NEWS RELEASE

Date: Friday, June 29, 2018
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Woman Charged for Helping Missing Teen Run Away

The Flagler County Sheriff's Office arrested Kinda Dixon, 39, on Friday afternoon and charged her with Interference with Child Custody and Giving False Information to Law Enforcement during an Investigation. The charges stem from an 8-month investigation into a missing juvenile, Samantha Posella. At the time Samantha went missing, she was 17 years old and left home without clothing, money, a vehicle, or a cell phone.

During the initial investigation, Kindra admitted to buying Samantha a cell phone just prior to her going missing. A witness also advised Kindra told him that she was hiding Samantha in the backseat of her vehicle. Investigators sought to obtain information about the phone in an effort to locate the missing child. During the course of the investigation, Kindra provided several different accounts about the phone in an effort to hinder law enforcement from locating the missing girl.

Even after Samantha turned 18 years of age, and could no longer be compelled to return home, Kindra repeatedly provided false and misleading information to Law Enforcement that severely hindered the investigation. When investigators assured Kindra that if she provided information that helped locate Samantha then she would not face criminal charges, she still refused to cooperate.

Since Samantha had disappeared without any means to do so, without any leads to her whereabouts, and evidence that Kindra was knowingly providing false information, the Sheriff's Office began to reevaluate the case as a potential homicide.

Kindra's home at the time of Samantha's disappearance had to be processed as a crime scene. Surveillance was put on Kindra to ensure she was not destroying evidence from a homicide. The State Attorney's Office Homicide Investigations Unit became involved. Investigators met with FBI agents and arrangements were being made to utilize cadaver dogs in a search. This all came at a considerable cost to tax payers, and was all avoidable had Kindra been honest with Law Enforcement on where Samantha had gone.

"Kindra claimed to believe that she was helping to protect Samantha from abuse," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "Yet she made no effort to contact the Florida Department of Children and Families, there is no record of her contacting the National Runaway hotlines as she claimed she had, and she never called Law Enforcement to express concerns for abuse. There are systems in place to protect juveniles from

abuse and she utilized none of them. Instead, she spent 8 months deceiving Law Enforcement, wasting taxpayer dollars for an unnecessary investigation, and keeping Samantha's parents from knowing if their daughter was even alive."

A photograph of Samantha Posella taken by a South Florida Police Officer on June 26, 2018.

After FCSO sent out a news release on Tuesday naming Kindra as person of interest in Samantha's disappearance, Samantha approached a police officer in South Florida and identified herself as a missing person. When Samantha was located, she admitted that Kindra had purchased and given her a cell phone on the night she went missing and that this entire 8-month investigation could have been avoided had Kindra simply cooperated with law enforcement.

In all, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office utilized an estimated 121 man-hours to investigate a case that could have been solved within a few hours if Kindra had cooperated with Law Enforcement. Kindra is now being booked into the Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility and will be held on a $3,000.00 bond. As part of her prosecution, FCSO is seeking a minimum of $4,114.00 in investigative costs as restitution for the taxpayers.

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