

NEWS RELEASE

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Police Make Arrest in 2009 Homicide of Newspaper Carrier

SUFFOLK, VA (June 30, 2010) A nineteen year old Suffolk man has been arrested and charged with capital murder in connection with the homicide of a newspaper carrier last year.

Christopher Jonta Artis of the 500 block of Second Ave was arrested and charged with one count capital murder, robbery, attempted robbery, three counts use of firearm in the commission of a felony and one count of cut, stab or wound.

In the early morning hours of July 8, 2009, the Suffolk Police Department responded to the 100 block of Brewer Avenue regarding a citizen report of shots fired. Officers arriving on scene discovered a man lying on the roadway suffering from gunshot wounds. The subject died at the scene.

The victim was identified as John Price, Jr., age 50. At the time of his death Mr. Price was a newspaper delivery person.

The initial investigation was conducted by Det. H. M. Bruce and Det. D. F. Burke. The investigation yielded several leads, however additional information was needed to complete the investigation. The case was later reassigned to the Cold Case Unit and assigned to Det. G.D. Myrick to continue the investigation.

Grand Jury indictments were issued for Artis last week. He was arrested today without incident. Artis is currently being held in Western Tidewater Regional Jail on no bond.

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