



MEDIA RELEASE For Immediate Release Date: March 12th, 2025

Subject: Investigation and Resolution of Embezzlement Case Involving Pratt After Prom Funds

Pratt, Kansas — On April 11, 2024, the Pratt Police Department initiated an investigation into the embezzlement of funds from the Pratt After Prom 2024 Legacy Bank account. Concerns were first raised by several members of the Pratt After Prom board, who noticed discrepancies and reported the matter to the Pratt Police Department. The case was subsequently assigned to the Pratt Police Department Investigations Unit.

A comprehensive review of the Legacy Bank account was conducted, confirming the board members' suspicions. Over the course of the investigation, numerous search warrants were executed to trace the fraudulent transactions. By May 15, 2024, it was determined that over \$12,000 had been misappropriated by a single member of the After Prom board. These funds had been raised through community support, including raffles, events, and donations aimed at supporting the 2024 Pratt After Prom event.

Following the investigation, Farrah Jo Schmidt was identified as the sole suspect. On May 15, 2024, Schmidt was arrested and booked into the Pratt County Jail on charges of Felony Theft and Unlawful Acts concerning the use of a computer. In January 2025, Schmidt entered a guilty plea in Pratt District Court to the charge of felony theft. The court has since ordered Schmidt to pay full restitution to the Pratt After Prom organization.

The Pratt Police Department commends the vigilance of the Pratt After Prom board members in identifying irregularities and taking prompt action to safeguard the community's resources. Their cooperation was instrumental in bringing this matter to a resolution.

For further inquiries, please contact: Detective Joe Ohler, Pratt Police Department, Office Number 620-672-5551 (ext. 1320), johler@prattlec.org