



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**Man charged with first-degree Murder**  
***(Update from Johnston stabbing investigation)***

**JOHNSTON, Iowa** – On Monday, March 7, 2022, at approximately 5:16 p.m., the Johnston Police Department responded to 5350 Merle Hay Rd., to a report of a stabbing. Over the course of the initial investigation, Spencer Antowyn Pierce, 55, from Des Moines, was taken into custody on Tuesday, March 8, and charged with Murder in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Burglary in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree with bodily injury.

The victim later died at the hospital on Monday, March 7, from sustained injuries. The identification of the deceased is not being released at this time, pending notification of the family. Officers at the scene determined this was not a random event – the parties were known to each other. There is no ongoing risk to the public.

As with any criminal case, a charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The case remains under investigation by the JPD and updated information will be shared when it becomes available.

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