



# Media Information

Columbus Division of Police  
Homicide Bureau / Accident Investigation Unit

Date: 5/14/2026

Elaine R. Bryant, Chief of Police

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

Ext:

Type of Offense/Incident: Serious Injury Traffic Crash

Date: 5/13/2026

Time: 11:58 pm

Location of Offense/Incident: Hilliard Rome Rd at Hilliard Rome Rd E

Zone: 3

Precinct: 15

Incident Report #: 260339695 AIU 62-2026

Cruiser District: 153

Victim: Scarlett Hightower	Sex: F	Race: B	Age: 11
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:

Suspect:	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex:
	Race:
	Age:
Charges:	
Suspect:	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex:
	Race:
	Age:
Charges:	

**Incident Summary: \*\*\*\*Update\*\*\*\* On 6/15/2026 6:26 pm, Scarlett Hightower was pronounced dead by Nationwide Children's Hospital Dr. Sorkin.**

On 5/13/2026 at 11:58 pm, an Adult was operating a 2015 Toyota Highlander southbound on Hilliard Rome Rd. approaching the Hilliard Rome Rd. E. intersection. At the same time a Juvenile attempted to cross Hilliard Rome Rd. south of the intersection from the east side of the roadway to the west side of the roadway against a Don't Walk signal. The front of the Highlander struck the Juvenile and knocked them to the ground. The Adult driver of the Highlander stopped and remained at the crash scene. The Juvenile was transported to Nationwide Children's Hospital in critical condition.

The Accident Investigations Unit responded to the crash scene and initiated an investigation, which is ongoing.

Any person with knowledge of the vehicle involved or driver is encouraged to contact the Accident Investigation Unit at (614) 645-4767. People wishing to remain anonymous may contact Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-8477.

Copy To: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Bureau Commander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Information Office
Prepared By: Det. McWhorter	Assignment: 616C AIU	Telephone: (614) 645 - 4767
Approved By: Sgt. Meister	Assignment: 611C AIU	