



# PRESS RELEASE

## HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION UPDATE

*Date: Sunday, March 21, 2021*

*Release Authority: Sgt. Joel Congdon, Criminal Investigations Division*

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 #119. Officers entered the apartment and found Ranea K. Bell, age 37 to be a victim of a homicide.

Follow-up investigation by Ames Police and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation identified the suspect in the homicide as Richard G. Fleck (AKA- Rashaud Sims), age 33. An arrest warrant charging Fleck with First Degree Murder, a class "A" felony was subsequently issued on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

On Sunday March 21, 2021 Fleck was taken into custody by the Des Moines Police Department and turned over the Ames Police Department. Richard Fleck was subsequently booked into the Story County Jail on his warrant. The investigation into Bell's homicide continues by the Ames Police Department and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. 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](http://www.crimestoppersofcentraliowa.com).

The Ames Police would like to thank the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Kansas City Police Department, KCPD Career Criminals Task Force, United States Marshal's, Des Moines Police Department, Story County Medical Examiner's Office, Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner, Story County Attorney's Office and other contributing agencies for their continued assistance in this investigation.

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.