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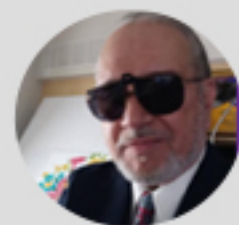
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OSCEOLA SHERIFF ISSUED SUMMONS OVER INSTAGRAM POST BELIEVED TO SHOW MADELINE SOTO'S BODY

Editorial By: CRISTÓBAL REYES | Orlando Sentinel

(Image: Orlando Sentinel)

SOURCE



Publisher :
Danny Ramos



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SEN. BOB MENENDEZ FOUND GUILTY IN CORRUPTION TRAIL

By: DANIEL HAN and RY RIVARD

(Image: Politico)

SOURCE



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OSCEOLA SHERIFF ISSUED SUMMONS OVER INSTAGRAM POST BELIEVED TO SHOW MADELINE SOTO'S BODY

Florida sheriff issued summons over Instagram post believed to show Madeline Soto's body. ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office last week quietly **filed a summons against Osceola Sheriff Marcos López, accusing him of posting a photo of 13-year-old Madeline Soto's dead body to Instagram.**

Court records show the summons was filed July 15, accusing the **sheriff of violating public records law in posting the photo to his campaign page on the platform. López has a court hearing scheduled for Dec. 20.**

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment on the summons and the State Attorney's Office did reply to a question about why reporters were not updated on the matter.

Madeline was found March 1 following a dayslong search in Orange and Osceola counties. **The photo posted to Instagram a day later — which was shared with but not published by the Orlando Sentinel — appeared to show the teen wearing a green top and blue jeans lying beneath a mound of brush.**

López's post sparked an uproar and prompted an investigation into the matter by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Its press office did not respond to a request for the reports produced as part of it.

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"I am deeply, deeply disappointed by the jury's decision. I have every faith that the law and the facts did not sustain that decision and that we will be successful upon appeal," Menendez told reporters outside the courthouse Tuesday. **"I have never violated my public oath."**

Menendez is seeking reelection to the Senate as an independent, although the guilty verdicts quickly raise the prospect of an expulsion vote unless he opts to resign from office. **He's already faced calls to resign from his former Democratic allies in New Jersey and on Capitol Hills.**



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Department of Law Enforcement. Its press office did not respond to a request for the reports produced as part of it.

The Sheriff's Office first issued an apology for Lopez accidentally including "an investigative photo" in a post about an event for senior citizens. But in a radio interview the sheriff himself denied the photo was of the teen, instead saying it was of "an area of interest where there was a body found."

"No one's ever come out and said directly that it was the victim," López told WDBO in the March 27 interview. "Other people politically trying to use this as an advantage, to use the death of a child to bring some light to themselves — it's sad when those things happen."

The Sheriff's Office has not said whether López will take back those claims.

Madeline was reported missing in late February by her mother Jennifer Soto, who said she noticed her disappearance while trying to pick her daughter up from Hunters Creek Middle School. Her boyfriend, **Stephan Sterns, was later arrested and faces trial for killing her and sexually assaulting her since she was at least 11.**

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SEN. BOB MENENDEZ FOUND GUILTY IN CORRUPTION TRAIL

It is now up to U.S. District Judge Sidney Stein to determine the 70-year-old Menendez's sentence, scheduled for Oct. 29. He faces decades in prison.

Prosecutors described Menendez as a "senator on the take" who used his power and influence to benefit his associates and the governments of Egypt and Qatar in exchange for cash, gold bars and a Mercedes-Benz for Nadine, who was also charged but did not stand trial because of a cancer diagnosis.

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Investigators said Sterns killed her the day she was reported missing and hid her body in St. Cloud. The child's mother has not been accused of wrongdoing.

Sterns faces the death penalty if convicted of murdering Madeline and life in prison for the alleged sexual assault — along with dozens of charges of possessing child sexual abuse material. His next court date is scheduled for Oct. 14.

THE OSCEOLA-ORANGE STATE ATTORNEY ACCUSED HIS PREDECESSOR OF ETHICAL VIOLATIONS. A JUDGE SAID IT'S JUST "POLICY DIFFERENCES."

By: CRISTÓBAL REYES | Orlando Sentinel

(Image: Orlando Sentinel)

SOURCE



In a setback for State Attorney Andrew Bain, an Orange County judge is refusing to release secret legal documents Bain claimed would demonstrate ethical violations by his predecessor and political opponent, Monique Worrell.

The June 14 ruling from Circuit Judge Vincent Chiu said Bain's Orange-Osceola State Attorney's office failed to offer sufficient evidence challenging "the honesty, trustworthiness or fitness" of Worrell's

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prosecutors in a high-profile officer shooting case they brought to a grand jury in 2022. Bain had dropped the grand jury's indictment of the Orange County deputy in March, saying Worrell's prosecutors made arguments to the grand jury they had reason to believe were false.

But Chiu sidestepped the ethics charges, saying Bain's beef with Worrell came down to "policy differences." He declined to make the grand jury testimony public, as Bain requested.

"It is not the proper role of this Court to opine as to the policy considerations which inform the exercise of prosecutorial discretion," the ruling read.

While Chiu didn't say so directly, his language suggested he sees the disagreement as a political one between two top prosecutors who will face each other in a November election.

Bain was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis to his post after DeSantis suspended Worrell last August. Now he is running as a no-party affiliation candidate to retain the job against Worrell and an as-yet unknown Republican candidate.

