



Media Information

Columbus Division of Police

Homicide Bureau / Accident Investigation Unit

Date: 3/17/2025

Elaine R. Bryant, Chief of Police

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

Ext:

Type of Offense/Incident: Fatal Traffic Crash AIU 30-2025

Date: 3/17/2025

Time: 1:08 am

Location of Offense/Incident: I-70 at I-270

Zone: 2

Precinct: 20

Incident Report #: 250182919

Cruiser District: 204

Victim: Lakayla Willis

Sex: F

Race: B

Age: 27

Victim:

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Victim:

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Suspect:

Address:

☐ Arrested

☐ Warrant on File

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Charges:

Suspect:

Address:

☐ Arrested

☐ Warrant on File

Sex:

Race:

Age:

Charges:

Incident Summary: On 3/17/2025 at 1:08 a.m., an adult was operating a 2021 Freightliner semi eastbound on I-70 at I-270 in the #4 lane. At the same time, Lakayla Willis was operating a 2014 Jeep Cherokee westbound on I-70 approaching I-270. For reasons still under investigation Ms. Willis ran off the right side of the roadway and then struck a concrete wall. After that impact, she crossed over all the westbound lanes, ran off the left side of the roadway, continued through the median, and then struck the cable guardrail. The impact with the cable guardrail caused the Jeep to flip and land in the eastbound lanes. The Jeep crossed all the eastbound lanes and into the path of the Freightliner. The Jeep and the Freightliner collided. That impact sent the Jeep off of the south side of the roadway, where it came to rest. The Freightliner came to rest on the shoulder of the roadway. Columbus Fire Medic #23 responded to the crash scene and transported Ms. Willis to Mt. Carmel East Hospital in critical condition. Ms. Willis was pronounced dead at 2:32 a.m.

The Columbus Police Accident Investigation Unit responded to the crash scene and initiated an investigation, which is on-going.

Copy To: ☒ Executive Staff

☒ Bureau Commander

☒ Public Information Office

Prepared By: Detective McWhorter

Assignment: 619

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Assignment: 604X