



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oshkosh Police Department

Date: January 10, 2012
Time: 10:30 A. M.
Contact: Officer Joseph Nichols
(920) 236-5742

Subject: Recovered Body Identified

MEDIA RELEASE

At this time, the Oshkosh Police Department is officially confirming that the body recovered from the Fox River has been positively identified as Michael Philbin, the same person reported as missing this past Sunday evening.

The cause of death has yet to be determined, although foul play is not suspected in Michael's death. An autopsy is being conducted today in Madison and the Winnebago County Coroner will be in attendance. Toxicology and autopsy results will not be available for at least four weeks. Each case is based on its own merits, but this is normal protocol.

We delayed public confirmation of this identification because there was no threat to public safety, but primarily out of respect for the privacy of, and according to the wishes of the Philbin family.

At 2:36am on Sunday January 8, 2012, a person reported hearing a male calling for help and seeing a person in the Fox River near a section of thin ice about 30 yards from shore near the Axle Tech property. Information was then received that the person must be underwater as he is no longer seen. Officers and personnel from the Oshkosh Police Department, Oshkosh Fire Department and Winnebago County Sheriff's Office responded but were unable to locate anyone in the water. Oshkosh Fire Department and Winnebago Sheriff's Office dive teams searched the water in a rescue effort, but no one was located. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office dive team continued with a recovery effort throughout the day on Sunday.

On Sunday January 8, 2012 at 8:13pm Oshkosh Police initiated an investigation of a missing person identified as Michael Philbin after friends that had been out with him the night before reported that he had not returned to the residence that he was staying at in the City of Oshkosh. Oshkosh Police continue to gather information concerning the last known locations that Michael Philbin was seen and persons that he was with and we are asking that anyone that has information to please contact the Oshkosh Police

Department at 920-236-5723. We can confirm that a non-distress cell phone communication was sent from Michael Philbin's phone near the area of the Fox River at 2:10am on Sunday January 8, 2012.

At this point we are considering this an on-going investigation as we continue to put together a timeline of events leading up to his disappearance. We are still determining whether alcohol was a factor in this tragic incident.

The Oshkosh Police Department joins with the Green Bay Packer organization in expressing our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Philbin family.

If you have questions in regards to this media release, please contact me.

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