



NEWS RELEASE

DIVISION OF POLICE • COLUMBUS, OHIO

ELAINE BRYANT • CHIEF OF POLICE

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Change in Columbus Police Media Releases

The Columbus Division of Police strives for transparency and a good working relationship with the media. This includes prompt distribution of news releases.

The news releases distributed by CPD's Major Crimes Bureau, which encompasses the Robbery Unit, Assault Unit, Gun Crimes Unit and Homicide Unit, routinely identify victims of crimes involved in their investigations. Chief Bryant and Assistant Chief Potts have reviewed this practice in consultation with Major Crimes personnel, and in the interest of protecting victims, have implemented the following changes pertaining to news releases and social media posts:

- In non-fatal incidents, victims will be identified only by their initials.
- In cases where the victim did not survive, their name will be disclosed once next of kin has been notified.
- The exception to the above will be in cases with multiple victims, in which some survive and some do not. In this situation, the non-surviving victim will not be identified in a news release in order to minimize exposure of surviving victims.

The impetus for this change is protecting victims of crime from being targeted or re-victimized in any way. While this information is public record, it will not be displayed on news releases or Columbus Police social media platforms.

We appreciate your continued partnership and your shared interest in protection of victims of crime.

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