



PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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To: Metro Atlanta Media

For Immediate Release

UPDATE: Domestic Disturbance and House Fire on Woodwind Drive

(Paulding County, GA) At approximately 9:19pm on June 24th, 2022, Paulding E-911 received a call about a domestic disturbance and house fire at 776 Woodwind Dr., Rockmart, GA 30153. It was reported that a female who was inside the home was attempting to stab the occupants and that at the time of the call, the home was on fire and the occupants were inside.

Paulding County Deputies and Firefighters arrived on scene quickly and entered the home to rescue the occupants. The fire was eventually extinguished and Paulding County Detectives, Paulding County Fire Investigators, Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) Agents, and State Fire Marshal's Investigators diligently went to work to make sense of the chaotic scene.

Seven juveniles were located inside the home. Two juveniles were pronounced deceased on scene: a 3 year old with multiple apparent stab wounds and 9 month old. Three additional juveniles, ages 5, 9, and 11 were transported to local hospitals. The remaining two juveniles, ages 14 and 16 did not appear to have injuries. The 5 year old who was transported to the hospital has since succumbed to injuries and is deceased. Detectives received conflicting information from medical professionals that the 9 year old had also passed, but it was learned that the 9 year old remains in critical but stable condition.

A female, who was later identified as the mother of the children involved, Darlene Brister, B/F, 40, was located on the property and taken into custody. Brister was subsequently transported to the Paulding County Detention Center where she is currently charged with two counts of Malice Murder (F) O.C.G.A. 16-5-1(a) and is being held with no bond. As the investigation continues additional charges are imminent, but no additional charges have yet been filed.



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If you have any information about this case, please feel encouraged to contact the Paulding County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division Tip Line at (770)443-3047 or via the Paulding County Sheriff mobile app.

