

NEWS RELEASE

Winter Park Police Department

Michael Deal
Chief of Police

500 N. Virginia Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
407-599-3214

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information
Contact: Lieutenant Pam Marcum
Office: 407-599-3344
Cell phone: 321-303-5898

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Death Investigation of Roger Trindade

The City of Winter Park Police Department is providing the following update regarding the death of Roger Trindade. We know that answers to the many questions cannot come soon enough for those seeking them. As a police department and as a community, together we mourn the loss of a young man gone too soon.

Since the onset of this event the Winter Park Police Department has been working and will continue to work directly with the Trindade family through the developments of this investigation. Please join us in keeping the family of Roger Trindade in your thoughts and prayers.

On October 15, 2016, at 9:48 pm, Winter Park Police Officers were dispatched to Central Park on Park Avenue. Police and Fire/Rescue personnel arrived on scene within two (2) minutes. At the time of arrival, Roger Trindade was found unconscious and the suspects had already fled the scene. There were no physical signs of injury inflicted on Roger Trindade and no physical evidence which would suggest he had been beaten.

Over twenty (20) of our agency personnel have devoted hundreds of hours so far to this investigation and we continue to work tirelessly to determine the exact circumstances which led to the tragic death of Roger Trindade. Other agencies, to include the Joint Homicide Investigation Team, the Medical Examiner and the State Attorney's Office are assisting us in this investigation.

We have identified all of the individuals involved, and we are continuing to conduct a thorough criminal investigation into what happened. We understand many citizens remain apprehensive, particularly regarding the safety of their children. While, we still feel our downtown district is a safe place to visit, we have increased patrols in and around Central Park. We are devoting these resources in an effort to reassure our citizens and visitors.

The Medical Examiner is continuing to investigate what caused the death of Roger Trindade. This investigation will take several weeks. Until we know what caused his death, we cannot make an accurate assessment of what criminal charges are appropriate.

In criminal cases where juveniles are arrested, there is a very short window between the arrest and the prosecution. Law enforcement must be prepared to go to trial within twenty-one days of the arrest. If a law enforcement agency makes a premature arrest, the prosecutor will not have the benefit of the Medical Examiner's results or any potential forensic examinations at trial. While we understand the public's concern that immediate action should be taken, we owe it to the family of Roger Trindade to present the strongest case for prosecution.

We would like to thank everyone who has provided a tip or information about this case. Even though we have identified all parties involved, if you have any information regarding this case we encourage you to contact us at **407-644-1313** or Crime Line at **407-423-TIPS**.

We are committed to presenting the strongest case we can to the State Attorney. It is our obligation to this young's man life, to his family, to know exactly what led up this tragedy. Decisions stemming from criminal investigations are of such importance that they can only be made based upon facts, evidence, information and without bias. We cannot rush to judgement or speculation and we ask our community to join us in that commitment. We appreciate the public's help and patience in ensuring justice for the Trindade family.