



Chief Dana Wingert

Press Release

For immediate release

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18 May 2024

Des Moines Police Department detectives are conducting a death investigation after the discovery of a deceased person within a home in the River Bend neighborhood.

On 18 May 2024, at approximately 11:37 a.m., Des Moines Police Department patrol officers responded to the 1400 block of 4th Street to investigate a report of a deceased person within a home.

Officers arrived and discovered a deceased adult female within the home. Officers observed apparent traumatic injury and requested detectives respond to the scene.

Des Moines Police Department detectives are investigating this incident as a homicide. Detectives are interviewing potential witnesses, examining evidence, and following investigative leads.

The Des Moines Police Department Crime Scene Investigation Unit is processing the scene for evidence.

This is the fourth homicide of 2024.

Des Moines Police Department detectives continue this investigation. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available for release.

The next scheduled update on this investigation will be 11:00 a.m., 19 May 2024.

UPDATE: 11:00 a.m., 19 May 2024

The deceased person in this investigation has been identified as a 51-year-old, female, Des Moines resident. Her name will be shared following completion of family notifications.

The cause of death will be confirmed at forensic autopsy.

Des Moines Police Department detectives continue to investigate this incident. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available for release.

UPDATE: 1:30 p.m., 20 May 2024

The deceased person in this investigation has been identified as 51-yr-old Christy Lynn Watson. Attached to this email is a photograph provided by her family.

Forensic autopsy has confirmed Watson sustained gunshot injury.

Evidence in this case indicates that the residence that this incident occurred in had been unoccupied for a period of time. Evidence indicates that Watson had sought shelter within the residence prior to her death.

Des Moines Police Department detectives continue to investigate this incident. Additional information will be shared as becomes available for release.

Sgt. Paul Parizek