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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INMATE DIGS HOLE THROUGH WALL AT RICE STREET JAIL TO LAUNCH ATTACK

Atlanta, GA – The Fulton County Sheriff's Office is investigating an incident that occurred on May 17, 2023, at approximately 8:30 PM at the Rice Street jail. According to the initial incident report, inmate Kavian Thomas dug a hole through a shower wall which gave him access to the adjacent cell block where inmate Derondney Russell was attacked.

Russell sustained superficial stab wounds to his upper body and is being treated in the medical unit. Following the attack, a shake-down of both cell blocks led to the discovery of several weapons, including shanks made from parts of the dilapidated building infrastructure.

Speaking about the dangerous conditions inside of the Rice Street facility, interim Fulton County Jail commander Curtis Clark said "It presents a constant challenge for us to eliminate things like this from access to the inmates. This jail has clearly outlived its useful life. That reality makes it even more challenging for us to do our job of providing the safest possible environment, not only for staff but for the inmates as well."

Criminal charges are pending against inmate Kavian Thomas related to the attack.

Attached please find:

- mugshot for Kavian Thomas
- photos of the hole Thomas dug through the wall
- weapons confiscated during the shakedown conducted immediately following the attack.