



Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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DATE : March 31, 2016

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ARREST RELEASE

On Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at approximately 2:30 p.m., District 1 Officers of the Rockford Police Department responded to the 3200 block of Parkside Avenue in reference to a complaint of multiple shots fired. Upon arrival, officers located a gunshot victim, Akeem Smith, in the garage of the residence. Smith suffered from life threatening injuries and later died at a local hospital.

Detectives worked continuously throughout the night investigating Smith's homicide. The facts of the case were reviewed with the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office and the Winnebago County Courts issued First Degree Murder arrest warrants for Javontavious Benford, Retavian Jefferson and Martaivis Harmon. Benford and Jefferson have been taken into custody, while Harmon remains at large.

Although all three suspects are 17 years old, the charge of First Degree Murder is a charge that is excluded from juvenile court jurisdiction pursuant of statute.

The charges against Benford, Jefferson and Harmon are merely accusations and they are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Anyone with information regarding this case or regarding the whereabouts of Martaivis Harmon should contact Rockford Area Crime Stoppers at 815-963-7867 or the Rockford Police Department at 779-500-6555.

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