



*Office Of the
Sheriff*
Laurens County
Don Reynolds



August 1, 2019

HOMICIDE PRESS RELEASE UPDATE

On July 20, 2019 the Laurens County Sheriff's Office located Michelle Dodge of York, South Carolina, deceased in a secluded and wooded area of Laurens County. Our Investigators worked with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, as well as many other local agencies to follow leads in the case. So far, the following people have been arrested for their involvement in the murder of Mrs. Dodge. More arrests will follow as some of the individuals involved are already in custody in other jurisdictions on unrelated charges.

As you can see, James Robert Peterson is currently in Prison, serving a sentence for murder. We have evidence which indicates he orchestrated this murder from prison; therefore, he was charged accordingly. As you can tell from the list of names, multiple people played a role in the kidnaping and murder of Mrs. Dodge. The investigation remains ongoing and additional charges are possible.

"I want to thank our Investigators, as well as the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office and other agencies for all of their hard work and dedication during this investigation. Both of our offices worked around the clock to bring justice to this senseless act of violence."

***Sheriff Don Reynolds,
Laurens, South Carolina***



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Aaron Carrion (Currently in Custody as of last night in Sumter, SC)

Murder
Possession of a weapon during a violent crime
Kidnapping
Conspiracy to commit kidnapping

Aaron Sprouse (Currently in Custody in Cherokee County)

Murder
Possession of a weapon during a violent crime
Kidnapping
Conspiracy to commit kidnapping

James Robert Peterson (Currently in Prison serving 30-year sentence for murder)

Murder
Conspiracy to commit kidnapping

Billy Wayne Ruppe (Currently at Johnson Detention Center)

Accessory after the fact to murder
Criminal Conspiracy

Brandon Lee Phillips (Currently at Johnson Detention Center)

Accessory Before the fact to murder
Conspiracy to commit kidnapping

Lisa Marie Bolton (Currently in custody in NC as of 7/31/19)

Kidnapping
Conspiracy to commit kidnapping

Lisa Marie Costello (Currently in Custody in Cherokee County)

Kidnapping
Conspiracy to commit kidnapping

Catherine Ross (Currently in Custody in Cherokee County)

Kidnapping
Conspiracy to commit kidnapping
Accessory after the fact to kidnapping