



## NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Portage Department  
of Public Safety  
Lieutenant  
Brian Vanden Brink  
269.329.4574

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 27, 2015

Case No. 15-10335

On June 24, 2015, at approximately 7:20 a.m., the Portage Department of Public Safety responded to the 2900 block of French Bay in reference to a female that had been shot. When officers arrived on scene, they found the victim, 25-year-old Rachel Drafta, lying in the driveway. Officers immediately began performing CPR on the victim and continued until relieved by emergency medical responders. Drafta was transported to Bronson Hospital, where it was determined she had been shot one time behind her right ear.

Witnesses had observed Drafta and the suspect, 43-year-old Theresa Petto of Hastings, involved in an altercation in Drafta's driveway. Witnesses also observed Petto walking northbound on Old Mission. Another officer arriving in the area located Petto in the 5700 block of Old Mission. A handgun, registered to Petto, was found under a travel trailer near where Petto was detained. Petto was arrested and lodged at the Kalamazoo County Jail.

On June 25, 2015, the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office authorized charges of Assault With Intent to Murder and Felony Firearm. Petto was arraigned on those charges with a bond of \$1,000,000.00.

On June 27, 2015, the Portage Department of Public Safety was notified that Drafta had died from the injuries sustained in the shooting.

During the investigation, items were found that led officers to believe the crime was premeditated. Also, during the investigation, it was learned that Petto was angry because Drafta had been dating Petto's former boyfriend.

On Monday, June 29, 2015, Portage Public Safety detectives will request charges for Murder with the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office.

The family of Rachel Drafta asks that the media respect their privacy at this time by refraining from calling or visiting their home.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com).

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