



GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT / ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, February 11, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GAINESVILLE, FLA – A recovery operation is now underway involving the investigation into missing person 23 year old Hannah Brim. Investigators with the Gainesville Police Department and Alachua County Sheriff's Office have gained forensic evidence from the investigation that leads them to believe that Brim is no longer alive.

GPD investigators are also speaking with a person of interest in the case, **Nelson Armas, 28** who is believed to be the last person to see Brim alive. Armas is currently incarcerated at the Alachua County Jail on domestic battery charges completely unrelated to this case.

Brim was reported missing on January 23rd by her family. There have been no signs of Brim either in person or electronically since January 19th. Early in the investigation, GPD detectives identified that evidence and a possible crime scene may be outside of the city limits of Gainesville, and asked the Alachua County Sheriff's Office for assistance.

During the investigation, detectives identified specific areas in Alachua County where evidence, including possibly the body of Brim may be located. GPD has requested that the Alachua County Sheriff's Office search these areas since they fall outside of the city limits of Gainesville.

Portions of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team, Criminal Investigations Division and Crowd Management Team spent all of Wednesday searching several densely wooded areas in the Orange Heights area. The search continues this morning and, due to the vast area required to be searched, as well as the difficult terrain and environmental conditions we have experienced, several requests for mutual aid have been made to neighboring jurisdictions.

As a result, a contingency of approximately 150 law enforcement officers from ACSO, GPD, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Union County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Correction and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are assisting with today's operation.

At this time, law enforcement is not requesting assistance from any outside private or civilian search organizations or individuals. The searches being conducted are based on both physical and electronic forensic information obtained over the course of this investigation and will conclude when leads resulting from that information have been exhausted.

We would urge any members of the public who have additional information or remember seeing anything unusual or suspicious in the area of Orange Heights from January 19th through February 2nd to contact ACSO or GPD at 352-955-1818. You can also text keyword GPDFL plus a tip to 274637 to provide anonymous information.

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