



## LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster  
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603  
[www.lancasterpolice.com](http://www.lancasterpolice.com)

Author: Cpt. Anders

Contact Number: 735-3300

Date: January 26, 2009

### Homicide Arrest

ARRESTED/CHARGED: WILLIAMS, Yaquan Gerald 28 Year old male Resident of 200 block Jackson St.  
(Manheim Twp.)  
Native of Brooklyn, NY

DECEASED: Mary JOHNSON, 29 years of age  
Resident of Lancaster City

At approx. 1:22am on Friday January 23rd 2009, Officers of the Lancaster City Bureau of Police were dispatched to the area of the 1st block of Chester St for a report of a subject down, possibly shot, in the street. Upon arrival, officers found Mary Johnson, a 29yr old Lancaster City woman, lying in the street, a victim of a shooting, who had multiple gunshot wounds to her back and torso. Ms. Johnson made statements to the Officers aiding her that Yaquan "Squeeze" WILLIAMS was the person who had shot her.

Ms. Johnson was immediately rushed to Lancaster General Hospital, and rushed into emergency surgery due to the severity of her injuries. At approx. 6:36am, the Lancaster City Bureau of Police was notified that Ms. Johnson had died as a result of her injuries.

Detectives of the Lancaster City Bureau of Police responded to the initial scene and coordinated the investigation with patrol officers.

At 0320 Hrs., 23 January, 2009 Sgt. Jarrad Berkihisier and Patrol Officers of A Platoon stopped WILLIAMS and a second subject Clyde Middleton B/M/28 in a vehicle in the 200 block of E. Fulton St. WILLIAMS was arrested without incident. MIDDLETON was arrested for an outstanding New York State Parole Violation. Both were transported to the Police Station and held. MIDDLETON was charged with being a Fugitive from Justice and was committed to LCP on \$200,000 straight bail.

As a result of an extensive investigation, Lancaster City Police Det. Nate Nickel charged Yaquan WILLIAMS with one count of Criminal Homicide and one felony count of Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act (Persons not to Possess) before MDJ Ballentine. WILLIAMS is currently being held, and is awaiting arraignment for these charges at the Lancaster City Police Station. Once arraigned he will be held in the Lancaster County Prison without the possibility of bail.

The entire Lancaster City Police Criminal Investigations Division worked on this investigation. Detectives interviewed a large number of persons, and will continue to work throughout the weekend on this homicide investigation. While a suspect has been charged with shooting Johnson to death, this is only the beginning of this investigation. Investigators worked with the District Attorneys Office and other Agencies to focus on exactly



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what occurred during the shooting and located other evidence consistent with the fact that Williams murdered the victim has been uncovered. The details will not be made public at this time for public safety reasons.

The Bureau will not comment on motive, but will affirm that JOHNSON was targeted, and that it was not a domestic homicide. JOHNSON knew her killer from past associations.

That Ms. Johnson was a member of the Lancaster community, and she is survived and loved by many family members. One of these members asked that the Lancaster Police ask that media respect their privacy at this time of deep loss.

Investigators consider this an assassination. Capt. Anders stated, "Williams cowardly shot a defenseless woman in the back multiple times." Investigators know that WILLIAMS had others who he was friendly with or associated with in Lancaster. Capt. Anders asks that due to the nature of this brutal shooting, and the fact that this investigation is still in its infancy, that Lancaster media refrain from printing specific witness or motive information that may be found in affidavits of charges or search warrants and/or that they may otherwise discover. Such reporting could not only hinder this investigation, but also risk the safety of witnesses who are Lancaster residents.

The Lancaster City Police strongly encourage other residents who may have information regarding WILLIAMS, his activities in Lancaster, his associates and specifically this homicide to call Det. Nate Nickel at 735-3358. Police are committed to assisting rid the community of these worthless thugs. Callers can remain anonymous.

All persons charged with a criminal offense are considered innocent until convicted in a court of law.

A photo of Williams will be available later for media at the Station, front desk.

*(end of release)*