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CITY OF AUBURN

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*Administrative Assistant to the
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Media Release- Update

Date/Time of Release: 03/29/2022 1350 Hrs

Date of Incident Occurrence: 03/15/2022 0140 Hrs

Nature of Event: **Update**** - Homicide – Suspect Located / Detained**

Location of Event Occurrence: 45 Perrine St.

Media Release Written By: Captain K.J. Platt #3435

On 03/28/2022 an arrest warrant for Murder 2nd was issued for Shameek Marie Copes, who was wanted in connection for the 03/15/2022 shooting death of John Wesley Smith III outside of Swifty’s Tavern. Shortly thereafter Copes walked into the Rock Hill Police Department in South Carolina and turned herself in. Copes is currently being held in South Carolina as arrangements are being made by the Cayuga County District Attorney’s Office to facilitate her transfer back to New York in connection with this matter and be formally charged.

Additionally it should be noted that anyone charged with a crime is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The Auburn Police Department would like to thank the agencies involved in assisting with this investigation and attempting to locate Copes since 03/15/2022 to include the: Cayuga County District Attorney’s Office, Cayuga County Sheriff’s Office, New York State Police, United States Marshall’s Service, Texas Rangers, various North Carolina LE agencies, various Virginia LE agencies, etc..

If anyone has any additional information relative to this investigation they are asked to contact the Auburn Police Department’s lead Detective S. DeRosa at phone# (315)255-4706 or email sderosa@auburnny.gov or communitywatch@auburnny.gov. Callers are reminded that they can remain anonymous.

