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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Murder Investigation Underway Following Hit-and-Run Call

On April 28, 2025, around 5:28 p.m., Columbus Police Officers responded to a hit and run in the 3000 block of Williams Road (Summit Pointe Apartments). A white SUV struck a parked vehicle before leaving the scene.

While officers were investigating the crash, they were notified that the resident of a nearby unit (later identified as Abigail Cadoura, 22) was not answering calls and had missed plans with family. She was known to drive a white SUV, which was located traveling north on I-85.

Officers conducted a welfare check at the apartment and discovered Ms. Cadoura deceased inside the unit with multiple stab wounds.

The Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene to take lead on the investigation.

The missing vehicle was located in Banks County, Georgia. Deputies attempted a traffic stop, which led to a pursuit and crash. The driver, Luke Mercardante, 26, was taken into custody and is being charged with Murder and Theft by Taking (Motor Vehicle). He remains in custody in Banks County.

Investigators confirmed that the victim and suspect had been in an on-and-off relationship.

This remains an active investigation.

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