

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

October 11, 2023

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer

Ph. (386) 247-1148

Second Arrest in death of 12 year old

On Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 9:06 P.M., officers from the Lake City Police Department were dispatched to NW Long Street to the report of a person shot.

Upon arrival, officers located 12-year-old Mariah Smith, suffering from a gunshot wound. First aid was administered to Mariah, by officers and then by EMS. Unfortunately, she succumbed to her injuries.

During the investigation, many leads have been followed, which led to several suspects being identified. On Monday, August 28, 2023 Jatarious Rashad Fluellen, a 14-year-old, was the first arrested for her Murder.

The last seven weeks have included many long hours for our investigators. From seeking out and interviewing persons with possible information, to processing evidence and delivering it to labs for comparison. As the interviews continue and results of the evidence began to come in, our investigators traveled to Miami, Florida to continue interviews. In doing so, we have developed probable cause to make a second arrest in this case.

On Wednesday, October 11, 2023 Jayden Tyler Burch was taken into custody without incident and charged in the murder of Mariah Smith.

“I am extremely pleased with the efforts put forth by investigators from the Lake City Police Department, State Attorney’s Office along with agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement who have been working this case. These men and women have tirelessly worked this case”, stated Chief of Police, Gerald Butler. “I would like to thank the community for its support and assistance in providing valuable information during this investigation. The tragic loss of Mariah has deeply impacted us all, and we continue to work diligently to identify and arrest all those involved in her murder”.

Anyone having information concerning this incident is asked to contact the Lake City Police Department at (386) 752-4343 and speak with Investigator Sapp.



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

Name: Burch, Jayden Tyler
DOB: 11/19/2007
Sex: Male
Race: Black
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: 2981 NW 165th St Miami Gardens, FL 33054
Charges: 1 count of Murder
1 count of Attempted Murder



Name: Fluellen II, Jatarious Rashad
DOB: 02/11/2009
Sex: Male
Race: Black
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: 883 NW Fowler Street Lake City, FL 32055
Charges: 1 count of Murder
2 counts of Attempted Murder



Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068
or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.



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