



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE
KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 10/14/15
Complaint Number: 15-152018
Type of Incident: Human Remains—Gaines Township
Reporting Officer: Det. J. Russo
Supervisor Approval: Lt. Al Roetman

CORRECTION: Remains found north of M-6 west of Eastern Avenue SE in Gaines Township.

This is an updated news release to the human remains being found on the north side of M-6 west of Eastern Avenue Southeast on 10-11-15 in Gaines Township:

The remains were positively identified by dental records to be **Walter Garcia-Lopez, 3-18-78**, who was born in Texas and had been living in Kent County. Mr. Lopez-Garcia is described as homeless and a heavy drinker. He is known to sleep in remote locations and under freeway overpasses in the greater Grand Rapids metropolitan area. Body tattoos also aided investigators in making the identification.

The official cause of death issued by the Kent County Medical Examiner's Office was ruled natural due to chronic-ethanol abuse. The subject's next of kin have been notified and his name can be released.

Below is a photo of Mr. Lopez-Garcia from his latest arrest in June 2014.



Media Contact: Undersheriff Michelle Lajoie-Young at 616-632-6236

701 Ball Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Media Line (616) 632-6236