



# Office of the Washington County Sheriff

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Dan Starry, County Sheriff

Douglas Anschutz, Chief Deputy

## Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** May 13, 2022

### Juvenile recovered from St. Croix River Thursday identified

LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH, MN – The Washington County Sheriff's Office has identified the victim in Thursday's suspected drowning as 17-year-old Suleiman Ibrahim Abda Garado of Stillwater.

Suleiman was recovered from the St. Croix River by the Washington County rescue dive team just after 6:30 p.m. Thursday following a reported water emergency. He had been underwater for approximately 40 minutes at the time he was recovered. Suleiman was pronounced dead at Regions Hospital early Friday morning.

"The death of this young man is a devastating tragedy, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones," said Sheriff Dan Starry. "I'm grateful for the quick response of the Washington County rescue dive team and their ability to recover Suleiman and bring peace to his family."

Just before 5:40 p.m., the Washington County Sheriff's Office received several 911 calls after witnesses reported a juvenile was drowning near the 2000 block of Riviera Avenue South. According to reports, a group of friends had gathered near the river when at some point, one of them began to struggle in the water. Suleiman, along with several others, attempted to help the struggling teen and bring him to safety. The first teen made it out of the water, but Suleiman never resurfaced.

The Washington County rescue dive team was on the scene within minutes of the initial call and divers immediately began searching the water where Suleiman was last seen. Once Suleiman was recovered, EMS crews began lifesaving efforts and transported him by ambulance to Regions Hospital where he later died.

The official cause of death remains under investigation by the Ramsey County Medical Examiner.

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