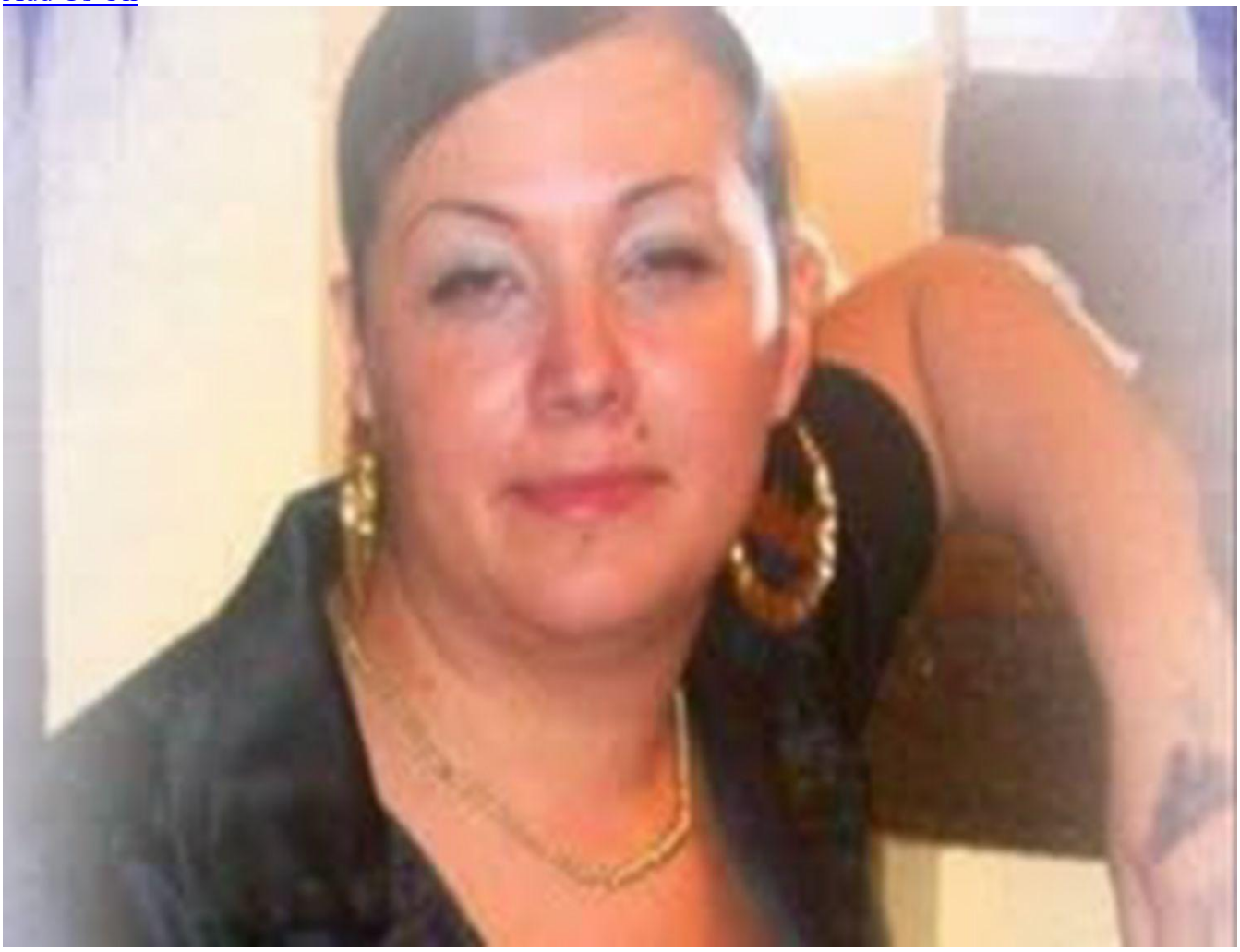
Human Remains Discovered in a Shed Identified as Mom Missing for 16 Years

“I didn’t think I’d see this day,” said Ashley Carroll’s mom

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Ashley Carroll. Credit :

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NEED TO KNOW

- Ashley Carroll, a 24-year-old mother, was last seen in Albany, N.Y., in 2010

- As an investigation into her disappearance continued, police found apparent human remains during a new search on Oct. 20
- Three days later, police confirmed the identity of the remains as Carroll following an autopsy

Authorities in New York have identified human remains recently discovered in a shed as belonging to a mom who had been missing for 16 years.

On Friday, Oct. 23, the Albany Police Department confirmed the remains discovered were those of Ashley Carroll, who was 24 years old when she disappeared in 2010.

The remains were discovered when law enforcement responded to 7 Marlborough Ct. to execute a search warrant linked to Carroll's case on Tuesday, Oct. 20, the Albany Police Department said in a previous statement.

"During the execution of the search warrant, what appeared to be human remains were discovered inside of a shed on the property," the department said.

Police later said that an autopsy "determined that the located remains were those of Ashley Carroll" and that an investigation remains active and ongoing.

Authorities are also still looking into the cause of Carroll's death, and no arrests have been made, police said.

According to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, Carroll was last seen in Albany on May 6, 2010.

Carroll's family previously said she was dropped off near First Street to meet her boyfriend after the couple had allegedly been arguing, CBS affiliate WRGB reported. Carroll, whose child was 1 at the time, told them she was heading to New York City, but never came home.

Albany County District Attorney Lee Kindlon previously said that the discovery of the remains was made after cadaver dogs picked up a scent in the backyard of a residence on Marlborough Court, according to NBC affiliate WNYT.

"Certain recent investigative leads have brought us to this neighborhood and we've brought as many resources as we could to this address to figure out if in fact we can get some answers to what may have happened to this person," Kindlon said.

A candlelight vigil was held for Carroll on Thursday, Oct. 22, one day before police officially announced that her remains had been identified the *Times Union* reported. Almost 100 family and community members were in attendance, gathering a block away from the residence where the remains were found.

“I’m grateful, because I didn’t think I’d see this day,” Margaret Carroll, Ashley’s mother, told the paper. “She’s happy, I know she is. She was feisty. She was a handful. That was my girl, and I miss her more than ever.”

Michelle Thompson, Ashley’s cousin, said that the discovery of the remains has provided some answers for the family.

“The family can relax their mind, not wonder, is she alive? Is she not alive? Where is she? What did they do? Is she buried? Is she there? Is she here?” Thompson said, according to the *Times Union*. “These are all the questions that have been running through everyone’s head for 16 whole years.”

Thompson has also called on those with information about the case to come forward.

“I think we just want justice, we want more answers,” she said, according to CBS affiliate WRGB. “I don’t think we’re really there with the satisfaction of the whole information. You know it’s been a long time 16 years of waiting agony, sleepless nights.”