

June 2021

Volume 10, Issue 6

Worthington Police News



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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

10 Years Later: What Happened to Lucia Chilel Perez

On June 27, 2011, Lucia Chilel Perez left Worthington to go job hunting with family acquaintance, Bernardino Ramirez-Perez.

Bernardino returned to Worthington the evening of June 27th alone.

Bernardino had a large scratch on his face and had claimed that Lucia was detained in Hull, Iowa due to an immigration issue, however that story was determined to be a lie.

Lucia was last known to be in northwest Iowa on June 27th stopping at different businesses to inquire about jobs.

Family members spoke with her later in the day of June 27th, but since then no one has seen or heard from her.

Lucia may have been in the Rock Valley, Iowa area while searching for jobs.

Ten years later, Lucia has not been heard from again.

When Lucia disappeared, she left behind an adult son and two small children.



Lucia Chilel Perez

The vehicle Lucia and Bernardino were in, a maroon Buick Century, was seized by the Worthington Police Department and processed by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Crime Lab, but no useful evidence was collected.

Lucia is a Hispanic female approximately 5' 2" and weighs approximately 120-140 pounds. Lucia has long black hair and was last seen wearing an ankle-length denim skirt, black short-sleeved blouse with white decorations, and was in possession of a black backpack.

Bernardino is a short Hispanic male who was approximately 35 to 40

years old at the time of the incident. Bernardino had a full beard and long hair.

If you have any information about the disappearance of Lucia Chilel Perez, you can contact the Worthington Police Department at 507-295-5400 or you can anonymously leave a tip with Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS (8477).

The Worthington Police Department was assisted in this investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Sioux County (IA) Sheriff's Department and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

Animal Control
Laura Garcia

Community Service
Myra Onnen

Reception
Barb Hussong

Records
Shari Droll
Julie Jeppesen

TAC/IT
Gary Gerdes

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Nancy Veen

Dispatch
Tonya Aanenson
Stephanie Evers
Jodi Mulder
Zach Ramerth
Joe Reith

K-9 Officers
Frankie
Mack
Winston

Dispatch Corner: Avoiding Accidental 911 Calls

If there's one thing we've learned about smart phones, it's that touch screens can be...well, touchy. If it hasn't happened to you, you've probably heard about it—your cat walks on the screen and turns your phone off, or your toddler grabs it while you're not looking and accidentally calls your boss. It can even happen in your pocket, when you somehow end up dialing whoever is at the top of your contacts list – as anyone whose name begins with an A can attest.

Most of these accidents are harmless. But more and more, people are unknowingly pressing just the right combination of buttons to activate the built-in SOS function on their phones, resulting in an accidental call to 911.

Both iPhone and Android have this feature, and it's an issue that Minnesota Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have been dealing with over the past year.

It sounds harmless enough, but here's the problem: anytime a dispatcher has to answer an accidental 911 call, it takes their time and attention away from 911 callers who have true

emergencies and need help. Holiday weekends are especially a concern. Over the 2020 4th of July weekend, dispatchers in Crow Wing County reported receiving over 100 SOS calls from people who had inadvertently activated the SOS feature on their devices. Another PSAP reported that a man called 911 using this feature on his wife's phone. When he hung up and the dispatcher called him back, he apologized, saying he had no idea that this feature even existed.

Just remember that if you do accidentally call 911, don't hang up. Dispatchers will just call you back anyway to make sure you're okay. And if they can't contact you, they may even send first responders to check on you. Instead, stay on the line, tell the dispatcher it was a mistake, and explain that there's no emergency. On most phones (and smartwatches – yes, it happens with them, too), you can disable this feature using the settings app. But public safety officials don't recommend it, because that makes one less way to contact 911 if necessary.

Now is a good time to review all the ways you can contact 911 if you



have an emergency. There is of course the traditional call on your phone, but remember that if you can't call, you can also text to 911. And if there is any disruption of 911 services, it's helpful to have the 10-digit, 24-hour number for the PSAP of the county you're in. Write them down or save them in your phone for the counties you're in the most.

The more you know about the various ways to contact 911, the safer you'll be. Others will be safer, too, when dispatchers can focus on the true emergencies.

Article reprinted from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Blog, April 26, 2021.





1-800-222-TIPS
www.crimestoppersmn.org
Crime Doesn't Pay...We Do!

Call Crime Stoppers above to report a Tip or download the P3 Tip APP below.



Work Anniversaries

David Hoffman	Detective	21 Years
Barb Hussong	Receptionist	19 Years
Kyle Schreier	Patrol Officer	2 years

Scam Alert: Missing Person Scammers

In a disgusting new low, the FBI is reporting that scammers are now targeting the families of missing persons with a new scam.

The scammers are identifying missing person posts made on social media for their targets.

The scammer will start by locating the family's telephone number from social media and will use third-party calling apps or messaging apps to

make ransom demands, while hiding their real telephone number.

The scammers will call the families and tell them the missing person is either injured or ill and make a demand for ransom payments.

The ransom payment demands are typically between \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Time is of the essence in these scams so typically the scammers will

pressure the families to act quickly before the scam can be exposed.

In one scam, the criminals contacted the family of a missing 18-year-old claiming they abducted the girl, drugged her, and threatened to physically assault her if their ransom was not paid.

It was later determined the girl left on her own and was never abducted.



If you receive one of these calls, please call the Worthington Police Department, the FBI field office for your area, or file a complaint online with the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Ask an Officer: What is a Pretextual Stop?

I have been hearing a lot in the news of different cities banning pretextual stops by their police departments. What is a pretextual stop?

A pretextual stop is a traffic stop for one reason with the intent of the officer to search for evidence of a different traffic violation or crime.

One of the most common examples of a pretextual stop is a police officer stopping a car for weaving back and

forth on the highway and crossing the center line.

Crossing the center line is the actual traffic violation, however the officer may stop the car because they believe the driver is intoxicated.

Pretextual stops are legal under the United States Supreme Court case of *Whren v. U.S.* where the court ruled that for any seizure by a law enforcement officer, they need to cite

valid probable cause for any offense.

Do you have a question for a police officer, but never had the chance to ask?

Here is your chance! Each month, one question will be selected and answered in this newsletter. Send your comments and questions to: chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us

New Detective

Officer Kyle Schreier will be the newest detective with the Worthington Police Department. Officer Schreier will be assigned to investigating narcotics and will replace Detective Shawn Elsing, who has announced plans to retire later this year.

In the coming months, Officer Schreier will start his training for this position. Please join us in congratulating Officer Schreier in his new assignment.



Worthington Police

1530 Airport Road
Suite 300
Worthington, MN 56187

PHONE:
(507) 295-5400

FAX:
(507) 372-5977

E-MAIL:
bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us

Animal Control

(507) 329-0070

Community Service Officer

(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ci.worthington.mn.us

**CRIME
STOPPERS**
of Minnesota

1-800-222-TIPS

www.crimestoppersmn.org

Crime Doesn't Pay... We Do!

Humor in Law Enforcement



Just say no to potholes!!!

This public service announcement comes courtesy of the Gulfport Police Department.

Mission Statement

**Serving Worthington with honor and integrity
by working WITH the community
to provide exceptional public safety.**

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1530 AIRPORT ROAD
SUITE 300
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**