



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Incident Location: 1400 Block of Dublin St., Urbana, IL.**  
**Date/Time of Release: 9/11/23 at 11:20 a.m.**  
**Date/Time of Incident: 9/8/23 12:16 p.m.**



## **ATTEMPTED MURDER – URBANA**

---

On Friday, September 8, 2023, at approximately 12:16 p.m. Urbana police officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of Dublin St. in reference to a report of shots fired. Officers arrived and found multiple subjects outside of a church where a funeral was taking place. Investigation revealed that an argument ensued that started inside of the church and then spilled out onto the sidewalk in the 1400 block of Dublin St. One of the people involved in the dispute produced a handgun and fired multiple shots at one of the other involved people as that person was running away. None of the shots struck the person running away, but multiple bullet impacts were found in a nearby residence in the 600 block of E. Columbia Ave., Champaign. Nobody who resided in the home was injured. Champaign Police assisted Urbana with processing the scene in the 600 block of E. Columbia Ave.

The offender was not on the scene when police arrived and the investigation thus far indicates that this was a targeted incident. The Urbana Police appreciate the cooperation of the Champaign County Sheriff's Office, the Champaign Police, and the University of Illinois Police in responding to and assisting with this incident. The investigation into this matter is ongoing and Urbana Police have no further information to release at this time.

**##### UPDATE #####**

During the course of the above-mentioned incident, police, with the assistance of the community were able to identify 29 year-old, Champaign man, Linnell Blount as the shooter. An arrest warrant for Blount was obtained from the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office for Blount on the charge of Attempted Murder with a \$2 Million Dollar bond.

On Monday, September 11, 2023, at about 9:00 a.m. an astute Champaign County Court Security Officer recognized Blount at the Champaign County Courthouse where Blount was attending a status hearing on an unrelated case. Urbana Police, Champaign County Sheriff's Deputies and a U.S. Marshal from the Great Lakes Fugitive Task Force took Blount into custody without incident a short time later. Blount was then transported to the Champaign County Satellite Jail.

Urbana Police ask that anyone with additional information or video footage of the incident contact police at 217-384-2320. Arrangements can be made for information to be shared privately. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may also submit tips to Crime Stoppers by phone at: 217-373-8477 (TIPS); online at 373tips.com; or the "P3 Tips" mobile app.

Citizens are reminded that information submitted to Crime Stoppers is completely anonymous. Calls are routed to a third-party national call center that receives your information, completes a tips information form, and then passes the information to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Caller ID tracking is not utilized by Crime Stoppers and conversations are not recorded.

Crime Stoppers will pay cash rewards of \$5,000 for tips that lead to an arrest in any homicide case, \$2,500 for tips leading to an arrest in a felony crime involving a firearm, and up to \$1,000 for tips leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for any other crime.

**##### END #####**

Contact: Lt. Mike Cervantes, Urbana Police Department, Criminal Investigations Division  
City of Urbana, 217-384-2320, [cervanmp@urbanaininois.us](mailto:cervanmp@urbanaininois.us)