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Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 28, 2020**

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Machesney Park Death Investigation Update

On May 27, 2020, at approximately 4:10pm, Winnebago County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an apartment complex located in the 1100 block of Minns Drive in Machesney Park. Upon arrival, Deputies located three deceased individuals inside one of the apartments. Members of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police Detective Bureau conducted the initial death investigation.

The preliminary investigation indicates that 37 year old Michael Earls, shot and killed 28 year old Sandra Fernandez-Cardenas and her 11 year old son. Autopsies conducted on May 28, 2020, by the Winnebago County Coroner's Office determined that all three individuals died as a result of gunshot wounds. The initial investigation shows that Earls and Fernandez-Cardenas were previously in a domestic relationship.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Detective Bureau and Winnebago County Coroner are continuing this investigation. Anyone with information relating to this incident should contact the Detective Bureau at (815) 319-6400 or Crime Stoppers (815) 963-7867.

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