



Media Information

Columbus Division of Police
Homicide Bureau / Homicide Unit

Date: 8/28/25

Elaine R. Bryant, Chief of Police

For further information, contact: Public Information Office Phone: (614) 645 - 4593

Ext:

Type of Offense/Incident: Homicide

Date: 8/14/25

Time: 1:42 PM

Location of Offense/Incident: 1200 block of W. Broad St.

Zone: 3

Precinct: 8

Incident Report #: 250591481

Cruiser District: 84

Victim: THOMAS SMITH

Sex: Male

Race: White

Age: 56

Victim:

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Victim:

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Suspect: JOSHUA BAYS

Address:

☒ Arrested

☐ Warrant on File

Sex: Male

Race: White

Age: 45

Charges: Murder

Suspect:

Address:

☐ Arrested

☐ Warrant on File

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Charges:

Incident Summary:

*** UPDATE: On August 17, 2025, at 3:44 p.m., the victim, THOMAS SMITH, age 56, was pronounced deceased. An arrest warrant was filed for JOSHUA BAYS, age 45, charging him with Murder. On August 28, 2025, Bays was arrested without incident by Columbus Police SWAT personnel. ***

On August 14, 2025, at 1:42 p.m., Columbus Police officers responded to the 1200 block of W. Broad St. on a reported shooting. Upon arrival, officers located one adult victim who was unresponsive and had suffered a gunshot wound. Columbus Fire medics responded to the scene and transported the victim to a local hospital. Because of the severity of the injuries, the Homicide Unit will conduct this investigation.

The victim has been identified and that information is being withheld at this time. Detectives are working to establish a motive for the shooting.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call Columbus Police Detective Jude at (614) 645-4503, the Homicide Unit at (614) 645-4730, or Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-TIPS (8477). Detective Jude 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. M.B. Smith 5280

Assignment: Homicide

Telephone: (614) 645 - 4191

Approved By: Sgt. M.B. Smith 5280

Assignment: Homicide