



# Media Information

Columbus Division of Police  
Homicide Bureau / Homicide Unit

Date: 7/24/2024

Elaine R. Bryant, Chief of Police

For further information, contact: Detective Lemmon

Phone: (614) 645 - 4730

Ext: 4730

Type of Offense/Incident: Homicide

Date: 7/11/2024

Time: 1:27AM

Location of Offense/Incident: 6300 block of Blue Knoll Dr.

Zone: 2

Precinct: 20

Incident Report #: 240505092

Cruiser District: 203

Victim: Alexa Stakely (Deceased)	Sex: Female	Race: White	Age: 29
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:
Victim:	Sex:	Race:	Age:

Suspect: See below.	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex:                      Race:                      Age:
Charges:	
Suspect:	Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant on File	Sex:                      Race:                      Age:
Charges:	

**Incident Summary:**

**Suspect #1:** Ray-Yon Hawkins    Male/Black/16  
 Charge: Murder  
 LKA: 6350 Dietz Dr. Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110

**Suspect#2:** Hezekiah Fortson    Male/Black/16  
 Charge: Murder  
 4613 Pintail Creek Dr. Canal Winchester, Ohio 4311

**Suspect#3:** Gerald Dowling      Male/Black/19  
 Charge: Murder  
 6198 Lakeshore Dr. Dublin, Ohio 43017

**\*\*\*5th UPDATE:** On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, following the arrests earlier today of Hawkins and Fortson, the third suspect, Gerald Dowling, 19, came to Columbus Police Headquarters where he agreed to be interviewed by detectives. During his interview, Dowling admitted to being present with Hawkins and Fortson during the theft of Stakely's Honda. Detectives have charged Dowling with Murder for his role in causing Stakely's death.

Detectives would like to express their gratitude to the public for the assistance and information provided in this case.

Anyone with information regarding this incident, is asked to contact Detective Lemmon at (614) 645-2558 or RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org or to call Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-TIPS (8477). Detective Lemmon is the lead detective on the case and is being assisted by Detective Johnson.\*\*\*

**\*\*\*4th UPDATE:** On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, following the arrest of Hawkins, detectives successfully identified and interviewed a second suspect, Hezekiah Fortson, 16. During an interview with detectives, Fortson admitted to being present with Hawkins and a third party during the theft of Stakely's Honda. Detectives have charged Fortson with Murder for his role in causing Stakely's death.

Detectives are currently working to verify the identity of the third suspect. This last suspect is encouraged to come forward and take responsibility for their actions.

Detectives would like to again thank to public for the help they have provided. Anyone with information regarding this incident, is asked to contact Detective Lemmon at (614) 645-2558 or [RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org](mailto:RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org) or to call Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-TIPS (8477). Detective Lemmon is the lead detective on the case and is being assisted by Detective Johnson.\*\*\*

**\*\*\*3rd UPDATE:** On Wednesday, July 24, 2024, Ray-Yon Hawkins, 16, accompanied by his parents, came to Columbus Police Headquarters where Hawkins agreed to be interviewed by detectives. During the interview, Hawkins admitted to stealing Stakely's Honda and causing her death. Detectives have charged Hawkins with Murder for causing Stakely's death.

Hawkins stated that he and two acquaintances were looking for a vehicle to steal when they saw Stakely's Honda. As his two friends watched, Hawkins got into Stakely's vehicle and was about to drive off when Stakely appeared in front of the Honda. Hawkins stated he panicked and began to drive off, striking Stakely with her own vehicle. Hawkins then abandoned Stakely's Honda and rejoined the other two on foot.

Detectives are currently working to verify the identities of the other two suspects. These two suspects are encouraged to come forward and take responsibility for their actions.

Detectives would like to again thank to public for the help they have provided. Anyone with information regarding this incident, is asked to contact Detective Lemmon at (614) 645-2558 or [RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org](mailto:RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org) or to call Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-TIPS (8477). Detective Lemmon is the lead detective on the case and is being assisted by Detective Johnson.\*\*\*

**\*\*\*2nd UPDATE:** Detectives appreciate the help the public has provided to date. To reiterate, all three suspects are seen together by witnesses and on surveillance video wandering through the area prior to the theft of Stakely's Honda.

