



# NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
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## UPDATE: SHANAYA COLEY INVESTIGATION

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

May 7, 2018

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Paterson Police Chief Troy Oswald announce that today an autopsy was conducted on the individual discovered in the back seat of Shanaya Coley's vehicle which was recovered on Sunday, May 6, 2018.

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office in Newark will be conducting further tests in an effort to positively identify the decedent. Additionally, the cause of death has been determined to be puncture and incision wounds and the manner of death has been determined to be a homicide.

Yesterday at approximately 8:23 a.m., police received a call from a concerned citizen regarding an unattended car in the parking lot of a garden apartment complex located at 238 Marion Street in Paterson. When police officers arrived a few minutes later, they discovered a charcoal gray Nissan Altima which is registered to 24-year-old Shanaya Coley of Paterson, who was reported missing along with her vehicle on December 5, 2017. Upon approaching the vehicle, police officers observed what appeared to be a body in the backseat of the vehicle.

The investigation is active and ongoing and is being conducted by the Paterson Police Department in conjunction with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. More information will be released once it becomes available.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or [tips@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:tips@passaiccountynj.org) or contact the Paterson Police Department Detective Bureau at 973-321-1120.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jason Statuto of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at [jstatuto@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:jstatuto@passaiccountynj.org) or at (973) 837-7733.