



CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

POLICE DEPARTMENT



William M. Breault
Chief of Police

Media Release **August 24, 2018**

The Dover Police Department and the Office of The Chief Medical Examiner are investigating the death of Michelle Bettcher, 37, which occurred in Dover on Thursday, August 23, 2018.

At approximately 7:30 AM on August 23rd, the Dover Police and Dover Fire and Rescue responded to Bettcher's residence on Olde Madbury Lane after a family member reported finding her unresponsive. Bettcher was found to be deceased on-scene.

While the cause and manner of Bettcher's death will ultimately be determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, based on the investigation to date it appears to be drug related.

If in fact Bettcher's death is due to a drug overdose, it will be the fifth confirmed in Dover in 2018, which had thirteen suspected drug related deaths in 2017. The Dover Police Department has responded to twenty-five non-fatal drug overdoses in 2018.

If you or someone you know is experiencing an addiction-related crisis or looking for support, we encourage you to visit SOS Recovery Community Organization at 4 Broadway in Dover. The center is open Monday from 12-8pm, Tuesday through Friday from 9am-8pm and Saturday from 12-8pm. They can also be reached at (603) 841-2350. The NH Statewide Addiction Crisis Line is available 24/7 at 1.844.711.4357 (HELP).

This case is being investigated by the Dover Police Department's Special Investigations Unit. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Dover Police Department at 603-742-4646. Anonymous tips may be called into the Dover Crimeline at 603-749-6000. The Dover Crimeline can also be contacted via www.dovernhcrimeline.org.

Media inquiries concerning this case can be directed to Lt. Brant Dolleman of the Dover Police Department at 603-742-4646 or b.dolleman@dover.nh.gov.