



# LORAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jim McCann | Chief of Police

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**For Immediate Release**

**January 25, 2024**

## **HOMEWOOD DR. WARRANT SERVICE & FATAL DIRT BIKE CRASH**

**Lorain, Ohio** - On January 24, 2024, at approximately 9:04 pm, officers from the Department's Patrol Impact Team ("PIT") were attempting to locate Hunter White, a missing/delinquent juvenile who also had Felony Warrants for his arrest on the charges of Receiving Stolen Property and Discharging a Firearm on or Near a Prohibited Premises. PIT located White at a residence in the 2300 block of Homewood Drive. PIT further discovered White had "cautions" attached to his name due to recent social media postings of him brandishing firearms in a motor vehicle.

As officers took positions around the residence, one officer looked into the window before knocking and observed three males sitting in the living room; one of these males was positively identified as White. Once the males observed the officers outside, they began to scatter inside the residence. Officers also observed White with what appeared to be a firearm in his hand. Once additional units arrived on the scene, officers called the occupants out of the residence individually, and they were secured in handcuffs for further investigation.

During a subsequent consent search of the residence, Officers located a Glock 23 pistol hidden in the furnace of the basement. Two additional Glock replica BB Guns were discovered in two different bedrooms. Three males were taken into custody for outstanding warrants:

- Hunter White, 16, E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Lorain - two Felony Warrants.
- Anthony Chillon, 21, Homewood Drive, Lorain - one Felony Warrant & four Bench Warrants.
- James Smith, 40, Oakwood Avenue, Sheffield Lake - Bench Warrant.

Meanwhile, as officers confirmed the multiple warrants, they heard a dirt bike riding around the area. They also heard a male yelling and taunting them while on scene.

Shortly after, a male on a dirt bike, later identified as Sandalio Rodriguez, 22, E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Lorain, approached from the west of Grove Ave. at a high rate of speed. Rodriguez drove through the scene of approximately nine police units with their emergency lights activated, just missing several officers standing in the street near the cruisers. As Rodriguez was driving recklessly through the scene, he struck

an **unoccupied** and unmarked police unit with its emergency lights activated. At impact, Rodriguez was ejected from the dirt bike and came to final rest in the street.

Officers rushed to give medical aid to Rodriguez, and LifeCare was immediately called. However, Rodriguez suffered fatal injuries, and the Lorain County Coroner was called to the scene. Rodriguez's immediate family was already on the scene and was notified of his death.

Rodriguez was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, and alcohol is suspected of being a contributing factor.

An initial reconstruction of the crash by the Traffic Division estimated the speed of the dirt bike to be traveling at approximately 70 -73 MPH before impact. The incident was captured on multiple recordings and preserved as evidence.

The fatal crash remains under investigation by the Lorain Police Department's Traffic Division. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Traffic Division at 440-204-2105. The investigation will be presented to the Lorain City Prosecutor's Office after the investigation is completed.

This is the department's first traffic-related fatality this year.

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**Chief Jim McCann**  
**LORAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# SOCIAL MEDIA'S FAKE NEWS

Soon after the crash on Homewood Dr. last night, Sarrah Mariee, a member of Lorain, Ohio. Posted false information about the incident. Other members began to comment on her false information as if it were true.

- The Lorain Police Department did not conduct a “raid” as she stated.
- The Lorain Police Department did not “hit a civilian” as she stated.
- The Lorain Police Department IMMEDIATELY ran to render aid to the male on the dirt bike without hesitation.

Sarrah Mariee, YOU need to stop making up your own facts and do better at gathering real facts before you post false information. FACTS matter Sarrah.

