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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Hampton Meadows Homicide Victim Identified

The Union County Sheriff's Office has identified the homicide victim found inside a Hampton Meadows Road residence as **15 year old Zaria Joshalyn Burgess**, of Monroe. Burgess is the daughter of Joshua Lee Burgess, who faces a charge of murder in connection with her death.

Deputies located the victim deceased inside the suspect's residence Sunday morning after Burgess appeared at the Sheriff's Office and informed a dispatcher that he was there to turn himself in. Upon further questioning, Burgess provided detailed information concerning his daughter's death and where her body was located.

Detectives, crime scene investigators and an agent from the NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) spent many hours conducting interviews and performing a detailed crime scene search. Numerous items of evidence were seized for further analysis.

The official cause of death will be determined by the Medical Examiner once the autopsy is complete.

This investigation is ongoing.

Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

