



Borough of State College
"A Home Rule Municipality"

STATE COLLEGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JOHN F. GARDNER
Chief of Police



MEDIA RELEASE

November 19, 2021

Missing Person
21SC18062

The State College Police Department would like to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of a 19-year-old Penn State student reported missing the evening of November 11, 2021. She was last seen the evening of November 10th and her body was located on November 12th. Currently State College Police and the Centre County Coroner's Office are investigating the circumstances surrounding her death.

Preliminary information available to investigators indicates the death to be accidental in nature. No further information is available for release at this time and will be provided as possible in the future.

UPDATE - November 19, 2021

State College Police and the Centre County Coroner's Office continue to investigate the death of Justine Gross. Eyewitness, video, and forensic evidence is being used to investigate this case. The investigation is still ongoing. All witnesses are still fully cooperating with police. Police can confirm that Gross died as a result of a fall inside an 11th floor solid waste disposal chute at 456 E. Beaver Avenue, into a waste receptacle on the ground floor which occurred around 11:30pm on November 10, 2021. Video evidence suggests she was alone in the 11th floor hallway and in the waste disposal room when she fell. Prior to her being found, the waste receptacle was emptied by a Borough of State College refuse truck. State College Police were notified of her disappearance at 5:15pm on November 11. Her body was located by State College Police officers at the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority transfer station in College Township at 2:45am on November 12. The Centre County Coroner's office was contacted and began their investigation. The Centre County Coroner's Office will determine the cause of death pending final lab testing results and information obtained throughout this ongoing investigation. At this point the incident still appears to be accidental in nature.

We are urging anyone who may have information regarding this incident to contact the State College Police Department at (814) 234-7150, by [email](#) or submit an [anonymous tip](#) through our website.