



MEDIA RELEASE



Bloomington Police Department & McLean County Coroner's Office

For Immediate Release: September 25, 2023

Fatal Traffic Crash

Bloomington, IL - On Sunday, 9/24/23, at approximately 3:23 a.m., Bloomington police officers were dispatched to the 1800 block of Springfield Road, for a report of a single vehicle crash with injuries. The driver was seen fleeing from the scene. The Bloomington Fire Department was also dispatched, due to the vehicle reportedly being on fire.

Upon arrival, the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames and needed to be extinguished by the Bloomington Fire Department. After the fire was extinguished, a front seat passenger was located inside the vehicle. The McLean County Coroner's Office and the McLean County Accident Reconstruction Team were called to the scene.

The passenger was pronounced deceased on the scene by the McLean County Coroner's Office.

Officers and a Bloomington Police K-9 Unit began to conduct an evidence search and track. The K-9 Unit located evidence and then directed officers towards a wooded area, several hundred yards from the crash scene. Officers located the driver of the vehicle laying at the base of the tree line.

The driver was transported by Bloomington Fire Department paramedics to a local hospital for injuries sustained in the crash. He was issued the following citations:

- Failure to remain at the scene of a fatal crash
- Aggravated reckless driving
- Improper lane usage
- Failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident

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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McLean County Coroner Dr. Kathy Yoder is releasing the following information:

Pronounced deceased at the scene on September 24, 2023, was Travaye D. Clayton, age 27, of Bloomington, Illinois. Preliminary autopsy opinion indicates that Mr. Clayton died from inhalation injuries and thermal burns due to an automobile striking a fixed object, reportedly a tree, with post-crash fire, as the passenger in the car. Toxicology testing is pending.

Chief Jamal Simington stated, "We are saddened the crash resulted in a fatality. The BPD will continue a diligent investigation into the cause of this crash. Every user of the highway system deserves safety to be paramount and not taken lightly. Please do your part to enhance safety throughout the city of Bloomington and beyond by following the rules of the road."

This incident remains 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 Detective Law at 309-434-2527 or Jlaw@cityblm.org.

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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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