

Forensic Document Examiners

July 24, 2024

RE: REPORT

I have reviewed the following documents sent to my office. I have examined and compared the questioned document to the exemplars to determine if they were written by the same person. All documents are machine copies.

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS:

Q-1: Note reading, "Anyone who entered the capitol without Proper Authority should leave immediately."

EXEMPLARS:

K-1 – K-24: Ten pages of notes written in the normal course of business. (See Addendum)

EXAMINATION CONDUCTED:

I adhere to SWGDOC regarding the Standard for Examination of Handwritten Items as well as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Academy Standards Board (ADB).

The documents were examined using magnification and strong lighting. All of the handwriting characteristics were compared between the known writing and the questioned writing.

COMMENTS:

In order to establish that the handwriting was written by a particular person, an examination with known genuine handwriting must show substantial agreement in sufficient handwriting characteristics to identify the maker and eliminate the possibility of any other writer. The handwriting characteristics that are evaluated include line quality, pressure patterns, rhythm, slant, size and proportions, spacing including the utilization of space and spatial alignment, initial and terminal strokes, writing speed, legibility, skill level, letter forms, types of connectors, method of construction, and pattern formations.

All of the handwriting characteristics were compared between the questioned and known writing to determine if the handwriting was written by the person who completed the notes. The handwriting was examined and compared using magnification.

The first step in the examination of signatures is to determine if the questioned writing contains enough complexity to make it difficult to copy. Complexity is measured by the number of changes of direction in the writing line and the intersections that occur in the signatures. The exemplars are then compared to the questioned writing to determine if they are suitable for comparison. Suitability is based upon the same type of writing signatures to signatures, handwriting versus handwriting, and handprinting com-

403 Haslett Road Joppa, Maryland 21085 410-679-8257

Email: fordocexam@comcast.net

www.forensicdocumentexaminers.com

REPORT (continued)

pared to handprinting although some similar characteristics can be found when comparing handwriting to handprinting and signatures. Ideally, exemplars should be written within two years of the questioned handwriting although writing samples outside the two-year range can be of assistance to us in making a determination. All of the handwriting characteristics are then compared between the questioned and known writing to determine if the handwriting is genuine, disguised or simulated. The handwriting was examined and compared using magnification.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the documents submitted, the evidence supports my opinion that the handwriting that appears on the Questioned Document was written in the same hand as the exemplars.

COMMENTS:

In order to establish that a questioned signature was written by a particular person, an examination with known genuine signatures must show substantial agreement in sufficient handwriting characteristics to identify the maker and eliminate the possibility of any other writer. The handwriting characteristics that are evaluated include line quality, pressure patterns, rhythm, slant, size and proportions, spacing including the utilization of space and spatial alignment, initial and terminal strokes, writing speed, legibility, skill level, letter forms, types of connectors, method of construction, and pattern formations.

In order to make an identification of authenticity there must be sufficient similarities and no fundamental unexplainable differences. Any significant unexplainable differences will be sufficient to eliminate the writer. There are no significant differences between the questioned writing and the known exemplars. In fact, there are significant similarities between the questioned hand printing and the exemplars particularly true because of the unusual letter forms utilized by the writer. It is the similarity in handwriting characteristics that enabled me to identify the writer

Attached is a copy of my current statement of qualifications which sets forth my background and experience that qualifies me to undertake the examination requested and render the opinions given in this report.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I shall be prepared to go into greater detail.

See the Addendum for details showing similarities between the questioned note and the exemplars.

Respectfully,



Katherine Mainolfi Koppenhaver
Certified Questioned Document Examiner
Enclosure