



MEDIA RELEASE



Bloomington Police Department & McLean County Coroner's Office

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2025

Preliminary Results from Death Investigation

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department and the McLean County Coroner's Office continue our investigation into the deaths occurring in the 900 block of North Lee Street, on 2/23/25.

McLean County Coroner Dr. Kathy Yoder is releasing information regarding the deaths of Chelsea Lusher, Armoni Bennett, Trina Hollings, and Christopher Simmons.

Pronounced deceased at 12:27 p.m., on February 23, 2025, were Christopher H. Simmons, age 33, of Bloomington, Illinois; Chelsea L. Lusher, age 31, of Bloomington, Illinois; Trina J. Hollings, age 30, of Normal, Illinois; and Armoni L. Bennett, age 13, of Bloomington, Illinois.

Preliminary autopsy opinion indicates that Mr. Simmons died from a self-inflicted single gunshot wound of the head. Preliminary autopsy opinion indicates that Ms. Lusher, Ms. Hollings, and Mr. Bennett all died from multiple gunshot wounds. No other injuries were noted. Toxicology testing is pending on all decedents.

Our preliminary investigation suggests the suspect, Christopher Simmons, killed his girlfriend, Chelsea Lusher, Chelsea's biological son, Armoni Bennett, and Chelsea's friend, Trina Hollings. After murdering the three individuals, Simmons fatally shot himself. Another resident of the home discovered the scene, on 2/23/25, and immediately contacted police.

The firearm used in the homicide was recovered at the scene and under the body of Simmons. This firearm was legally purchased by Simmons in 2021. Sometime after the purchase, Simmons' Illinois Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card was revoked, and he was prohibited from legally possessing and purchasing firearms.

"Our entire department mourns because of the unfortunate loss of life in our community. We stand for all who were victimized and offer our thoughts and prayers. Life is so precious, and we will remain anchored in justice and working with the community to enhance the quality of life here in Bloomington. I commend our professional staff and officers for their painstaking work on this high-profile investigation," stated Chief Jamal Simington. "We appreciate the community's patience as we worked diligently with our public safety

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partners and the community to gather facts prior to releasing details. This slight delay is necessary and out of respect for justice and the families of the victims."

If you are experiencing or know of someone experiencing domestic violence or domestic abuse, please reach out to your local police department or local domestic violence organization. A local 24-hour domestic violence hotline is available by calling 309-827-7070. You can learn more about additional local domestic violence community resources by visiting 211illinois.org.

The circumstances behind this incident remain pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Anyone with information should contact Detective Kevin Raisbeck at 309-434-2593 or Kraisbeck@cityblm.org.

If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

Previous Release

Death Investigation Update

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department and the McLean County Coroner's Office continue to investigate the deaths in the 900 block of North Lee Street. Four people were pronounced deceased at the scene by the McLean County Coroner's Office. Identification of the deceased will not be released until the next of kin are notified. An autopsy is pending.

Preliminary investigation suggests this was an isolated incident and there is no threat to the public.

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Chief Jamal Simington stated, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of those who lost their lives today. Our detectives continue to diligently investigate this unfortunate incident in an effort to get some answers for the victims' loved ones and our community."

The circumstances behind this incident are pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Anyone with information should contact Detective Kevin Raisbeck at 309-434-2593 or Kraisbeck@cityblm.org.

Previous Release

Death Investigation

Bloomington, IL - On Sunday, 2/23/25, at approximately 10:59 a.m., Bloomington police officers were dispatched to the 900 block of North Lee Street, for a death investigation inside of a residence. Paramedics with the Bloomington Fire Department were also dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival, officers located the victim(s) and requested the Criminal Investigations Division and the McLean County Coroner's Office to the scene. Identification of the deceased will not be released until the next of kin is notified. An autopsy is pending.

The circumstances behind this incident are pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department and the McLean County Coroner's Office. No additional information will be released at this time. Anyone with information should contact Detective Kevin Raisbeck at 309-434-2593 or Kraisbeck@cityblm.org.

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