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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Mount Prospect Police Charge Person With Concealment Of A Death



Juan Pio Toto

On November 11, 2024, Mount Prospect Police charged Juan Pio Toto, 26-years-old, of 1498 South Brownstone, with one felony count of concealment of a death. This charge stems from the investigation into the death of Atalia Pucheta Martinez, whose body was found in the Busse Woods Forest Preserve on November 9, 2024.

On November 9, 2024, Mount Prospect Police Officers responded to the 1400 block of Brownstone Court for the report of a missing twenty-three-year-old female, Atalia Pucheta Martinez. On November 9, 2024, at approximately 9:30 AM, the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department and the Cook County Forest Preserve Police Department conducted a death investigation at the Busse Woods Forest Preserve after a body had been located. After the body was positively identified as Atalia Pucheta Martinez, the Mount Prospect Police Department began conducting a death investigation.

During the investigation, Mount Prospect Police Detectives interviewed Pucheta Martinez's ex-boyfriend, Juan Pio Toto. Pio Toto told detectives that in the early morning hours on November 9, 2024, he and Pucheta Martinez had an altercation in the parking lot outside of their apartment. Pio Toto told detectives Pucheta Martinez fell to the ground during the altercation



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and hit her head. Pio Toto told detectives that he placed Pucheta Martinez in the backseat of his vehicle and drove her to a wooded area and removed her from the vehicle and placed her body in a wooded area. Pio Toto told detectives he left her in the wooded area and drove away in his vehicle.

After consulting with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Juan Pio Toto was arrested and charged with one felony count of concealment of a death, which is a class 4 felony. On November 12, 2024, Pio Toto was transported to the 3rd District Cook County Courthouse in Rolling Meadows for a detention hearing. Under the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, this class 4 felony charge of concealment of a death is not a detainable offense. Per Illinois State law, Juan Pio Toto was released and placed on electronic monitoring. Pio Toto was also ordered by the Judge to surrender his passport, not to leave the state, and to have no contact with Pucheta Martinez's family. His next court appearance is December 6, 2024, in room 108 at 9:00 AM of the Rolling Meadows Courthouse.

The Mount Prospect Police Department continues to investigate Pucheta Martinez's death and continues to work with the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office on this case. The Medical Examiner's Office is waiting for further test results before making a final conclusion on the cause and manner of death in this case. Any potential additional charges being filed would occur after an official ruling on the cause and manner of death of Pucheta Martinez by the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.

The public is reminded that criminal charges are not evidence of guilt and that all defendants in a criminal case are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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