



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Incident Location: 1300 Block of Silver Street, Urbana
Date/Time of Release: 9/13/2023 8:05 p.m.
Date/Time of Incident: 6/30/2023 3:45 p.m.



HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION - ARREST

ORIGINAL RELEASE

On Friday, June 30, 2023 at about 3:45 p.m., Urbana Police Officers responded to a parking lot in the 1300 block of Silver Street for a report of a shooting with injuries. They arrived to find a 51-year-old man from Urbana deceased from a gunshot wound. Information regarding the decedent's identity will not be released at this time. There is an autopsy pending and the name will later be released by the Champaign County Coroner's Office.

During the investigation into the shooting death of the victim, police were able to obtain a court-authorized search for an apartment in the 1300 block of Silver Street. During that search, police located a handgun. A 45-year-old man from Urbana, Eric Nash, was arrested for Unlawful Use of Weapon by a Felon and is housed at the Champaign County Satellite Jail pending further court proceedings. At this time, it is not known if the handgun was the same one used to kill the victim in this case.

Due to a power outage in the area at the time of the shooting, police know there were a number of people outside. Therefore, Urbana Police ask for the assistance of the community with any information they have about the shooting as police continue to gather facts about what happened.

UPDATE

During the course of the investigation, Urbana Police developed 45-year-old Sidney A. Smith of Urbana as a suspect in reference to the above homicide of Eddie Williams. On September 13, 2023, an arrest warrant for Smith with a bond amount of \$4 Million Dollars was obtained. Later in the day, Urbana Detectives located Smith at the Champaign County Courthouse where he was attending court on an unrelated case. Smith was taken into custody and during a search of Smith's vehicle, police located a handgun that had been reported stolen out of Indiana. Smith was transported to the Champaign County Satellite Jail where he is awaiting court proceedings for the above-mentioned Murder, Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon and Possession of a Stolen Firearm.

Contact: Lt. Mike Cervantes, Urbana Police Department, Criminal Investigations Division
City of Urbana, 217-384-2320, cervanmp@urbanaininois.us



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No further information will be released at this time.

Urbana Police ask that anyone with additional information or video footage of the incident to contact police at 217-384-2320. Arrangements can be made for information to be shared privately. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may also submit tips to Crime Stoppers by phone at: 217-373-8477 (TIPS); online at 373tips.com; or the "P3 Tips" mobile app.

Citizens are reminded that information submitted to Crime Stoppers is completely anonymous. Calls are routed to a third-party national call center that receives your information, completes a tips information form, and then passes the information to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Caller ID tracking is not utilized by Crime Stoppers and conversations are not recorded.

Crime Stoppers will pay cash rewards of \$5,000 for tips that lead to an arrest in any homicide case, \$2,500 for tips leading to an arrest in a felony crime involving a firearm, and up to \$1,000 for tips leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for any other crime.

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