



## CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release

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#### **Chatham County Police Department Officers Take Suspect Into Custody After Nearly Two Hour Foot Pursuit Through Wooded Area and Marsh**

**Chatham County, GA** -- (January 11, 2022) — Chatham County Police Department officers have an entering auto suspect in custody after a nearly two hour foot pursuit through a wooded area and marsh this morning.

Officers were dispatched to an address on Herb River Drive on Dutch Island after a resident spotted someone attempting to enter his vehicle. The suspect, who was carrying a backpack, fled on foot.

When Chatham County Police Department officers arrived on the scene a few minutes later, they received information from numerous citizens who spotted the man fleeing the area. Officers fanned out in an attempt to locate the suspect. He was spotted several times, and at one point, officers saw him drop the backpack he was carrying. Inside the backpack, officers found two loaded handguns, and other items of evidentiary value.

As officers continued to pursue the suspect, tips from residents who spotted him continued to be called in to police. Calls also began coming in from several other residents who began discovering that their vehicles had also been entered and had items missing. Among the items reported missing from various autos were two handguns and roughly \$3,500 in cash.

The foot search and pursuit of the suspect continued, and the suspect was spotted running into the marsh. The suspect ran more than 200 yards into the marsh. He was eventually apprehended by Chatham County Police Department officers who ran after him through the marsh, and were able to take him into custody in the middle of the marsh at approximately 9:30 a.m. When searching the suspect, officers found \$3,500 in cash that matched the amount and denominations that had just been reported stolen from a vehicle in the area.

Officers took 21-year-old James Travon Walker into custody and charged him with numerous counts including, Entering Auto, Possession of Stolen Property, Obstruction by Fleeing, and Criminal Trespass.

Reports of autos that were entered in this neighborhood this morning are continuing to come in to the department. Residents in the area are urged to check their vehicles, and report any thefts. This morning, both cars that were locked and unlocked were illegally entered.

This incident highlights an important message that the Chatham County Police Department frequently repeats. Do not leave valuables – especially firearms – in unlocked vehicles or in plain sight. Take your valuables inside your home, and lock your vehicle. In the vast majority of cases, we have found that suspects will only force their way into a locked vehicle if items they want are in plain view. Everyone – especially owners of firearms – are asked to do their part to curb this kind of crime by locking vehicles, and not storing valuables inside them.

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