point Carlos left or was kicked out of the house. Manuel had left home when he was 17, and for a time lived in an apartment behind the Casino Club. Linda had some pictures of Carlos in the boot camp, but she threw them away when she and Manuel split up.

Linda and Manuel were married a few years ago, for about a year. Linda found out too late that Manuel was not the same sweet guy she had liked before. He had become a compulsive liar who lived off of women. He worked, but he never got paid. There was always some excuse for him not having a paycheck. Linda said that Manuel had been fired from three jobs that she knew of, for stealing. He worked in sales jobs: an appliance store, a telemarketing job, and a place called Rosewood, where they made caskets. Manuel was hyper. He could not sit down. He wrote hot checks and tried to use her house, which was paid for, for collateral or to put a lien on. Fortunately, it did not go through.

Now Manuel is with a lady that owns an antique store, and he's probably ripping her off, too. Linda said she'd seen Manuel the previous Sunday, when she drove by the antique store. They had all kinds of furniture out on the sidewalk, and there was Manuel, wearing shorts and a hat. He's getting a big belly. I asked Linda if she had stopped to chat. She laughed and said, "No, I just kept on driving." Linda said the antique store has a big white truck, like a Suburban, and also a white van.

Linda suggested that a person who would know a lot about Carlos was Dora Vela. Dora and Rose were good friends, and Dora stayed over at Rose's house. Dora was Beto's half-sister, and her brother Henry Vela was a close friend of Manuel's. Linda thought that Dora might be in jail right now, for drugs.

Linda apologized that she could not be of more help, but said she just could not

remember anything else.