NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Chatham County Police Department Officers Quickly Arrest Shots Fired Suspect without Incident

Chatham County, GA (October 6, 2020) – Chatham County Police Department Officers apprehended a shots fired suspect minutes after the call came in to 9-1-1 this morning, and a citizen came into the department's Islands Precinct to report the gunman.

Chatham County Police Department detectives have charged 48-year-old Jeffrey James Perry with three counts of aggravated assault after witnesses say he exited his vehicle and began randomly firing a gun at nearby businesses. No one was injured in the incident.

Officers were dispatched to the intersection of Johnny Mercer Boulevard and Whitemarsh Island Drive at 9:07 a.m. after a woman called to report that a man with a gun exited his vehicle. Witnesses say the suspect made his way from the intersection to a nearby shopping center where he randomly fired his gun in the direction of several business before making his way back to the intersection.

About the same time as the 9-1-1 call was being dispatched, a citizen came into the Chatham County Police Department's Islands precinct located nearby to report the gunman. The Island's precinct houses the department's Criminal Investigation Division. Command staff members, detectives, and uniformed officers rushed to the scene and found a man standing in the intersection and waving a gun in the air. The man was not wearing a shirt and was acting erratically. He obeyed officers' commands to drop his weapon, and was taken into custody at 9:10 a.m. – three minutes after the first call was dispatched -- without incident.

"I am incredibly proud of our department today," said Chatham County Police Chief Jeff Hadley. "In addition to the patrol officers who were dispatched, captains, detectives, and our neighborhood liaison officer all responded without hesitation to face a man they knew was armed and firing his weapon.

"This is the kind of bravery that every member of our force is expected to show up with every time they report to work. This is a somber reminder of the dangers our officers face every day, and is an example of why our training and rigorous hiring practices are so important. Our officers did their job with excellence."

Perry was not injured during the arrest, but was transported to a local hospital by ambulance with a police escort for evaluation. He will be transported to the Chatham County Detention Center when he is cleared by doctors.

Detectives also checked Perry's residence and confirmed that no one there had been injured or was in any kind of danger.

Chatham County Police detectives received assistance after the incident from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit and Savannah-Chatham County Public School's Board of Education's K-9 unit as they worked to collect all shell casings at the scene.

Note to media: A booking photo will not be available until Perry has been transported to the detention center.

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