

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

February 20, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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William Lewek Admits Hiding Body, Pleads Guilty

Rochester, NY- Today, sixty-three year old William Lewek pled guilty to Tampering with Physical Evidence, a felony, after admitting to burying the body of 32 year old Matthew Straton in his backyard in October of 2013. Straton's body was discovered by Rochester Police in a shallow grave behind Lewek's home on Rowley St. in the City of Rochester in January of 2014. In addition to the above, Lewek pled guilty to misdemeanor Driving While Ability Impaired by the combined effects of drugs and alcohol resulting from a traffic stop made by Irondequoit Police on December 27, 2014. Lewek admitted during his plea that he was impaired by the use of alcohol and a central nervous system depressant at the time of his arrest.

The case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Kelly Wolford. Today's plea brings an end to the prosecution of Lewek. Although the results of the autopsy of Matthew Straton have not been publicly disclosed, a thorough investigation by the Rochester Police Department and the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office revealed that no homicide charges could be brought against Lewek.

"I hope today's plea provides the family and friends of Matthew Straton some sense of finality after what has clearly been a long and difficult year and one-half," said Wolford. "Today, they heard William Lewek admit that he purposefully hid Matthew's body so that it could not be discovered and so his death could not be investigated. Lewek deserves to be sentenced to the maximum of 1 1/3 to 4 years in prison; however, no amount of time can erase the pain and suffering he caused the Straton family."

William Lewek will be sentenced before Monroe County Court Judge Christopher Ciaccio on April 29, 2015.

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