

**LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

575 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68508 402-441-6000

FOR RELEASE: March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020

FOR MORE INFO: Chief Jeff Bliemeister, 401-441-7238

Officer Erin Spilker, Public Information, 402-441-7226

**Arrest Made in Edward Varejcka Homicide**

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Lincoln Police investigators arrested 15-year-old Marsalis Phillips for 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder and Use of a Deadly Weapon to Commit a Felony. Our agency is keeping Edward Varejcka's family and friends in our thoughts during this difficult time. We ask the public to respect the family's privacy as they continue to grieve his death.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, shortly after 3:30 a.m., the Lincoln Police Department and Lincoln Fire and Rescue were sent to a residence in the 2200 block of Orchard Street on a report of a stabbing. Edward Varejcka, 36 years old, was stabbed several times and died.

Through witness statements, investigators learned that at least three individuals entered Edward's apartment and a physical fight ensued. One of the intruders produced a knife and stabbed Edward several times in the torso. As crime scene investigators processed the scene, they located a knife in the immediate area that is believed to have been used to stab him.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Krysean Reynolds and Makayla Fell were arrested for Accessory to a Felony for their involvement. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Victor Melendez, III was arrested for Aiding and Abetting Murder.

Further investigation revealed that Phillips was also present during the homicide. Investigators interviewed witnesses and served search warrants to gather additional digital evidence. Through corroborating evidence, investigators determined that Phillips was the person responsible for stabbing and killing Edward Varejcka.

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at approximately 11:29 a.m., Phillips was arrested for 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder and Use of a Deadly Weapon to Commit a Felony.

###