



Town of Wallkill Police Department

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
October 21, 2022

Incident: UPDATE - Homicide - One Arrest
Location: 17 Westbound Exit 119 off ramp at intersection with State Route 302, Town of Wallkill, NY
Date/Time: October 20, 2022 / 9:43 am

On Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 9:43am, members of the Town of Wallkill Police Department responded to a "Fight in Progress" at the 17 westbound exit off ramp at intersection with State Route 302, Town of Wallkill. A vehicle operator identified as 74 year old, Joel A. Laddy of the Town of Wallkill and another vehicle operator identified as 22 year old, Horace E. Duke were engaged in a confrontation on the Exit 119 - 17 westbound exit off ramp at intersection with State Route 302, Town of Wallkill. During the confrontation, the victim, Joel A. Laddy received at least one stab wound to his body. Both vehicles occupied by the victim and defendant then left the 17 westbound exit off ramp at intersection with State Route 302. The vehicle operated by the victim, turned left onto State Route 302 and entered the parking lot in front of 2580 State Route 302, where he was located and treated by Police and EMS. The vehicle operated by the defendant, turned right onto State Route 302. The vehicle was located by police in front of 2468 State Route 302, and the defendant was apprehended.

The victim, Joel A. Laddy was transported to Garnet Health Medical Center by Town of Wallkill Emergency Medical Services, where he was later pronounced deceased.

The defendant, Horace E. Duke was arrested and charged with Murder in the second degree (A1 Felony) and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the fourth degree (A Misdemeanor). He was arraigned before Orange County's Central Arraignment Court, Judge Martini and remanded to Orange County Jail with no bail until his next court appearance on November 2, 2022 at 9:00am in the Town of Wallkill Court.

The investigation into this case is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Town of Wallkill Police Department Detectives at (845) 692-6757.

A criminal charge is merely an allegation by the police that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Antonino Spano

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Deputy Chief of Police

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