



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chad Wamsley - Interim Chief of Police
Tim McCoy - Assistant Chief

305 S. East Street
Bloomington, IL, 61701
309-820-8888

For Immediate Release: September 5, 2021

Missing Person - Jelani Day – Investigation Continues

Bloomington, IL – Early Saturday morning, 9/4/2021, several police, fire, and rescue agencies including the Bloomington Police Department were involved in an organized search in the LaSalle-Peru, Illinois area in an attempt to locate missing person, Jelani “JJ” Day.

At 9:47 a.m., a search team found an unidentified body just off the south bank of the Illinois River, east of Illinois Route 251 bridge. The LaSalle County's Coroner's office, the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office, the Bloomington Police Department, and Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services were called to the scene where the deceased person was located. The LaSalle County Sheriff's Office began their investigation into the circumstances behind the unidentified persons death. At this time, the LaSalle County Coroner's Office has not released the identification of the deceased person nor released any other details about the identification of the deceased. LaSalle County Coroner's Office did however state that identification of the deceased person may take several days or several weeks.

We ask that people refrain from speculation as the investigation remains ongoing and could take considerable time.

The Bloomington Police Department is still seeking information on Jelani Day. Anyone with information regarding the disappearance of Jelani Day is asked to contact the Bloomington Police Department Detective BPD Detective Paul Jones at 309-434-2548 or at Pjones@cityblm.org.

Anyone with information regarding the unidentified deceased person is asked to contact LaSalle County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Investigator Josh McGrath at 815-434-8376 (desk).

Previous BPD Release 8/31/21

The Bloomington Police Department continues to investigate the circumstances behind missing person Jelani Day. BPD has obtained a new video of Day from a surveillance camera. The surveillance camera footage, shows Day entering a retail store called Beyond / Hello in Bloomington, IL (1515 N. Veterans Pkwy) on Tuesday, 8/24/2021, at 9:12 a.m.

Day appears to be wearing a blue Detroit Lions baseball hat, a black tee shirt with a unique graphic (Jimi "Hendrix" band shirt), white/silver shorts, and black shoes with white soles. The exterior surveillance video also shows Day's white Chrysler 300 in the parking lot of the business.

NOTE: DAY WILL NOT BE WEARING THIS CLOTHING. THIS CLOTHING WAS FOUND IN HIS VEHICLE ON 8/26/21. WE ARE SOLICITING LEADS FROM ANYONE THAT MAY HAVE SEEN DAY OR SOMEONE MATCHING THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BETWEEN 8/24/2021 9:15 A.M. - 8/26/2021 at 4:20 P.M. WHILE DAY WAS WEARING THIS OUTFIT.

CONTACT:

Officer John Fermon

Bloomington (IL) Police Department

Desk: (309)-434-2355 | **Fax:** (309)-829-0662 | **Email:** Paffairs@cityblm.org

The BPD is requesting anyone with information about Jelani Day's whereabouts contact BPD Detective Paul Jones at 309-434-2548 or at Pjones@cityblm.org. The Bloomington Police has worked with and continues to work with several jurisdictions to locate Day and locating him is a top priority for everyone involved. Please contact us with any leads/tips of his whereabouts.

Previous BPD Release from 8/27/21

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department continues to investigate the circumstances behind missing person Jelani Day. BPD has obtained the last known photograph/video (pictured below) of Jelani and his clothing from a security camera at ISU's Bone Student Center on Tuesday, 8/24/2021 at approximately 7:20 a.m. The photograph shows Day wearing a blue button up collared dress shirt, black pants, black belt, black dress shoes, and a blue face covering.

The BPD is also requesting anyone who has seen Jelani's vehicle (Chrysler 300) between Tuesday, 8/24/2021, 7:00 a.m. - Thursday, 8/26/2021, at 4:20 p.m. to please contact Detective Paul Jones at 309-434-2548 or at Pjones@cityblm.org.

The Bloomington Police has worked with and continues to work with several jurisdictions to locate Day and locating him is a top priority for everyone involved. The BPD has also sent out this information statewide in an attempt to locate him.

Peru IL PD Media Release

Press Release

Public Assistance Requested

Peru Police Department

For Immediate Release Friday August 27, 2021 8:05 am

Media Contacts:

Chief Douglas P. Bernabei or Deputy Chief Robert Pyszka

Case Detectives:

Detective Commander Dennis Hocking 223-2151 extension 2804

Detective Brad Jones 223-2151 extension 2816

At 4:20pm Thursday August 26, 2021, officers of the Peru Police Department responded to a report of a vehicle in the wooded area south of the Illinois Valley YMCA and due north of the intersection of 12th Street and Westclox Avenue. When officers arrived, a vehicle was located concealed in the wooded area. Upon a search of law enforcement computerized files, it was determined the vehicle was a vehicle of interest in a missing person case out of Bloomington, Illinois.

The vehicle was one belonging to Mr. Jelani J. Day, age 25 of Bloomington, Illinois. According to Bloomington Police Mr. Day is a graduate student at Illinois State University with family from Danville, Illinois. Jelani has been missing for several days in unexplained suspicious circumstances. Jelani is described as a male black, 25 year of age, 6 feet, two inches tall, 180 pounds with short black hair, brown eyes, and some facial hair.

Based on the findings by PPD officers when recovering the vehicle, a command post was established and an extensive K-9 search by Illinois State Police, drone aerial searches by Peru Fire and Utica Fire drones as well as a ground search by

CONTACT:

Officer John Fermon

Bloomington (IL) Police Department

Desk: (309)-434-2355 | **Fax:** (309)-829-0662 | **Email:** Paffairs@cityblm.org

teams from Peru, Utica, and Oglesby Fire Departments. Peru Police were also assisted by detectives from Bloomington Police and State's Attorney Todd Martin.

Early this morning the vehicle was removed and transported to a secure facility pending further processing. Bloomington and Peru detectives are asking the assistance from Illinois Valley residents that may have seen the vehicle or Jelani or any else operating the vehicle in the area since sometime this past Monday.

Jelani is depicted in the attached photos and the vehicle is a white 2010 Chrysler 300 4 door. It may have had license plates of CH74067 on the vehicle when travelling in the Illinois Valley. It is also possible there were no plates on the vehicle.

Anyone with information can call Peru Police Detective Commander Dennis Hocking 223-2151 extension 2804 or Detective Brad Jones 223-2151 extension 2816.

Chief Douglas Bernabei

Original BPD missing persons release:

Bloomington, IL - The Bloomington Police Department is seeking help from the public in locating a missing person.

Missing is Jelani J.J. Day, 25, of Bloomington, Illinois and is a graduate student at Illinois State University (ISU). Day was reported missing on 8/25/2021 under UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES by his family and an ISU faculty member.

Day's family last spoke to Day on the evening of 8/23/2021. They made attempts to locate him but were unsuccessful. Day also had not shown up to class the past several days.

Day is reported to be a black male, 25 years old, 6'02", 180 pounds, short black hair, brown eyes, with some facial hair. Day is known to operate a white, 2010 Chrysler 300 (Illinois registration #CH74067).

Note: The photos were released with the consent of the missing persons family.

Anyone who has contact with Jelani Day is asked to contact the Bloomington Police Department at (309) 820-8888. If anyone has information about Day is also asked to contact Detective Paul Jones at 309-434-2548 or Pjones@cityblm.org

###

CONTACT:

Officer John Fermon

Bloomington (IL) Police Department

Desk: (309)-434-2355 | **Fax:** (309)-829-0662 | **Email:** Paffairs@cityblm.org