



Media Information

Columbus Division of Police

Date: UPDATE 9/25/2023

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrested	<input 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 9-25-2023*** The suspect in this homicide was arrested in Largo, Florida by U.S. Marshals.**

*****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