



News Release

Alachua County Sheriff's Office
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For Immediate Release:

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Media Advisory: Update to Fire Death Investigation

Alachua County Sheriff's Office deputies continue to work the suspicious fire that occurred at 809 Victoria Court, Gainesville. Alachua County Fire Rescue and the State Fire Marshal's Office are assisting the investigation into the fire's origins. Detectives are also working with the State Medical Examiner's Office in order to determine the victim's identity and exact cause of death. At this time, detectives believe the death to be a homicide.

Over the course of the investigation last night, detectives developed a person of interest. Detectives and patrol deputies began trying to locate Wesley Ryan Smith, 12/19/1989. At approximately 4:25 a.m., deputies located the vehicle Smith was believed to be driving at the Holden Park Boat Ramp (9725 Holden Park Road). Smith was found deceased inside the vehicle with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Law enforcement personnel will continue to work together to develop a timeline of events and determine the relationship between the suspect and victim. Updates will follow as they become available.

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