



Lawrence Police Department
Office of the Chief
Chief James X. Fitzpatrick

Press Release

Statement of Lawrence Police Chief James Fitzpatrick: "Nothing we say as police officers will erase the unimaginable pain that a Lawrence family is experiencing with the loss of their loved one. The Lawrence Police Department took this case seriously from the onset. We are required to look at all possible scenarios in putting together an investigation. In this instance, we now allege that the suspect deliberately misled investigators by sending them in the wrong direction. That did not change the seriousness of our approach. Once we determined that the suspect was likely being untruthful, our investigation took a pointed turn. While I cannot imagine it makes the news any easier to bear for the family and friends of the victim, our officers took the case seriously, used all resources to find the victim, and arrested his alleged murderer within 36 hours. That said, we are a progressive law enforcement agency that is open to critique and review. We will debrief and examine all actions taken during the investigation and compare ourselves to state and national best practices. We will do this in a transparent manner. And, if we can change anything, be it our customer service or our investigative tactics, to make us a better public safety agency and to mitigate in any small way the feelings of horror and loss felt by families, we will do so."