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Kenosha Police Department  
MEDIA RELEASE

**UPDATE: Death Investigation Nedweski Park**

On July 9, 2012 at 10:20 am, the Kenosha Fire Department responded to Nedweski Park in reference to a brush fire. While the fire was being extinguished, the body of a female was located in the burn area. The investigation determined the victim was Lashe Zalar, 20 years of age from Kenosha, WI.

Since July 9, the Kenosha Police Department along with several other agencies including, but not limited to, the Kenosha Fire Department, Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office, Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, and the Kenosha County District Attorney's Office have conducted an extensive investigation into the cause of death of Ms. Zalar.

On August 1, 2012, the Kenosha Police Department forwarded a request to the Kenosha County District Attorney to charge Joshua P. Braithwaite (01-06-1991) with first degree intentional homicide in connection with the death of Lashe Zalar. The Police Department will be requesting additional charges, which will be identified by the District Attorney's Office at the time of charging. The suspect is currently in the Kenosha County Jail on an absconder warrant from the Wisconsin Division of Corrections.

I will not discuss the specifics of the investigation at this time; however, I want to acknowledge the cooperation and work of the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory in making this homicide investigation a priority. The DNA evidence has a critical role in this investigation. According to the forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy, Ms. Zalar's death was related to the fire.

I anticipate that the suspect will have his initial appearance on Thursday, August 2, 2012, at 1:00 pm. I am unable to answer further questions about this investigation at this time. I anticipate details supporting the requested charges will be outlined in the criminal complaint when it is released at the time of the intake court appearance.

I must acknowledge the cooperation from Lashe's family during this devastating time, and I offer my deepest sympathy to the family. Their cooperation and understanding has allowed the investigation to move forward.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of the many members of my department and others who have assisted in the investigation. I thank the community for your patience as we worked to secure the evidence needed to identify the person responsible for this crime.

While I am confident the individual responsible for this crime is in custody, there continues to be a lot of work that will be done on this case, and I encourage anyone who may have information about this case to contact the lead investigator, Detective Josh Hecker, at (262) 605-5264.

The Kenosha Police Department will not make any further statements in reference to this investigation, if you are interested in further details please contact the Kenosha County District Attorney's Office on August 2, 2012.

The family of Lashe has again requested that their privacy please be respected at this very difficult time in their lives.

John W. Morrissey  
Chief of Police  
Kenosha Police Department