



## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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### **BODY RECOVERED IN BRISSA ROMERO INVESTIGATION**

A body was recovered early this afternoon in the continued search for Brissa Romero, the Carpentersville teen who went missing on her way to a holiday party in Vernon Hills on December 4, 2023. Investigators began focusing yesterday on the area of a retention pond near Lakeview Parkway and Executive Way in Vernon Hills after new analysis of cell phone data established it as the last known location of Brissa's phone. Several items belonging to Brissa, including a backpack containing identifying information, were then found along the pond's shore. Brissa's missing 2008 Nissan Rogue was recovered from the pond late yesterday.

Sonar and Dive teams composed of members from various Lake County fire departments participated in the recovery efforts.

Preliminary investigation suggests the car was accidentally driven into the pond after the driver failed to navigate the T-intersection. Video from a nearby fast food restaurant taken shortly before the phone's last communication with area cell towers suggests Brissa was driving at the time, and there is currently no indication of foul play.

While formal identification of the remains is pending confirmation by the Lake County Coroner's Office, the deceased female recovered from the pond matches Brissa's description. No further leads relating to Brissa's whereabouts are being pursued at this time. The investigation into the crash and its circumstances continues, and police are being assisted by members of the Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team.

The men and women of both the Carpentersville and Vernon Hills Police Departments worked diligently and with sincere hope for Brissa's safe return since she was reported missing. The Departments thank Brissa's family, friends, and members of the community who worked to bring awareness to Brissa's case and offer their deepest condolences to the Romero family.

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