

Media Information



Columbus Division of Police
Major Crimes Bureau / Homicide Unit

Date: 10/1/2020

Thomas Quinlan, Chief of Police

For further information, contact: Detective Lemmon

Phone: (614) 645 - 4730

Ext: 4730

Type of Offense/Incident: Homicide

Date: 8/23/2020

Time: 7:30PM

Location of Offense/Incident: Joyce Ave. & Denune Ave.

Zone: 4

Precinct: 2

Incident Report #: 200634524

Cruiser District: 22

Victim: Diarice Fitzgerald

Sex: Male

Race: Black

Age: 31

Victim: Name Withheld

Sex: Female

Race: Black

Age: 15

Victim: Asier Lewis (Deceased)

Sex: Male

Race: Black

Age: 0

Suspect: Christopher L. Payne Jr.

Address: 1793 E. Rich St.

☒ Arrested ☐ Warrant on File

Sex: Male

Race: Black

Age: 24

Charges: Murder

Suspect:

Address:

☐ Arrested ☐ Warrant on File

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Charges:

Incident Summary:

UPDATE – On Thursday, October 1, 2020, a warrant was filed for the arrest of Christopher Payne charging him with murder for causing the death of Asier Lewis, an unborn baby boy. Later that same day Mr. Payne was arrested by Columbus Police Patrol Officers.

On Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 7:30PM, Columbus Police Officers were called to the area of Joyce Ave and Denune Ave. on a report of a shooting. On arrival, officers found a pregnant 15 year old female suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. Clinton Township Medic 61 responded to the scene and transported the victim to Grant. The mother was transported in stable condition, however, her unborn baby was unstable. The baby did not survive and was pronounced deceased by attending physicians at 10:46PM.

The investigation revealed that the mother was walking with a Mr. Diarice Fitzgerald on Denune Ave. when shots were fired at both of them from a passing car. Mr. Fitzgerald was not injured during the incident.

Anyone with information regarding this incident, is asked to call Columbus Police Homicide Unit at (614) 645-4730 or Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-TIPS (8477). This is the 89th Homicide in Columbus Ohio in Calendar Year 2020. Incident #200634524. Detective Lemmon is the lead detective on the case and is being assisted by Detective Egelhoff.

Copy To:

☒ Executive Staff

☒ Bureau Commander

☒ Public Information Office

Prepared By: Sgt. Marable
Approved By: Sgt. Marable

Assignment: Homicide
Assignment: Homicide

Telephone: (614) 645 - 4730