



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Contact: HCPDNews@howardcountymd.gov

Police increase reward to up to \$15,000 in death of mother and baby in Columbia

Howard County police are urging anyone with information about the July 31 shooting of a pregnant woman in Columbia, which resulted in her death and the death of her baby, to contact investigators. Detectives have increased the reward to up to \$15,000.

Rabiah Ahmad, 30, was 28 weeks pregnant when she was shot while inside a residence in the 6600 block of Dovecote Drive. She later died at the hospital. Doctors delivered her baby girl, Ahja, who remained in critical condition until she died Aug. 5.

At approximately 11 p.m. on July 31, police responded to the Dovecote address, where numerous people reside, for a report of several gunshots. Police discovered that multiple bullets had been fired into the house from the outside. Ahmad, who had recently moved to Maryland and had been staying at the residence for the last few months, was struck once; no one else was injured.

Detectives have been working around the clock to follow up on possible leads in the case. They are continuing their attempts to determine who inside the house may have been the intended target.

Investigators believe that at this stage of the investigation, any small piece of information could help put together critical details in the case. They have increased the reward and are urging anyone with information to contact police at 410-313-STOP or HCPDCrimeTips@howardcountymd.gov. Callers can remain anonymous.

Once a suspect or suspects are identified, police will consult with the Howard County State's Attorney's Office to determine any and all applicable charges, as is standard practice.

While there is no evidence at this stage of the investigation indicating that Ahmad was targeted or that the crime was racially-motivated, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is providing support to her family, who is Muslim, by offering an additional reward: [CAIR news release](#).

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