



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Commander Jason Tuttle

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 22, 2021

UPDATE: Ames Police Charge Homicide Suspect

On February 20, 2021, at 7:02 p.m., the Ames Police Department conducted a welfare check at an apartment at 407 South 5th Street. Officers entered the apartment and found a deceased female inside. After processing the apartment, investigators believe the deceased died as a result of homicide. The victim has been identified as Ranea K. Bell, age 37, of Ames.

Follow-up investigation by Ames Police and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation has identified the suspect in the case as Richard G. Fleck (AKA- Rashaud Sims), age 33. Fleck is approximately 5'08" tall and weighs 165 pounds. He is a black male with brown eyes and black hair. Fleck has tattoos on his hands and on his neck. He was believed to be in the Kansas City, Missouri area but he also has ties to communities in Texas and Mississippi. If you see Fleck, contact local law enforcement, or call 911.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Fleck for Murder in the 1st Degree, a class "A" felony.

Investigation into this incident continues by the Ames Police Department, Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation and Kansas City, Missouri Police Department.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Ames Police Department at 239-5133 or the anonymous tip line **239-5533**. You may also contact Crime Stoppers of Central Iowa at 515-223-1400. Online anonymous tips may be submitted to www.crimestoppersofcentraliowa.com.

Questions regarding this press release may be directed to Commander Jason Tuttle, Ames Police Department, at (515) 239-5312 or (515) 239-5133.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.