

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suspicious Death Ruled Homicide, Suspect Arrested *Related to Curtis Mason Smith Case*

FREDERICK, Md. (March 24, 2021) – Through the course of a two-day investigation, multiple witness interviews, and search and seizure warrants, Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) detectives were able to charge, **Joshua David Eckenrode**, age 19, of Thurmont, Maryland, with the 1st-degree murder of Frederick teen, **Curtis Mason Smith**, and an additional charge of firearm use in a violent crime.

"Our detectives and deputies, along with officers from the Frederick Police Department, have been working around the clock to solve this murder," said Lt. Andy Crone, FCSO Criminal Investigations commander. "These professionals worked every lead, tip, and call they received and through their investigative efforts this person was quickly identified and detained."

Detectives gathered enough information to execute search and seizure warrants late Monday evening, March 22, on two separate residences associated with Eckenrode. Through those searches, FCSO deputies found multiple weapons and explosive materials. Collaborating with the Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshal Bomb Squad and agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, they rendered these devices safe and there is no threat to the community.

FCSO detectives initially held Eckenrode on the charges of possession of destructive devices, possession of a firearm, and possession of explosives without a license. As the investigation continued throughout the two days, FCSO detectives obtained enough evidence for the 1st-degree murder and firearm charges. Deputies transported Eckenrode to the Frederick County Adult Detention Center for holding.

As this investigation is still ongoing, we ask that anyone having information related to this case contact the FCSO tip line at 301-600-4131 and reference case # 21-025637.

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is a full-service law enforcement agency; an arm of the court, and a keeper of offenders. In this regard, it exists to serve the more than 250,000 citizens of Frederick County with respect, fairness, and compassion. FCSO is committed to the prevention of crime; the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace and order; the enforcement of laws and ordinances; the safeguarding of constitutional guarantees; and safekeeping of prisoners. The men, women, and officers of this office nurture public trust by holding themselves to the highest standards of performance and ethics. The FCSO is located at 110 Airport Drive East, Frederick, MD, 21701. Visit www.frederickcosheriff.com for more information.

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