Attached to this release is a video of two of the suspects running behind Stakely's Honda just after it was stolen. These two suspects meet up with the driver when the Honda is abandoned and all three continue northbound. The last place the suspects are captured on video is walking northbound at

**Brynwood Green Dr. Given the multiple sightings of the trio in the area prior to the theft of Stakely's Honda, and the fact that the three of them are walking shortly after abandoning Stakely's Honda, indicates that they are comfortable in this area. It is likely the suspects live or have friends in the area.**

**Detectives are still interested in any video of the three suspects, but are particularly interested in any video of the three captured after the theft of Stakely's Honda north of Brynwood Green Dr. Detectives are asking the tenants of The Residences at James Place and The Residences at Akita Lane to carefully check for any video from the early morning hours of July 11, 2024.**

**See the updated maps depicting the path taken by the suspects and the updated area map depicting the specific area of interest.**

**<https://ColumbusPDOH.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/240505092>**

**The lead investigator, Detective Lemmon, can be contacted at (614) 645-2558 or [RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org](mailto:RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org).**

**Detectives are requesting that media outlets display the attached maps and QR code on their social media platforms along with the articles they publish of Stakely's death. Please include captions informing the public of what each map depicts and that the QR Code may be used to upload videos of this incident.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*1<sup>st</sup> UPDATE: Attached to this release are videos and still shots of the suspects who were involved in the theft of Stakely's Honda and her death. During the early morning hours of July 11, 2024, prior to stealing Stakely's Honda, these suspects were seen wandering through nearby apartment complexes and condominiums. These apartment complexes and condominiums located east of Gender Rd., north of the Gender Park Condominiums and south of Wright Rd. These apartment complexes and condominiums include: White Oak Park Condominiums, The Green, The Residences at James Place, Brynwood Reserve and The Residences at Akita Lane. (See the area map attached.)**

**Anyone with video of, or information about, these suspects is asked to contact detectives. Video may be uploaded directly to detectives using the QR Code attached or by following this link:**

**<https://ColumbusPDOH.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/240505092>**

**The lead investigator, Detective Lemmon, can be contacted at (614) 645-2558 or [RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org](mailto:RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org).**

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**On Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 1:27AM, Columbus Police Officers were called to the 6300 block of Blue Knoll Dr. on a report of a pedestrian that had been struck by a motor vehicle. On arrival, officers found Alexa Stakely, 29, lying in the roadway suffering from traumatic injuries. CFD Medic 32 transported Stakely, to Mount Carmel East Hospital in critical condition, where she was pronounced deceased at 8:43AM.**

**Stakely, a single mother and OSU graduate, worked for a local school district as a speech and language pathologist. Stakely also worked a second job as a waitress in order to support her 6 year old child. Stakely had finished her shift and was picking her child up from the babysitter's house on Blue Knoll Dr.**

**After placing her sleeping child in her 2022 silver Honda SUV, which was parked just outside the babysitter's residence, Stakely started her Honda in order to leave. Stakely then realized she needed an item from the babysitter who she met just inside the front door. As Stakely returned to her Honda it began to back out into the roadway. Stakely was seen running toward her Honda and was heard screaming for her child. Stakely was then struck by the Honda and thrown to the pavement, striking her**

head causing a fatal wound. The Honda was driven through the apartment complex from where it had been stolen before being abandoned a short distance away. Responding officers located the Honda and recovered Stakely's sleeping child, unharmed, from the Honda.

After the Honda struck Stakely, two males were seen running past Stakely who was laying in the roadway. These males then ran north towards the abandoned Honda. The males continued running northbound were observed jumping a fence and disappear into a neighboring apartment complex. Earlier that morning, surveillance video caught a group of males looking into apartments in the area of Castenea Way. When confronted, the males proceeded eastbound further into the complex and out of view. Two of these males matched the description of the males who were seen running past Stakely after she had been struck.

Detectives are asking anyone with video of the incident itself, or persons loitering in the area, to send it to the URL below or to use the QR code provided. The attached maps shows the areas and apartment complexes the detectives are specifically interested in.

<https://ColumbusPDOH.evidence.com/axon/community-request/public/240505092>

Anyone with information regarding this incident, is asked to contact Detective Lemmon at (614) 645-2558 or [RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org](mailto:RALemmon@ColumbusPolice.org) or to call Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at (614) 461-TIPS (8477). Detective Lemmon is the lead detective on the case and is being assisted by Detective Johnson.

Copy To:  Executive Staff

Bureau Commander

Public Information Office

Prepared By: Sgt. Marable

Assignment: Homicide

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Approved By: Sgt. Marable

Assignment: Homicide