



# NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO  
KIMBERLEY K. JACOBS • CHIEF OF POLICE

For Immediate Release:

For further information, Contact:  
Sergeant Rich Weiner or  
Denise Alex-Bouzounis 614-645-4593

**Public Information Office**  
December 13, 2018  
MA# 73-2018

## \*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*

### **Robbery Suspect Fatally Shot in Police Involved Shooting**

Columbus Police are investigating a shooting in involving a Columbus Police SWAT officer.

On December 7, 2018, at 6:13 pm, Columbus Police Radio received an Officer in Trouble call. SWAT officers advised dispatch (Communications Bureau) that a robbery suspect had been shot while robbing a SWAT officer at gun point.

SWAT officers were in the area of N. Champion Avenue and Mt. Vernon Avenue conducting an operation in response to reports of robberies of individuals who had utilized a social media site to sell/buy items. A SWAT officer posing as a potential buyer/seller met the suspect to finalize the exchange of the item for cash. Other SWAT officers were providing cover for the decoy officer.

The suspect pointed a gun at the decoy officer and robbed him. At that time, one of the cover officers fired at the suspect striking him. The suspect was transported to Grant Medical Center and pronounced at 6:32pm. No officers were injured. A gun was recovered at the scene.

The suspect has been identified as Julius Ervin Tate, Jr., M/B/16.

### **UPDATE**

On Thursday, December 13, 2018, at approximately 4:19 pm, task force officers with the Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (SOFAST) arrested **Masonique B. Saunders, F/B/16**. She was arrested in front of 538 E. Rich Street and charged with Aggravated Robbery and Murder. Charges stem from the robbery and fatal police shooting which occurred on December 7, 2018.

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For further information, Contact:

Sergeant Chantay Boxill or Denise Alex-Bouzounis at  
614-645-4593

**Public Information Office**

December 10, 2018

MA# 71-2018

## **Police Involved Shooting**

**\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\***

**Reference MA# 70-2018**

The police involved shooting that occurred on **Friday, December 7, 2018**, at 1304 Mt. Vernon Avenue, is still under investigation by the Critical Incident Response Team.

The officer involved is identified as:

- **Officer Eric Richards #1547.** Officer Richards is a twenty-eight year veteran and is assigned to SWAT.

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