Detectives Investigate Death of Six Month Old Infant

On Friday, October 10th, about 6:00 p.m., officers were called to the home at 5998 6th Avenue South regarding the death of a six month old infant. Paramedics had initially responded to the scene when the mother reported finding her son unresponsive in his crib.

The child, Dimtri Smith, DOB 03/27/14, was pronounced dead.

During an autopsy conducted by the Medical Examiner’s Office, injuries were detected to the baby which were consistent with child abuse, including broken bones to the arm, clavicle and ribs.

When Homicide detectives questioned the mother, Karina Welker, W/F, DOB 05/15/92. She admitted to being frequently frustrated by the child’s crying and in response she would grab, squeeze and shake the baby. She also admitted she was aware of at least one injury to the child’s arm, but never sought medical treatment for him.

Welker was charged with one count of aggravated child abuse (booking photo attached).

Additional charges are pending a final determination by the Medical Examiner’s Office as to the cause of the child’s death.

St. Petersburg Police Major Mike Kovacsev will be available to speak about this case... 10am-11am..as well as the late night arrest of Daniel Lynds in Friday’s murder of Francis McDermott.

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News Release

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