



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Homicide Investigation Update

The Birmingham Police Department reports that detectives have arrested and charged two suspects in connection with a homicide investigation. The incident occurred Wednesday, April 20, 2016 in the 1500 block of Lomb Ave.

The victim has been identified as:
James Bennefield, W/M, 46 of Cullman, Alabama

The suspects have been identified as:
Horayshio Fletcher, B/M, 17 and Vershawn Edwards, B/M, 16 both of Birmingham, Alabama. Capital Murder warrants with a no bond have been obtained against both suspects. The suspects are in the Jefferson County Jail.

West Precinct Task Force officers were able to locate the victim's truck several hours later on Powderly Ave SW. Officers attempted to stop the truck on 24th street SW but the suspects refused to stop. After a short pursuit the vehicle turned into Cooper Green Park, where the driver lost control of the truck and struck a tree. The suspects exited the vehicle running and were immediately apprehended by West Precinct officers.

"This homicide shows the multiple issues we face with violent crime. Here we have two young men, one out on bond for another crime, committing a senseless act of violence. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim's family and yet we cannot forget about the potential of these young men that has now been wasted", says Chief Roper.

Refer to media release #33 of 2016 for additional information on this case.