County Police Make Arrest in Penn Hills Homicide

Penn Hills, Allegheny County – At approximately 8:56 p.m. on Sunday, July 14, 2019, the Penn Hills Police and paramedics were dispatched to the Sharon Court apartment complex in response to 9-1-1 calls about a shooting. The complex is located at the intersection of Frankstown Road and Graham Boulevard. When they arrived, they found a 30-year-old male suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. He was pronounced dead at the scene and has been identified by the Medical Examiner’s Office as Joshua Antonio Makhanda-Lopez.

Detectives from the Allegheny County Police responded to the scene to assist the Penn Hills Police. The victim was found seated in the driver’s seat of a car in the parking lot of the apartment complex. According to some neighbors, this parking lot has been known for drug activity. Witnesses described two younger black males fleeing the area immediately after the shooting. They fled in the direction of a residence in the 9200 block of Frankstown Road.

Detectives and uniformed officers approached the residence and made contact with the female resident on the porch. The resident was cooperative and explained that there were four young men in the residence. At the request of the officers she summoned all the other occupants outside. Two of the four young men exited the house. The officers called for the other two, but only one emerged. These young men indicated that the fourth young man was hiding in the house.

The resident gave the officers permission to search for the fourth young man. As the officers were conducting that search they encountered a male hiding in the basement area of the house. The male was given commands by one officer but refused to comply. The subject then fired a weapon at the officer before charging at the officer. The officer returned fire, striking the male at least twice. The male was pronounced dead at the scene. The officer that fired was from the Penn Hills police department.

Through the course of the investigation, it has been determined that the two individuals responsible for the homicide were encountered at the residence in the 9200 block of Frankstown Road. One of the individuals is the person that fired a handgun at the officers. That individual has been identified by the Medical Examiner’s Office as 20-year-old Onaje Dickinson.

The second individual was identified as 15-year-old Myzle Ford. Ford had exited the residence when summoned by the resident of the residence, his mother. Ford has been arrested and charged as an adult with robbery, conspiracy, homicide, and weapons violations. He is lodged in the Allegheny County Jail to await arraignment on those charges.

At the completion of the investigation the District Attorney’s Office will make any determinations related to charges. As per Penn Hills Police policy, the name of the involved officer is not being released.

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