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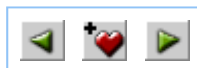
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Lawyer: Abramoff Willing To Discuss Murder

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-  **Video from Friday: CBS4's Gary Nelson with Abramoff's denial.**

Aug 16, 2005 11:34 am US/Eastern

MIAMI (AP) Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff, accused of federal fraud charges in a casino fleet purchase deal, is willing to submit to an interview with Florida investigators trying to solve the gangland-style murder of the businessman who sold the boats, Abramoff's attorney said Tuesday.

The lawyer, Neal Sonnett, said after a brief scheduling hearing in federal court that Abramoff had expected to meet with Fort Lauderdale homicide detectives shortly after the February 2001 slaying of Konstantinos "Gus" Boulis.

The interview never happened, Sonnett said, and now Fort Lauderdale detectives are expressing new interest in talking with Abramoff.

"If they want to interview Mr. Abramoff, I'd certainly be willing to set that up," Sonnett said. "He's always been willing to cooperate."

Sonnett said he was unaware of any information Abramoff might have about the killing.

Fort Lauderdale police did not immediately return a call Tuesday seeking comment.

Abramoff, 46, and 41-year-old Adam Kidan are charged in a six-count grand jury indictment with conspiracy and wire fraud in the September 2000 purchase of SunCruz Casinos from Boulis. Prosecutors say the pair concocted a fake \$23 million wire transfer to make it appear to lenders they were putting a sizable stake of their own money into the deal.

Kidan, who lives in New York, pleaded not guilty last week. U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen T. Brown set an Aug. 29 court date for Abramoff to travel from Maryland to Miami to enter his plea. Both are free on bond.

A few months following the \$147.5 million sale of SunCruz, Boulis was shot to death in his car after it was blocked by other vehicles and an assailant pulled alongside in what police say was an apparent hit. The killing occurred after weeks of acrimony stemming from the sale, including a

physical altercation between Kidan and Boulis, who also founded the Miami Subs fast-food chain.

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