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For Immediate Release  
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### **CRITICAL INCIDENT INVOLVING THE FREEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On July 9, 2024, at 1:36 A.M., Officers of the Freeport Police Department were called to a residence at the Mary Hosmer Apartments located in the 600 block of N. Walnut Avenue regarding a female who was attempting to break into an apartment. When Officers arrived on scene, they encountered 57-year-old Bernice McNair of Freeport kicking at an apartment door on the third floor of the building.

Officers attempted to make contact with Bernice McNair; however, McNair ran away from Officers and entered an elevator. Officers were able to apprehend McNair inside of the elevator despite her resisting their efforts to take her into custody by hitting them with a bag that contained United States Currency.

Once McNair was restrained, Officers observed McNair to be under the influence of narcotics and also saw she was clenching an off-white substance inside of her mouth. The Officers on scene then asked the Dispatch Center to send Freeport Fire Department EMS to their location at the Mary Hosmer Apartments. The responding Officers requested to have McNair remove the substance from her mouth, but she refused to do so. Officers also recovered an amount of suspected controlled substances from McNair's person and a bag that was in her possession.

Freeport Fire EMS transported Bernice McNair to FHN Hospital. It is believed at some point, McNair ingested the off-white substance causing a medical emergency. McNair was later pronounced deceased at FHN Hospital.

The Freeport Police Department has turned over the investigation into this incident to the Illinois State Police Zone 2 Investigations. An update will be released pending the conclusion of the investigation being conducted by the Illinois State Police.

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