

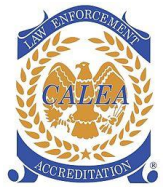


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2026

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Arrest Made in Northside Industrial Blvd. Shooting

UPDATE

On Wednesday, September 30, 2026, Joseph Griswold was extradited to Columbus, Georgia, from the Russell County Jail in Alabama, where he was being held on unrelated charges. Griswold was extradited to face a murder charge in connection with the death of Lawrence Perry.

On Thursday, October 1, 2026, Griswold appeared in Recorder's Court for a preliminary hearing. He pleaded not guilty, and the case was bound over to Superior Court.



ORIGINAL RELEASE 9/3/2025

On September 3, 2025, at approximately 6:16 a.m., Columbus Police Officers responded to the 1600 block of Northside Industrial Blvd. in reference to shots being fired. A second call was received from St. Francis Hospital in reference to a shooting victim. Officers determined both incidents were related.

The victim, Lawrence Perry, 54, was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

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

Preliminary investigation revealed Walter Bethune, 32, as the suspect. With the help of CPD's Fugitive Unit and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, Bethune was located in Smiths Station, Alabama, and taken into custody. He is currently being held at the Lee County Jail awaiting extradition to Columbus, where he faces a charge of Murder.

This case remains under investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact Cpl. M. Ruiz at 706-225-4379 or ruiz.mary-macy@columbusga.org. You can remain anonymous.

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