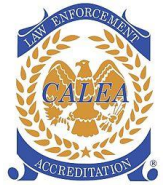




Columbus Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2026

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Two Suspects Arrested in Murder Investigation

The Columbus Police Department has arrested two suspects in connection with the murder of 21-year-old Jay'Veon Bell.

On June 22, 2026, Columbus Police Officers responded to the area of 31st Avenue and Delta Street in reference to a shooting. Responding officers found Bell suffering from a gunshot wound. He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Violent Crimes Unit was called to the scene to take lead on the investigation.

Waquay Harris, 26, and Tristan Cook, 19, have each been charged with the following:

- Murder
- Armed Robbery
- Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime
- Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon



Both suspects were already in the Muscogee County Jail on charges related to a separate carjacking investigation. Those charges include Hijacking a Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Assault, and Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime.

Harris and Cook are scheduled to appear in Recorder's Court for a preliminary hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

This case remains under investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact Cpl. Bobby Jackson at 706-225-4409 or BobbyJackson@columbusga.org.

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