



# News Release

Mansfield Division of Police  
30 North Diamond Street, Mansfield Ohio 44902  
(419) 755-9724



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**Kenneth Coontz, Chief of Police**

**For Immediate Release**

**Date: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**No. #44**

**Subject: Assist Other Law Enforcement Agency/Abuse of a Corpse**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at approximately 0013 hours, the Mansfield Division of Police was contacted by the Cedar Hill, (TX) Police Department and asked to check a residence in our city for a female subject who had been reported as missing from their jurisdiction. Officers responded to the area of Woodridge Drive in our city at which time they located the missing female's vehicle parked in front of 424 Woodridge Drive. Officers made contact with a male subject at the residence who advised that he had not seen the missing female since Thursday when he picked up a child at her residence in Texas. While speaking with the male subject, he was advised that Cedar Hill (TX) Police Department wanted him detained at which time a struggle ensued as he fought with officers and attempted to run away. After a short foot pursuit and taser deployment, the male subject was taken into custody.

During the course of the investigation and towing of the vehicle, officers opened the rear compartment area of the vehicle and located a deceased female victim inside. The vehicle was then secured and the Richland County Coroner and Richland County Prosecutors Office personnel responded to the scene which was processed by the Mansfield Police Crime Lab. The Richland County Coroner took control of the body which has yet to be positively identified and is pending an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. This case remains ongoing and additional information will be released as it becomes available.

The Mansfield Division of Police arrested Dequalan Dejaun Harris of Cedar Hill, Texas and charged him with Obstructing Official Business, Resisting Arrest, and Abuse of a Corpse. This investigation is ongoing and in collaboration with the Cedar Hill (TX) Police Department. Anyone with information is asked to contact Major Crimes Sergeant Matt Loughman (419) 755-9761 or Detective David Scheurer at (419) 755-9748.