

# INVESTIGATION MEMORANDUM

**TO: JIM LIEBMAN**  
**FROM: PESO CHAVEZ**  
**DATE: APRIL 5 thru 6, 2004**

***RE: CARLOS DELUNA***

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On the above dates I contacted the following individuals either in person or by telephone. In each of my contacts with the following individuals I identified myself, stated who I represented and the purpose of my visit / call to which they understood. The following is a result of those visits / calls.

**Antonia "Toni" Pena**  
2046 ROCKFORD DR.  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411  
361.852.5505

I spoke with a woman who would not identify herself but stated that the DeLuna family no longer lived at this address. This person stated that she knew one of the sisters and would pass on information to her. She would not give me any other information. I left my business card with her. I later found out that the person I contacted at this address was Antonia "Toni" Pena, Carlos DeLuna's half sister.

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**Rose Rhoton**  
Houston, Texas  
361.857.0650(h)

361.947.2010(c)

Shortly after my visit with Ms. Pena I received a call from Ms. Rhoton—Carlos DeLuna's full sister. She had received a call from Ms. Pena who informed her of my presence at her home and gave her my cell number.

Ms. Rhoton stated that both of her parents are deceased. She has 8 siblings but only she, Carlos and Manuel had the same father. According to her, after her mother's death the family became distant and they rarely ever communicate with each other. She stated, "Carlos and I were real close and I tried to help him but none of the other siblings wanted any part of Carlos. They were embarrassed and did not want to be associated with him. My husband and I hired a lawyer out of Dallas after he was convicted".

Although, Ms. Rhoton never attended any of his legal proceedings she was in communication with Carlos during his incarceration. She stated, "He told me he never committed this crime—now if he did I don't know. Now Carlos would steal things right in front of you and deny it—but he would never kill someone".

Just prior to his execution, she received a call from the chaplain informing her of a letter Carlos had written to members of his family. Two weeks after his execution she received the letter. She stated, "As I recall in that letter Carlos did not say that he did not commit the crime nor did he state that he did. He did say that he was very sorry. Now the feeling that I got from the Chaplain was that Carlos had committed the crime". Ms. Rhoton no longer has the letter as it was destroyed in a flood.

Ms. Rhoton was not familiar with any of Carlos or Manuel's friends and was not familiar with a Carlos Hernandez. I asked her how I could locate Manuel who would probably know Mr. Hernandez. She stated, "as far as Manuel goes, I know that he's alive but I have no idea how to get a hold of

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him. Even if you found him I don't think he would even care to help you—everyone in the family pretty much trashed Carlos".

*Please Note: Ms. Rhoton was very emotional during the above conversation and*

*at times broke down and cried.*

**MARY ARENDANDO**

Austin, Texas  
512.259.8826(h)

Ms. Arendando is Carlos DeLuna's older sister. She attended the trial of her brother and was aware of her brother's testimony implicating Carlos Hernandez. She did not know Mr. Hernandez nor did she know how to contact her brother Manuel. She stated, "My brother was convicted on only circumstantial evidence".

**CARROLL L. PICKETT**

102 Fairway View Ln.  
Montgomery, TX 77356  
936.588.6441(h)

I contacted the Rev. Pickett who was the chaplain at Huntsville, Texas during the execution of Carlos DeLuna. Rev. Pickett provided me with a list of individuals that were on the visitors or observers list for Mr. DeLuna's execution.

Rose Mary DeLuna  
Brad Rhoton  
Daniel & Maria Conejos  
Rebeca Marquez  
Marie Arandondo  
Vickie Gutierrez  
Rosie Esquivel  
Ralph & Julia Zubay

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Other previous addresses used by the Deluna family were located but individuals either did not know who they were or did not know how to contact them. Those addresses included the following.

3853 CARROLL LN.  
Corpus Christi, TX

2837 NIAGARA  
Corpus Christi, TX 78405