



# NEWS RELEASE



**ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
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**For Immediate Release:**

**Today's Date:** September 15, 2006  
**Prepared By:** Sergeant Stephen Maynard  
**Release #:** 2006-180  
**Case #:** 06-11710  
**Incident Date:** September 14, 2006  
**Incident Time:** 11:55 p.m.  
**Incident Location:** 700 West University Ave. Gainesville, FL

**Stolen Vehicle/ Follow-up to Homicide Investigation Case # 06-11700:**

On Thursday, September 14, 2006, at approximately 11:50 p.m., the Gainesville Police Department conducted a traffic stop on a 2004 Dodge Dakota pick-up for Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device. The truck was reported stolen earlier that evening from the residence of a homicide victim in Windsor (see Release # 06-179). The driver of the truck was identified as John Ellis Hartley, W/M, DOB 06-27-65. Detectives with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene of the traffic stop. Hartley was arrested and charged with Grand Theft of the vehicle. Hartley is being questioned by detectives in connection with the murder of Eljin Whittenburg; however, he has not been charged with the homicide at this time.

Anyone that may have had contact with John Ellis Hartley on Wednesday, September 13th or Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, is encouraged to contact the Alachua County Sheriff's Office at 955-1818. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 372-STOP (7867).