

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City of Asheville**

**Asheville Police Department**



**Asheville, NC (May 12, 2016):** This morning at approximately 6:15 a.m. the Asheville Police Department was dispatched to Jones Park in North Asheville in response to an emergency call regarding two injured persons. Upon arrival, officers located Candace Elaine Pickens, 23 years old of Asheville and her son, Zachaeus Latese Waters, 3 years of age. Candace Pickens was declared deceased upon arrival at the scene. Zachaeus was transported to Mission Hospital with life-threatening injuries. He is currently stable, but in critical condition.

The Asheville Police Department would like to convey our sincerest sympathy to the family of Candace Pickens and Zachaeus Waters. We ask that their privacy be respected during this very difficult time.

The Asheville Police Department cleared the scene at approximately 11:00 a.m. This investigation is still ongoing and investigators are working diligently to complete preliminary forensic analysis and follow-up on leads.

If anyone has information regarding this incident they are encouraged to contact the Asheville Police Department at (828) 252-1110, or Buncombe County Crime Stoppers at (828) 255-5050.

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For more information, please contact:

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