



PRESS RELEASE

Warren Police verify truth behind social media image – Investigation revealed no foul play involved

The Warren Police Department would like provide an update regarding an incident which received considerable attention on various social media outlets.

On Tuesday (09/03/2024) at approximately 11:15 am, the Warren Police Department was made aware of an image circulating on various social media sites. An image was posted on social media which appeared to show an open casket displayed at Butcher Park (4700 Martin Rd) with an unknown person sitting near the casket. Upon learning of this social media post, several Warren Patrol Officers responded to Butcher Park to investigate. Upon arrival, officers did not observe any persons in the park. No casket or any other suspicious activity was located at this time. Neither the City of Warren nor the Warren Police Department were notified of any special events taking place on Tuesday, specifically any events at Butcher Park. Investigators responded to the scene and canvassed for residential surveillance footage of the incident however only limited video was located. Investigators contacted several funeral homes in the area with none having any knowledge of any funeral services scheduled for Butcher Park. The Warren Police Department then requested the public's help via social media to see if anybody had any information which would help gather additional details about this incident.

Thanks to several tips from various members of the public, investigators were able to learn that a funeral director from New York was transporting a 97-year-old deceased female from New York to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. The deceased was a lifelong Warren resident who passed away in New York. Several of the deceased's family members live near Butcher Park. The Funeral Director temporarily situated the casket in the park so that the deceased's family members could say their final goodbyes prior to her burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Investigators spoke with Mt. Olivet Staff, the Funeral Director from New York, and the deceased's next of kin, all of whom were cooperative and confirmed what had occurred. Investigators have confirmed no foul play was involved in this incident.

The Warren Police Department respects the wishes of the deceased and her family members during their time of mourning. While parks in the City of Warren are intended for recreational purposes, we would ask that the public please contact City Hall or the Police Department in advanced if requesting a viewing at a City park so that we can ensure the necessary protocols are respected.

**For further information, please contact Warren Police
Commissioner Charles Rushton @586-574-4803 or 586-823-
9845**