

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



www.lcflapd.com

@LCFlaPD

Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2024

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer

Ph. (386) 247-1148

Third 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. Two of those, Jatarious Rashad Fluellen, a 14-year-old, and Jayden Tyler Burch a 16-year-old, were previously arrested without incident and charged in the murder of Mariah Smith.

On Thursday, February 15, 2024 Matthew Rice was taken into custody without incident and charged in the murder of Mariah Smith.

“With this third arrest, all the individuals involved in this heinous crime have been identified and charged. I would like to thank the community for their assistance, the State Attorney’s Office and the tireless work of our Detectives in working this investigation.” Said Chief of Police Gerald Butler. “We understand the impact violent crimes have on our community, and we remain dedicated to ensuring that those responsible are held accountable”.

Name: Rice, Matthew
DOB: 02/02/2007
Sex: Male
Race: Black
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: 411 NW Bascom Norris Drive Lake City, FL 32055
Charges: 1 count of Murder
2 counts of Attempted Murder



Proudly Serving the Citizens of Lake City

225 NW Main Boulevard, Suite 102, Lake City, FL 32055 • Phone: (386) 752-4343 • Fax: (386) 719-5463

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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.



Proudly Serving the Citizens of Lake City

225 NW Main Boulevard, Suite 102, Lake City, FL 32055 • Phone: (386) 752-4343 • Fax: (386) 719-5463

An Equal Opportunity Employer

