



MEDIA RELEASE



Bloomington Police Department & McLean County Coroner's Office

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2023

Fatal Traffic Crash

McLean County Coroner Dr. Kathy Yoder is releasing the following information regarding the Fatal Traffic Crash at the intersection of Ashley Drive and Beich Road, on August 7, 2023, in Bloomington Illinois.

Pronounced deceased on August 7, 2023, was Ronald W. Bethard Jr., age 36, of Pontiac, Illinois. Preliminary autopsy opinion indicates that Mr. Bethard Jr. died from multiple blunt injuries due to a postal service vehicle struck by a sports utility vehicle, sustained as the driver and sole occupant of the postal vehicle. Toxicology testing is pending.

The circumstances behind this incident are still pending investigation by the McLean County Coroner's Office, the Bloomington Police Department, and the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team. Anyone with information should contact the Bloomington Police Department at 309-820-8888.

Chief Jamal Simington stated, "On behalf of the Bloomington Police Department, I want to extend our sincerest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Mr. Bethard during this time of loss. This tragedy is yet another reminder of the dangers present on our roadways. Eliminating distractions and following the rules of the road are imperative to improving safety in our community."

Previous Release

Bloomington, IL - On Monday, 08/07/23, at approximately 10:32 a.m, Bloomington police officers were dispatched to the intersection of Ashley Drive and Beich Road, for a traffic crash involving two motor vehicles. Upon arrival, officers observed the crash and requested the McLean County Coroner's Office and the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team to the scene.

Media Contacts:

Coroner - Dr. Kathleen Yoder
104 W. Front Street
P.O. Box 2400
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (309) 888-5210

Officer Bryce Janssen
Bloomington Police Department
305 S. East St.
Bloomington, IL
Phone: (309)434-2355



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One of the drivers, a thirty-six-year-old male, was pronounced deceased on the scene by the McLean County Coroner's Office. An autopsy is pending.

The circumstances behind this incident are still pending investigation by the Bloomington Police Department, the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team, and the McLean County Coroner's Office. Anyone with information should contact the Bloomington Police Department at 309-820-8888.

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

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.

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