



## DEARBORN COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

**CAMERON MCCREARY, MDI  
CORONER**

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Bone located in submerged vehicle recovered from the Ohio River on October 14, 2021 positively identified.

On Friday, January 7, 2022 I was contacted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Laboratory confirming that they were able to positively identify the recovered bone as that of Stephanie Van Nguyen. The fibula bone, which was recovered on October 18, 2021 by Dr. Latham and her team from the University of Indianapolis Anthropology Division was taken for analysis by her lab and was then transferred to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Laboratory for further analyzing and where mitochondrial DNA was able to be obtained. On

October 14, 2021 the 1997 Nissan Pathfinder belonging to Stephanie Van Nguyen was recovered from the Ohio River near Lesko Park in Aurora, IN. Stephanie and her two children had been reported missing since April 2002 when she left a note indicating she was possibly going to commit suicide and take her children with her. Since no other remains were located within the vehicle the children will still be listed as an open missing persons case unless remains are located or if the family files through the court to have them declared legally deceased. Once the weather improves there are plans for another dive to take place in search of any other possible remains. I am happy we were able to finally give Ms. Nguyen's family some closure in this almost two decade long search for their loved one.

I want to thank my coroner deputies, Indiana State Police, the Delhi Police Department, the Hamilton County Police Dive Team, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Dr. Latham and members of the University of Indianapolis Anthropology Division, Indiana State Police Crime Lab, and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Laboratory for their assistance in this investigation.