



J. Dent-Fitzpatrick
Assistant Chief

Columbus Police Department

P.O. Box 1866 – 510 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1866

Stoney Mathis
Chief of Police



D. Kennedy
Assistant Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2025

Media Contact: Brittany Santiago
706-225-4462

Statement on Grand Jury Decision in Officer-Involved Shooting

The Columbus Police Department acknowledges and respects the decision of the grand jury regarding the officer-involved shooting of Jermaine Hernandez on February 7, 2024. The grand jury returned a true bill of indictment, meaning they have formally charged the officers with Aggravated Assault and Aggravated Battery under Georgia law.

With the conclusion of this criminal process, the Columbus Police Department will conduct a thorough internal investigation to ensure all department policies and procedures were followed. Our priority remains the safety of our officers and the community, and we are committed to upholding the highest standards of law enforcement.

The men and women of the Columbus Police Department remain committed to transparency, accountability, and professionalism. We will continue working every day to strengthen the trust between law enforcement and the community we serve.

###