

# City of Johnstown

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief David F. Gilbo

33-41 East Main Street • P.O. Box 160

Johnstown, New York 12095

Telephone: (518) 736-4021 • Fax: (518) 762-7868

**EMERGENCY DIAL 911**

### **Johnstown Police Department Press Release**

**Date/Time of Arrest:** 05/11/21 4:27 AM

**Location of Arrest:** Johnstown Police Department

**Defendant:** Stephanie E. Hillburn

**Age:** 43

**Address:** 100 Byard Street Johnstown, NY

**Charges:** Concealment of a Human Corpse- E Felony (1 count)

On August 11, 2021 Stephanie Hillburn was located by Montgomery County Sherriff's deputies, on a Johnstown Police active warrant of arrest. The warrant stemmed from an overdose death investigation which occurred during February of 2021.

On 02/14/21, Johnstown Police received an anonymous call requesting officers check the welfare of 62 year old Patricia Barter. Officers arrived at Barter's home (100 Byard Street) and spoke with several subjects, including two of Barter's roommates, Stephanie Hillburn and Deborah Eglin. When Officers asked to speak with Barter, the two became nervous and directed Officers to Barter's bedroom. Shortly after, Officers located Barter's corpse, laying on her bed. Barter appeared to have been deceased for some time. Members of the Detective Division were contacted as well as the Fulton County Coroner's Office.

Following a lengthy investigation, JPD detectives determined that Barter had passed away, from a suspected overdose, during the week of February 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. After her death, Hillburn was aided by Eglin in moving Barter's corpse to her (Barter's) bedroom. The two moved the body in an attempt to conceal Barter's corpse from being discovered by guests of the home. Over the next week, several parties and gatherings were hosted by Hillburn and Eglin, at the home, while Barter's corpse remained in the bedroom.

Hillburn and Eglin remained living in the home, until police were called. Both did not want to call police, as they knew the Law Enforcement would begin an investigation into the overdose, and potentially uncover other illegal activity. After the incident, Hillburn attempted to avoid police, until she was located by MCSO. Deborah Eglin is currently in New York State prison on unrelated charges. She will be processed on the warrant and arraigned, once arrangement are made with the New York State Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).



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