



Sheriff Steve Stovall

Stephenson County Sheriff's Office

For Immediate Release
July 23rd, 2023

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FATAL TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATION

On Saturday July 22nd, 2023, at approximately 10:00 p.m., Stephenson County Sheriff's Office and Freeport Police Department personnel responded to the area of S. Walnut Rd. and W. Lamm Rd. in Freeport for a report of a single-vehicle traffic crash. Upon arrival, a crew from a Freeport Fire Department ambulance was already on-scene and located a 16-year-old male from rural Freeport deceased. There were no other persons or vehicles involved in the crash.

The results of the preliminary investigation revealed that a black 1998 Chevrolet pick-up truck, which had been previously reported stolen in Jo Daviess County, was spotted by the owner in the area of West Ave. and Meadows Dr. in Freeport. The owner of the stolen vehicle confronted the 16-year-old male driver about being in possession of the pick-up truck and advised him that law enforcement was being contacted. The 16-year-old male who was operating the pick-up truck was not known by the owner of the vehicle, and there were no other occupants.

Before law enforcement could arrive, the 16-year-old male operator of the truck proceeded to flee in the vehicle east on Meadows Dr. and then south on Walnut Ave. The truck left the roadway at Walnut Ave. and Lamm Rd. and struck a tree head-on in the area of the Stephenson County Highway Department building located at 295 W. Lamm Rd. in Freeport. As a result of the head-on collision with the tree, the driver was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries.

The name of the decedent is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, and an autopsy is anticipated to be scheduled for Monday July 24th, 2023.

The Stephenson County Sheriff's Office would like to acknowledge assistance with this incident that has been provided by the Freeport Police Department, Freeport Fire Department, and the Stephenson County Coroner's Office.

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