



NEWS RELEASE

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

Suspect Charged in Homicide of Grand Rapids Woman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 26, 2024

GRAND RAPIDS, MI. On Friday, March 22 at approximately 11:35 p.m., troopers from the Michigan State Police (MSP) Grand Rapids Post were dispatched to a report of a deceased adult female on the shoulder of southbound US-131 at Leonard Street. Upon arrival, troopers discovered the body of 25-year-old Ruby Garcia of Grand Rapids. Based on initial observation and evidence at the scene, foul play was suspected.

Through investigative leads, Garcia's unoccupied vehicle was located on Saturday, March 23 at 1 p.m., parked in a residential area north of South Haven in Allegan County. A person of interest had been developed but not located.

On Sunday, March 24 at 10:35 a.m., Allegan County Central Dispatch was contacted by the person of interest sought by detectives for questioning. He was located in the 2200 block of 68th Street in Fennville, taken into custody as a suspect in Garcia's homicide, and lodged in the Kent County jail. Investigators determined Ortiz-Vite and Garcia were in a romantic relationship at the time of the crime.

On Wednesday, March 26, Kent County Prosecutor Chris Becker issued the following charges against 25-year-old Brandon Ortiz-Vite:

- Felony Murder, punishable by a maximum penalty of life in prison without the possibility of parole
- Open Murder, punishable by a maximum penalty of life in prison with the possibility of parole
- Carjacking, punishable by a maximum penalty of life in prison
- Carry Concealed Weapon, punishable by a maximum penalty of five years in prison
- Use of Firearm in the Commission of a Felony, punishable by two years in prison, consecutive to the underlying felony charge

Ortiz-Vite was arraigned in 61st District Court and remains lodged in the Kent County jail with no bond issued. Mr. Ortiz-Vite and Ruby Garcia were in a romantic relationship at the time of this incident.

Detectives wish to thank the Kent County Sheriff's Office, Grand Rapids Police Department, Grand Rapids Fire Department, Allegan County Sheriff's Office, South Haven Police Department, and the MSP Wayland Post for their assistance during this investigation.

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