



MOUNT PROSPECT POLICE DEPARTMENT

112 E. Northwest Highway, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056



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For Immediate Release
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UPDATE: Bond Information

Press Release

Mount Prospect Police Department Arrests One Subject For First Degree Murder



Paul A. Zalewski

The Mount Prospect Police Department announce the arrest of Paul A. Zalewski, 21 years old, of 2 East Berkshire Lane, Mount Prospect, for the murder of Vladimir Esquivel. Esquivel's remains were found in a Jeep Wrangler which was engulfed in flames in an apartment complex in the 1700 block of West Algonquin Road on February 16, 2018. The Cook County State's Attorneys Office approved charges of one count of felony First Degree Murder and one felony count of Concealment of Homicidal Death against Zalewski in the death of Vladimir Esquivel.

Since the discovery of the murder, Mount Prospect Police Detectives, along with members of the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT) and the Cook County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), worked around the clock gathering evidence and following up multiple leads in identifying Esquivel and eventually Esquivel's killer.

On the evening of February 20, 2018, members from Cook County HIDTA took Zalewski into custody in the 1000 block of Addison Court, Mount Prospect on previous drug charges. Simultaneously, Mount Prospect Police Detectives, along with members of MCAT, executed search warrants on Zalewski's home, vehicle, and the location of the homicide at 1042 Addison Court. Evidence obtained during these searches were instrumental in the levying of charges against Zalewski.

With COURAGE we protect, with COMPASSION we serve.



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“Cases such as these where the location of the murder and where the body’s location differs and where steps are taken to destroy evidence through means of fire are extremely difficult to solve,” said Police Chief John Koziol. “It was only through the collaborative efforts and tireless work of the detectives and officers involved, this case was able to clear, and a cold-blooded killer was taken off of the streets,” Koziol added.

All of the members of the Mount Prospect Police Department and the citizens of Mount Prospect are grateful to the members of MCAT, which include investigators, forensic technicians, and the surveillance team, members of the Cook County HIDTA team, and the Cook County State’s Attorneys Office, who without their assistance this would not have come to the resolution that it did.

Paul A. Zalewski was charged with felony First Degree Murder and Concealment of Homicidal Death. Zalewski was transported to the Cook County 3rd District Courthouse in Rolling Meadows for a bond hearing, where the Honorable Judge Goebel issued no bond. Zalewski’s next court date is set for March 15, 2018 in room 108 of the Cook County 3rd District Courthouse in Rolling Meadows at 9:30 AM.

The public is reminded that criminal charges are not evidence of guilt and that all defendants in a criminal case are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

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