



Media Information

Columbus Division of Police

Date: UPDATE 9/18/2023

Homicide Bureau / Team 2 Unit

Elaine R. Bryant, Chief of Police

For further information, contact: Detective Hughes

Phone: (614) 645 - 4730

Ext: 2177

Type of Offense/Incident: Homicide/Felony Assault

Date: 9/13/2023

Time: 11:38 PM

Location of Offense/Incident: 1500 Block South High Street

Zone: 5

Precinct: 11

Incident Report #: 230717008

Cruiser District: 113

Victim: Tavia Copley	Sex: Female	Race: White	Age: 24
Victim: Taya Mollette	Sex: Female	Race: White	Age: 24
Victim: Adult	Sex:	Race:	Age:

Suspect: Joseph Bryan Howard	Address:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex: Male	Race: White	Age: 19
Charges: Murder				
Suspect:	Address:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested	<input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Charges:				

Incident Summary:
*****UPDATE 9-18-2023***** The suspect in this homicide has been identified as Joseph Bryan Howard, and a Murder warrant has been issued for his arrest. Mr. Howard remains at large and anyone with knowledge of his whereabouts is asked to contact the police.

On September 13, 2023, at approximately 11:38 PM, Columbus Police officers were dispatched to the 1500 Block of South High Street on the report of a shooting. Officers arrived at scene and found three victims suffering from gunshot wounds. Ms. Tavia Copley was pronounced deceased at scene by Columbus Fire Medic #3 personnel at 11:46 PM. Ms. Taya Mollette was transported to a local hospital in critical condition, but was pronounced deceased at 12:29 AM on September 14, 2023. A third adult victim was transported to a local hospital but is expected to survive their wounds.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Columbus Police Homicide Unit at (614) 645-4730 or Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-TIPS (8477). Detective A. Hughes is the lead detective on the case and is being assisted by Detective Wood.

Copy To: Executive Staff Bureau Commander Public Information Office

Prepared By: Sgt. D. Harrington Assignment: Homicide Telephone: (614) 645 - 4730

Approved By: Sgt. D. Harrington Assignment: Homicide