



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Jamal A. Simington - Chief of Police
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For Immediate Release: February 24, 2022

Missing Infant Investigation; Burton Arrested for Concealing a Death

Bloomington, IL - On Wednesday afternoon, 2/23/2022, the Bloomington Police Department arrested Kimberlee A. Burton for the offense of concealment of death. At the time of this arrest, Kimberlee Burton was in custody on other previously-filed charges. This latest arrest was a result of an on-going investigation into the Burton's missing 7 month old infant, Zaraz V. Walker. A formal criminal charge is pending review by the Mclean County States Attorney's office. Bond court is expected on Friday, 2/25/2022.

At this time, no additional information will be released as it is an active investigation.

Chief Simington said, *"Although an arrest has been made in this investigation, our work is not complete. We will continue to investigate all leads in order to locate missing Zaraz and we need your help. We also ask the public to understand our reluctance to share information about the case, as it may interfere with our investigation. When the time is appropriate or it helps us locate Zaraz, we will share more information."*

Anyone with information should contact Sgt. Detective Bierbaum at (309) 434-2807 or via email at jbierbaum@cityblm.org.

All suspect(s) are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in the court of law.

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The Bloomington Police Department is asking for the public's help for any information regarding missing 7 month old Zaraz V. Walker, of the 300 block of E. Wood Street. Zaraz was reported missing on 2/13/2022 in Bloomington. We are requesting that anyone who spoke to and/or had contact with Zaraz Walker or her mother, Kimberlee Burton, since December of 2021 to reach out to Sgt. Detective Bierbaum at (309) 434-2807 or via email at jbierbaum@cityblm.org.

Chief Jamal Simington said, *"It is imperative that we continue to leverage the appropriate resources in this investigation to locate Zaraz. We are actively seeking tips and information regarding her location. No matter how small of a detail it is, we would you like to contact us if you have seen her since December 2021. We are pushing forward with a diligent investigation but do not have additional details to share with the public at this time."*

CONTACT:

Officer John Fermon

Bloomington (IL) Police Department

Desk: (309)-434-2355 | **Fax:** (309)-829-0662 | **Email:** Paffairs@cityblm.org

Simington continued, "I also wanted to commend the BPD staff, officers, detectives, McLean County EMA, Woodford County EMA, Chicago Police Department, and Peoria County Sheriff's Department for their assistance and resources in searching for Zaraz over the last several days."

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Previous Release (2/12/22):

Bloomington, IL - On Saturday, 2/12/2022, at approximately 11:15 a.m., Bloomington officers were dispatched to a retail store in the 2200 block of W. Market St. for a retail theft. Officers arrested an adult female, identified as Kimberlee A. Burton, 29, of Bloomington, Illinois for retail theft. After the arrest, the father of two of Burton's children had his mother come pick up his two children in common with Burton. The children are 5 and 6 years old. During the pick-up, only the two young children were in the residence.

On Sunday, 2/13/2022, at approximately 11:30 p.m., the Bloomington Police Department received a call requesting a well-being check on an infant. The caller was concerned about the infant's (who also lived with Burton and his two children) well-being and could not locate anyone who was taking care of the infant. With this information, the BPD began the missing juvenile investigation. Officers attempted to speak with the mother, who was still at the McLean County Jail. Officers also went to Burton's residence to conduct a well-being check and entered the residence. During a cursory search of the apartment, no infant was found however there were signs that an infant had lived there. Officers applied for several search warrants for the residence to conduct a more thorough search and to collect evidence to be analyzed for the investigation. Officers were able to locate identification information for the three children that lived there. The infant was then identified as Zaraz V. Walker. Officers learned that the father of Zaraz may have lived in Illinois or Florida. Officers began calling different areas and police departments where the father may be contacted with negative results.

On Monday, 2/14/2022, at approximately 7:00 a.m., five officers and members of the Criminal Investigation Division began a neighborhood canvas in the 300 block of E. Wood St. After the neighborhood canvas, members of the department began searching the surrounding areas for any evidence of the infant. These efforts continued throughout the day and night.

At approximately 5:00 p.m., the Bloomington Police Department arrested Kimberlee Burton, who is still at the McLean County Jail, for two counts of felony Child Endangerment for the two young children who were left at her residence without supervision after her arrest.

The infant is still listed as missing/endangered. **Any person who has had any recent contact with Kimberlee Burton OR Zaraz Walker is asked to contact** the Bloomington Police Department's Sgt. Detective Jared Bierbaum at (309) 434-2807 or jbierbaum@cityblm.org.

Chief of Police Jamal Simington said, *"We implore members of the community to view Zaraz's and Burton's photo and to please call us with any tips or information. We believe Zaraz was last seen 5 - 7 days ago, and could be anywhere."*

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Previous Release (2/14/2022)

The Bloomington Police Department is seeking help from the public in locating a missing 7 month old juvenile. Missing is Zaraz V. Walker of Bloomington, Illinois.

Walker was reported missing on 2/13/2022 at approximately 11:20 p.m. Walker is missing under unknown circumstances. Walker is a black female infant, with black hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information about the location of Walker is asked to contact the Bloomington Police Department's Sgt. Detective Jared Bierbaum at (309) 434-2807 or jbierbaum@cityblm.org.

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If you wish to submit a tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at (309)-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.



Zaraz V. Walker



Kimberlee A. Burton

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