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ON ANNIVERSARY OF HOFFA DISAPPEARANCE, NEW REVELATIONS

**Follows on Heels of Cannes Blockbuster Deal for New
Scorsese/De Niro/Pacino Film, Based on Book**

New Edition Corroborates details of Hoffa, Gallo and JFK Murders

July 30 marks forty-one years since the disappearance of former Teamsters President James Hoffa. During that month, an expanded edition of the *New York Times* bestseller **I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES: Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran and Closing the Case on Jimmy Hoffa** by Charles Brandt (Steerforth Press, July 6, 2016, \$17.00) will be released featuring 57 pages of corroborating information not available for previous editions.

The book will be the basis of a new film, *The Irishman*, directed by Martin Scorsese starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino, and adapted by Academy Award-Winning screenwriter Steve Zaillian, it was announced at this year's Cannes Film Festival, where the reportedly \$100 million project produced a record-setting \$50-million foreign distribution deal.

The new edition of **I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES** features a conclusion that includes additional corroboration that has emerged for the murders not only of Hoffa, but of mobster "Crazy Joey" Gallo and President John F. Kennedy, since the paperback publication of the book in 2005. Author Brandt could not disclose this information previously because the principals were still alive, and he had reason to fear for his own safety. He shared much of what appears in the conclusion in a face-to-face meeting in New York with Scorsese, De Niro and Zaillian as they made preparations for their movie in 2009.

When originally published in 2004, the book made the *New York Times* bestseller list and was the #1 bestselling true crime title in the country. It tells the story of Frank Sheeran, a Teamsters official and Mafia hit man who was known to law enforcement. He was close to both Jimmy

Hoffa, whom he murdered, and the powerful Mafia godfather Russell Bufalino, who ordered the hit.

The book's author, Charles Brandt, is a former homicide prosecutor and chief deputy attorney general of Delaware who was in private practice when he got Sheeran released early from prison on a medical furlough in 1991. In 1999, they began to spend time together and Brandt, a nationally recognized expert in the interrogation of reluctant witnesses, recorded Sheeran's story, researched, cross-referenced and confirmed the information Sheeran gave to him over five years. The result was **I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES**.

The three most startling claims in the book, which ran contrary to much that had been written or appeared in documentaries before were:

- Sheeran was part of the team that killed Hoffa in 1975, and the triggerman.
- Sheeran killed Joey Gallo in the infamous 1972 gangland slaying at Umberto's Clamhouse in New York's Little Italy in front of numerous witnesses.
- Sheeran had information that bolstered the position of those who believed the Mafia was behind the assassination of JFK.

A paperback edition of **I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES** provided numerous corroborations not included in the original hardcover edition.

Now, eleven years later, among the current revelations are:

- **Russell Bufalino had final script approval for the film, *The Godfather*.**
- **When Big Billy D'Elia, Russell Bufalino's successor as boss of the Bufalino crime family, cooperated with the FBI, he told them the answers to the Hoffa mystery can be found in I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES.** He had previously inscribed a copy of the book with the words, "Sometimes you can believe everything you read." Bufalino, D'Elia and Sheeran comprised an inner circle of three, as evidenced by diamond-studded rings Bufalino had made only for the three of them.
- **When D'Elia turned states evidence, The FBI interviewed Brandt and subpoenaed his Sheeran tapes** which he gladly produced and which the FBI copied.
- **Former FBI special agent Bob Garrity, who headed the team that investigated the Hoffa disappearance starting in 1975 and helped write the "Hoffex memo" that correctly identified all of the participants in the murder, helped Brandt in 2005 to investigate the murder site's history. The findings of that investigation further corroborated Sheeran's account.**

- **Retired police officer Jeff Hansen of the Taylor Michigan Police Department, met with Brandt in Detroit and demonstrated the ease of cremating a body in Detroit at the time.**
- **Retired New York City Police Department Organized Crime Homicide detective Joe Coffey revealed to Brandt that he had concocted the “trio of Italian gunmen” story that circulated in the media following “Crazy Joey” Gallo’s killing to filter out phony tips.** He sent a copy of **I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES** to his contacts in what remained of the Bufalino family in northern Pennsylvania, who told him: “It’s all true. They’re all shocked up there.”
- As recounted in the original edition, Bufalino had told Hoffa that people felt he had been “demonstrating a failure to show appreciation... for Dallas” and later told Sheeran that “if [the mafia] could take out the president, they could take out the president of the Teamsters”. Newly released FBI reports cited in David Kaiser’s 2008 book *The Road to Dallas* corroborates mafia involvement using mob boss Carlos Marcello’s statements: Marcello “suffered from the delusion that he was back home in New Orleans, and he began speaking to his attendants as though they were trusted associates. He discussed a meeting he had just held with ‘Provenzano’ in New York, he suggested that his men visit a nightclub, and he spoke of an imminent celebration. And on three occasions during a two-day period Marcello remarked: “That Kennedy, that smiling motherfucker, we’ll fix him in Dallas . . . we are going to get that Kennedy in Dallas”. **Sheeran’s account of the involvement not just of the Mafia in Kennedy’s murder, but of the Genovese family and Provenzano in particular, is corroborated by Marcello, and Marcello is corroborated in turn by Sheeran.**
- **Comments by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** in a 2012 interview with Charlie Rose **also confirmed comments Sheeran had made previously to Brandt.** This included what RFK thought of the Warren Commission and of the Mafia’s involvement in his brother’s murder.

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About the author

Born and raised in New York City, **Charles Brandt** is the grandson of Italian immigrants who could not read or write any language, but were his lifelong inspiration; and the son of parents whose schooling stopped at the 8th grade due to family finances.

Brandt graduated from Stuyvesant High School in 1959. On graduation from the University of Delaware in 1963, he became a junior high English teacher in Queens, then a Welfare investigator in East Harlem. On graduation from Brooklyn Law School in 1969, he became a prosecutor in Delaware at a time of lawlessness and new court rules restricting police work, when prosecutors were assigned to investigate homicides before an arrest was made. Adept at

interrogation, he was promoted to Chief Deputy Attorney General, his state's second highest law enforcement officer.

Brandt wrote *The Right to Remain Silent* (1988), a detective novel based on major cases he solved, and it was praised by President Ronald Reagan. On leaving the office in 1976, Brandt had four men on death row. He then defended major homicide cases, such as the President of the Pagan motorcycle club accused of killing two witnesses in New Jersey.

Brandt then transitioned to plaintiffs' medical malpractice. The Philly mob retained him to secure the early release from jail on medical grounds of Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran, the prime suspect in the Hoffa case. They became friends, and Brandt traveled in Mafia circles with Sheeran for close to 5 years. He used his interrogation skills and Sheeran's remorse to solve the major homicides of Hoffa, Crazy Joey Gallo and President Kennedy for the true crime **I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES**. Martin Scorsese is directing a film version adapted by Oscar winning screenwriter Steve Zaillian and starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino.

Brandt became friends with FBI agents Joe Pistone, the undercover Mafia wrecking ball with whom he co-wrote *Donnie Brasco: Unfinished Business* (2007), and Lin DeVecchio, the intrepid supervisor of the Mafia Commission Case with whom he co-wrote *We're Going to Win This Thing* (2011).

Brandt and his wife Nancy have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. They live in Delaware and Idaho. He is working on a new Mafia book and is in demand as a public speaker.

I HEARD YOU PAINT HOUSES: Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran and Closing the Case on Jimmy Hoffa by Charles Brandt

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Audiobook also available from Random House Audio, narrated by Scott Brick. Digital review copies available upon request.