



Office of the Scott County Prosecuting Attorney

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To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked for an update concerning the Angela Michelle Lawless investigation. After taking over as the Scott County Prosecutor in 2019, I spent a considerable amount of time reviewing reports, evidence, and interviews from this investigation. One of the biggest obstacles as I progressed through the investigation was the lack of organization to the investigation. Where most current homicide investigations are digitized, and/or organized with an index and in chronological order; this investigation had zero organization other than some binders that were made from old reports. However, those were not necessarily in chronological order.

I began reaching out to others for assistance on how to organize and compile a digitized version of the case files. The Missouri State Highway Patrol has a team, Violent Crime Support Unit (VCSU) that helps organize and digitize current major case investigations. They have agreed to organize and digitize the Lawless investigation files. This will be a huge step for investigators in being able to click through electronically and find each file containing a witness name, or locating all of the evidence that was originally seized.

Further, during my time going through the case files I learned of a new unit being formed with the Missouri Attorney General's Office. In December 2020, the Missouri Attorney General announced the Missouri Cold Case Unit for the Attorney General's Office. This office focuses on cold case investigations within Missouri. This unit has agreed to step into the Lawless investigation and provide assistance and an independent review of the case files of this investigation.

Finally, as part of the Cold Case Unit review the Missouri State Highway Patrol Division of Drug and Crime Control (DDCC) will be stepping into the case to provide an independent investigator's perspective of the case files and determining a plan for moving forward.

When I took office in 2019, I pledged to do an independent review of the Lawless case file. I believe these outside agencies stepping in to assist in this case will be a huge step in the right direction for the investigation of this case.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amanda L. Oesch
Amanda L. Oesch
Scott County Prosecuting Attorney