



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 27, 2019

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Release #: 258

UPDATE – Joint Flagler/Volusia Sheriff's Office Investigation Solves Volusia County Homicide Victim Identified, Suspect Arrested

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) responded to a suspicious death on Monday afternoon just before 4:00 p.m. on Florida Avenue in Bunnell. The deceased has been positively identified as 31-year-old Jillian Marie Petrotto (DOB 4/30/1988) of Longwood, Florida.

Investigations by the FCSO Investigative Services Division's Major Case Unit identified a potential suspect in the unreported homicide, 51-year-old Ronald Collins (DOB 12/24/1968). Collins had rented the home in Bunnell where the body was discovered.



Collins booking photo from his December 26th arrest in Volusia County.

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Through investigative measures, it was determined that the homicide took place in Volusia County. FCSO Detectives worked with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) to make contact with Collins and determined that he was involved. Collins gave a full confession to FCSO and VCSO Detectives on Thursday evening, December 26, 2019.

"Our detectives and CSI did a great job and worked through the holidays," said Flagler Sheriff Rick Staly. "Within a few hours FCSO detectives developed a person of interest and immediately worked with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office to jointly solve this case. This should send a message to criminals that regardless of jurisdictional boundaries we all work together and we will get you."

VCSO placed Collins under arrest for Second Degree Murder. He is being held in the Volusia County Branch Jail with no bond allowed.

Date: December 24, 2019
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FCSO Deputies Working Death Investigation on Florida Ave in Bunnell

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) responded to a suspicious death on Monday afternoon just before 4:00 p.m. on Florida Avenue in Bunnell. An increased law enforcement presence will remain in the area.

"This is the very beginning stages of a suspicious death investigation," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "We ask that if anyone has any information regarding this death, please call us."

Anyone who may have information on this case is asked to contact the FCSO at 386-313-4911 in reference to Case Number 2019-118157. You may also contact Crime Stoppers at 1-888-277-TIPS where you could be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000.00.

This is all of the information available for release at this time. More information will be provided as the investigation continues.

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