



Omega Phi Chi Seeks #JusticeForMari
For Immediate Release
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(New Brunswick, NJ) - Omega Phi Chi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. is mourning the tragic loss of our beloved sister Marileidy "Mariposa" Morel. On Saturday, July 4, Mari was visiting family in Fairfield, Connecticut for the holiday. In the evening hours, she was walking her dog when she was struck and killed by a driver. The driver did not stop to render aid or call for help, but left her to be alone in her final moments.

Mari touched the lives of so many, and changed their lives for the better. As a sisterhood we have come together to grieve the loss of her life, celebrate all of her accomplishments and remember the love and light that she always exuded.. As we laid our sister to rest just yesterday, we are now faced with the need to ensure justice.

On Tuesday, July 7, police conducted an investigative stop of a vehicle belonging to Declan P. Kot, age 22, of Easton, Connecticut. Kot was interviewed at Fairfield Police Headquarters. Based on information obtained during the interview, an arrest warrant was issued for Kot on Wednesday, July 8. It took Fairfield Police almost a day and a half from the time they stopped Kot until they received a signed arrest warrant. He was arrested at Fairfield Police Headquarters on the evening of July 8. Kot was released on a \$150,000 bond that same evening and is expected to appear in court on July 15. He was awarded the freedoms and liberties that he himself took away from our sister. Kot, a volunteer firefighter and constable, who was trained in emergency preparedness and response, fled the scene and fixed the damage to his vehicle to avoid accountability for Mari's death.

The initial charges brought against Kot by the Fairfield Police Department include:

- Misconduct with a Motor Vehicle (Class D Felony)
- Evading Responsibility in Operating a Motor Vehicle Resulting in Death (Class B Felony)
- Failure to Drive in Proper Lane
- Operating a Motor Vehicle without Fenders
- Tampering with Evidence
- Operation of a Motor Vehicle with Tinted Windows without Tinting Sticker



- Operation of Vehicle with Tinted Windshield

The untimely passing of Mari and the events surrounding her death, has greatly affected our sisterhood. We must ensure that Mari's voice does not go unheard and that her legacy lives on.

Omega Phi Chi Multicultural Sorority demands #JusticeForMari.

As an organization we have established a coalition and are working alongside her family's legal representation to determine what steps our sisters and those in our communities can take to ensure that Mari, as well as her family and friends, receive justice. We will release more detailed items in the coming days but these action items include but are not limited to:

1. Continue to share our personal stories of Mari and the circumstances related to her tragic passing on social media channels, using the hashtags #JusticeForMari.
2. Connect with advocacy groups on a local and national level, as well as community organizations from the Tri-state area for support. and call legislative members, including the State Attorney, regarding her case.
3. Write and Call legislators to tell them about Mari's case. (Hold off until further notice)