

Cedar Rapids police: 13-year-old girl dead following morning shooting

Three suspects being questioned as homicide investigation begins



Officers respond to a shooting at the 1500 block of Eighth Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids at about 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016. Officials pronounced the victim, a 13-year-old girl, dead Tuesday morning. Police are investigating whether the victim was in a car at the time of the shooting. (Makayla Tendall/The Gazette)

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Makayla Tendall

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investigation is underway. He said three suspects are in custody and being interviewed and a firearm has been recovered.

Of the three suspects in custody, two are juveniles and one is a young adult. Police are working to confirm ages, Jerman said.

Police are not yet sure what may have led to the shooting.

“That information is hopefully being obtained through the interviews,” Jerman said.

CEDAR RAPIDS — Police said a 13-year-old girl has died after suffering a gunshot wound to the head Tuesday morning in the 1500 block of Eighth Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids.

Police Chief Wayne Jerman said a homicide

The victim was taken to a hospital and then to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, according to Cedar Rapids Public Safety Communications Coordinator Greg Buelow. She was pronounced dead at the UI hospital.

Buelow said police received a call at 7:52 a.m. with reports of a shooting. Within 10 minutes of receiving the report, officers were on scene and witnessed three males running in the area. Following a foot chase, that involved K9 units, Buelow said two of the individuals were caught in the 1500 block of Bever Avenue SE and the other was caught in the 1500 block of Washington Avenue SE.

Police believe that all the suspects involved in the shooting incident are in custody and that there is no present danger to the public, Buelow said.

The victim was found outside, and Buelow said police are investigating whether she was in a car parked in a driveway in the 1500 block of Eighth Avenue SE at the time of the shooting.

Buelow said witnesses reported hearing three males in the alley between 15th and 16th Avenues.

Samantha Forquer, who lives in the 1500 block of Eighth Avenue SE, said her 7-year-old daughter would play Barbies with the 13-year-old victim.

“Now my kids are going to wonder why they can’t go across the street and play,” Forquer said.

Shelley Campbell said her 18-year-old granddaughter and 1-year-old great-granddaughter were sitting on the front porch of their home in the 700 block of 15th Street SE at the time of the shooting. She expressed concerns over how safe the neighborhood is.

“I personally don’t think it is,” she said. “I’ve been around for a while, and I don’t think much has changed over here. I was nervous as heck when (her granddaughter) moved here.

“You need to keep to yourself pretty much.”

Jerman said he was “disgusted” by Tuesday’s act of violence.

“With everything the city has been facing, whatever caused this, I just don’t understand,” he said.

— Lee Hermiston contributed to this report

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