



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018

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Drug Trafficker Charged With 1st Degree Murder in Overdose Related Death

On October 28th, 2017, around noon, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office responded to 19 Front Street in Palm Coast regarding a possible overdose. Responding deputies and paramedics found 23-year-old Savannah DeAngelis unconscious. Savannah was taken to the Florida Hospital Flagler and was placed on life support. Nearly two weeks later, Savannah died.

The Major Case Unit of the Investigative Services Division started a homicide investigation and Detective Nicole Thomas was assigned to the case. The investigation revealed that Joseph Colon was seen on surveillance video entering Savannah's subdivision around 11:30 a.m. on October 28th. Witnesses reported seeing a male driving a black Nissan stop at the front her residence. Savannah ran to the car and was given something from within the vehicle. The vehicle then quickly left.

At 11:55 a.m., Savannah's father finds her unconscious on the bathroom floor. In the bathroom with Savannah is a syringe, an empty baggie, and a baggie containing a substance that tested positive for heroin and one additional substance, believed to be Fentanyl.

On November 6, 2017, as the murder investigation was on-going, Joseph Colon was stopped on a traffic violation and arrested and charged with trafficking in hydromorphone, possession of heroin, crack cocaine and Alprazolam with intent to distribute, possession of oxycodone, and driving with a suspended license. He has been held at the Flagler County Detention Facility since the arrest.



Joseph Colon, DOB 5/24/1983, in a November 6, 2017 booking photo.

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On Tuesday, February 20, the Grand Jury indicted Joseph Colon, a 34-year-old drug dealer, on the charge of 1st degree murder in the overdose death of Savannah DeAngelis.

Florida State Statute 782.04 was amended on October 1, 2017, allowing drug dealers to be charged with murder if their drug dealing results in a death. This is the first case in Flagler County where a drug dealer has been charged with murder resulting from an overdose death.

“In 2017, I directed that our agency investigate all overdoses in the hopes of identifying the poison peddlers,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “I also directed that all overdose deaths be investigated as a murder investigation. I hope this arrest helps bring justice to the family and to anyone else who has been the victim of Joseph Colon, a deadly poison pusher.”

Sheriff Staly and State Attorney R.J. Larizza held a joint press conference on Wednesday afternoon, along with the DeAngelis family, to discuss the Grand Jury indictment and subsequent arrest of Colon for murder. The live stream of the press conference is available on the agency Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/flaglercounty.sheriffsoffice>



Charles, Christina, and Renee DeAngelis, State Attorney RJ Larizza, and Sheriff Staly.

Sheriff Staly addressed all drug dealers by saying, “to the drug dealers in Flagler County – if you pedal poison in this community we are coming after you. If you murder someone with your drugs, we will find you, track you down and arrest you for murder. It will be our goal that you spend the rest of your life in prison.”

Sheriff Staly specifically thanked Detective Thomas for her hard work in this case and all the other agency members that assisted, from CSI to the Special Investigations Unit and other detectives that built a strong case. He then thanked State Attorney R.J. Larizza and his staff for working alongside the FCSO to build this case and then present it to the Grand Jury.

Colon remains in the Flagler County Detention Facility with no bond.

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