



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

January 2, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Body found at landfill identified

The Newark Police Department is releasing the name and a photograph of the victim discovered at the Cherry Island Landfill on 12/31/2010.

The victim has been identified as 66 year old John P. Wheeler, 3rd of the 100 Block of West 3rd Street, New Castle, Delaware.

The Newark Police Department is asking for the public's assistance regarding the whereabouts of Mr. Wheeler from Tuesday, 12/28/2010 through Friday, 12/31/2010. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Nicholas Sansone at 302-366-7110 ext. 135 or Nick.Sansone@cj.state.de.us. You can send an anonymous text message tip by texting 302NPD and your message to TIP411. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, where a reward may be available.

****The investigation is ongoing and additional details will be released when they are available****

-End-

Original Press Release Follows..

The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Media Contact: Lt. Mark A. Farrall, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or mark.farrall@cj.state.de.us



PRESS RELEASE, Continued

December 31, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Newark Police Investigating Body Discovered at Wilmington Landfill

The Newark Police Criminal Investigations Division is currently investigating the case of a body being discovered at the Cherry Island Landfill on 12/31/2010. At approximately 9:56 am the Wilmington Police Department was called to the landfill to investigate a report of a body being dumped out of a Waste Management refuse truck. The subsequent investigation by WPD revealed that all of the stops that the Waste Management truck made occurred in the City of Newark. Newark Detectives then became involved in the investigation.

The Delaware Medical Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy on the victim and ruled the death a homicide. The identity of the victim is not being released at this time, pending the notification of kin.

Based on information learned during the autopsy, it is believed that the body was not in the dumpster for a long period of time. All of the pickups made by the refuse truck were of dumpsters. The first pickup of a dumpster was at 4:20 am on 12/31/2010. Due to the body's position/location in the refuse truck, it appears that the dumpster was emptied at the beginning of the route. Anyone seeing suspicious or unusual activity in the early morning hours of 12/31/2010 near the below listed locations is asked to provide that information to police.

The locations of interest are as follows:

1. WSFS Bank, College Square
2. Newark Library, Library Avenue
3. Gardens of White Chapel, White Chapel Drive
4. Hudson State Service Center, Ogletown Road
5. Newark Toyota, Marrows Road
6. McDonald's, E Main Street
7. Attila Wings, E Main Street
8. Newark Emergency Center, E Main Street
9. Bing's Bakery, E Main Street
10. Goodwill, Newark Shopping Center

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The investigation is ongoing and additional details will be released when they are available

Anyone with additional information about this incident should contact Detective Nicholas Sansone at 302-366-7110 ext. 135 or Nick.Sansone@cj.state.de.us. You can send an anonymous text message tip by texting 302NPD and your message to TIP411. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, where a reward may be available.

-End-

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