

Man wanted in McCoy kidnapping case found dead after standoff

Man was wanted in the kidnapping and death of Michelle Lee McCoy.

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By [Dan Scanlan](#)

Michelle Lee McCoy was last seen alive at her home on Churchill Drive on Jan. 10.

Thursday afternoon, exactly one month later, the slain woman's twin sister and family waited near a home on Francis Street in Springfield for almost nine hours as police tried to capture the man they had been seeking in her kidnapping and death.

After multiple rounds of tear gas were lobbed into the home where Larry Wayne Thompson was holed up between 6 and 7 p.m., he took his own life, authorities said.

Police found Thompson armed, but dead, on the floor of a home within a block of noisy Interstate 95 just before 8:30 p.m.

Photo gallery: [Standoff with McCoy murder suspect ends](#)

Earlier, Melissa McCoy said she had hoped that Thompson, whom she called a "dangerous man," would be taken alive.

"We need him to come out today. He just needs to give up," McCoy said. "We want to see him come out of the house alive. ... It's very important. If he just kills himself, that's the easy way out and we don't want it to be like that. We want him to suffer."

Police said they, too, wanted him alive as they announced his death, and some in the crowd cheered.

Officers had used a remote camera to look inside the house.

"Once we did that, we could see someone on the floor inside. We made entry, Mr. Thompson was deceased on the floor with a single gunshot wound to the head," Sheriff's Office investigations director Dwain Senterfitt said. "This was not the resolution we were looking for."

Police said they received a tip Thursday morning that Thompson was hiding in a home in the vicinity of West Eighth Street and Francis Street. Police closed off Eighth Street between I-95 and Payne Drive, and SWAT members moved in to search the area until they focused on one home.

Three [mobile command centers](#) were brought in, one for a hostage negotiator, while a SWAT tank with battering ram was brought in. Members of the McCoy family stayed together on West Eighth Street around the grandfather's truck, while some of Thompson's family was seen there working with police to get him to come out of the house.

After 5 p.m., a [police officer](#) was heard on a bullhorn telling Thompson that "we are not going away. Come out with your hands up." Then came the first 13 tear gas shots just after 6 p.m., causing some people to run down Payne Avenue screaming "No, that's too easy!" Others dived for cover.

Twenty more shots exploded at 6:25 p.m., followed by nine more spaced out about 6:45 p.m., and five more at 6:51 p.m.

Just after 7 p.m., Senterfitt said they tried to talk to Thompson earlier in the afternoon.

"He's told us he was going to come out multiple times but hasn't done that, then broke off all communications ... ," he said.

The abduction

Michelle McCoy left her home about 7 p.m. Jan. 10, saying she was going somewhere with a man named "K.T." She told her twin she was worried and wanted her to call and check up on her before she left in a silver or light-gray minivan.

About 15 minutes later, police were dispatched to a parking lot off Lem Turner Road after a 911 call. A man told officers he had seen a woman, now believed to have been McCoy, try to get out of a silver minivan. He said she was dragged struggling and screaming back in it.

McCoy's grandfather, Otis Winn, reported her missing Jan. 13.

Police found her body Feb. 3 off Ribault River Lane. The cause of death was multiple blunt force trauma, according to the medical examiner.

One week ago, Sheriff John Rutherford announced that a warrant had been filed against Thompson on kidnapping charges. The sheriff said he believed there was nothing officers could have done differently when the kidnapping was first reported that would have changed the outcome of this case, although it is under review.

The McCoy family plans to hold a memorial at 5:30 p.m. today on Washington Avenue, where she was last seen by the 911 caller.

Times-Union writer Matt Dixon contributed to this report.

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ERIK M. TANNER/The Times-Union-SWAT officers move in with a battering ram to try and force their way into the house where Larry Wayne Thompson was hiding Thursday. Thompson committed suicide after a long standoff, police said.

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