



# ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

## NEWS RELEASE

*Brendan F. Kelly - Director*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ILLINOIS STATE POLICE ARRESTS O'FALLON, IL MAN FOR MURDER AT SAMUEL GOMPER HOMES**

**EAST ST. LOUIS** – The Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Public Safety Enforcement Group (PSEG) arrested 18-year-old Ricky T. Clayton of O'Fallon, IL for First Degree Murder (Class M Felony).

On December 22, 2024, ISP agents were requested by the East St. Louis Police Department to assist with a homicide investigation that occurred at the Samuel Gomper Homes located in the 400 block of North 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The victim, 21-year-old, Markela Howliet of East St. Louis, IL had been shot outside in a parking lot and later pronounced deceased.

After a thorough investigation, with assistance from the East St. Louis Police Department, the case was presented to the St. Clair County State's Attorney James Gomric, and the above-mentioned charge was filed against Clayton on January 31, 2025.

Clayton was currently in-custody during the issuance of charges. No further information is available.



Ricky T. Clayton (M/18)

*The public is reminded that all persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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