



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two Arrested for Neglect Resulting in Death

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA –

On March 28, 2023, at approximately 3:02 p.m., officers with the Lafayette Police Department responded to an apartment in the 500 block of Westchester Ln. for the report of a child not breathing. Officers arrived and found a 1-year-old male deceased from a gunshot wound. The investigation determined that a 5-year-old sibling had accessed a weapon and shot the 1-year-old in the apartment.

At approximately 2:52 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2023, following a traffic stop, authorities from the LaPorte City Police Department arrested Shatia Welch, 24, Lafayette, and Deonta Johnson, 27, Lafayette, on charges related to the March 28 incident. They are awaiting extradition back to Tippecanoe County. They have been preliminarily charged with Neglect Resulting in Death, Neglect (two counts), Neglect Resulting in Bodily Injury, Conspiracy to Commit Dealing a Narcotic Drug, Dealing a Narcotic Drug, Possession of a Narcotic, Conspiracy to Commit Dealing Marijuana, Dealing Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana, and Possession of Paraphernalia. Deonta Johnson was also charged with Obstruction of Justice.

The fact a person has been arrested or charged with a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.