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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shortly before midnight on January 17th, 2014 officers from the Lawrence Police Department responded to 2905 W. 26th Street to check the welfare of a resident. Sarah Brooke Gonzales McLinn, age 19, had not been heard from by family members since January 14th. Ms. McLinn's family contacted Lawrence Police who responded to the home to attempt to contact Ms. McLinn.

By looking through a window of the home, officers were able to see what appeared to be a person lying on the floor inside. Officers entered the home and discovered Mr. Harold Sasko, a resident of the home, deceased. Officers noted he suffered traumatic injuries. The home was quickly searched for other occupants and, after finding none, secured it as a crime scene. Ms. McLinn and a 2008 Nissan Altima registered to Mr. Sasko were not located at the scene.

Officers worked with the Douglas County District Attorney's Office in applying for a search warrant for the home. Off-duty investigators were called in during the overnight hours and crime scene technicians from the Kansas Bureau of Investigations were contacted for additional assistance. Ms. McLinn and Mr. Sasko's vehicle were entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which distributed an alert nationwide requesting assistance in locating both.

Investigators worked throughout the day Saturday to collect evidence and attempted to locate Ms. McLinn. Friends and family were contacted and information was released to the media in an effort to generate additional leads, which would aid in locating Ms. McLinn and/or Mr. Sasko's vehicle.

For more than a week investigators pursued leads locally and throughout multiple states and jurisdictions. In the evening hours of Saturday, January 25th the Lawrence Police Department was contacted by the Everglades National Park Service Law Enforcement Rangers, who inquired about Ms. McLinn and Mr. Sasko's vehicle. We confirmed both were wanted in connection with a homicide investigation.

Ms. McLinn was detained by federal authorities on an unrelated drug charge and the vehicle was impounded. Lawrence Police Department Detectives flew to Miami, Florida Sunday morning to personally verify the finding. They were also able to verify Ms. McLinn appeared uninjured. Detectives interviewed Ms. McLinn and processed associated evidence in Florida.

Based upon our investigation, evidence suggests Ms. McLinn gained control over Mr. Sasko and then killed him. On Sunday, January 26th the District Attorney's office requested a warrant for Ms. McLinn for intentional premeditated first degree murder. The warrant was served on Sunday. Florida authorities released their charges today and she is being detained on our warrant. Ms. McLinn will be extradited back to Kansas. She will have to choose either to waive extradition or have an extradition hearing in Florida. If she waives extradition we anticipate she will return to Kansas as early as this week. If she does not, the process could take several months. Once she returns to Kansas, she will have a first appearance in Douglas County District Court on her charge. The charge listed is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County District Attorney's Office thank all law enforcement agencies who assisted us with the investigation including: The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Attorney's Office (Florida Division), the Texas Ranger Division, the Bishop Texas Police Department, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Everglades National Park Service Law Enforcement Rangers and the Miami-Dade Police Department. We also greatly appreciate the tips and information community members, family and friends have provided thus far.