NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
December 14, 2022

Suspect Dies Following Standoff and SWAT Intervention

Chatham County, GA (December 14, 2022) – A suspect has died following an hours-long standoff with the Chatham County SWAT Team.

The adult male suspect's name is being withheld pending notification of his next-of-kin.

On December 13, 2022, at 1:24 p.m., Chatham County Police Department officers were dispatched to a residence in the 30-block of Ft. Argyle Court for an adult male having mental health issues. The Chatham County SWAT Team, which is made up of officers from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and Chatham County Police Department, was dispatched after the man brandished a firearm and refused to leave the residence.

After the Chatham County SWAT Team deployed less-lethal pepper balls into the residence, the man opened fire on officers – striking several law enforcement vehicles and nearby homes. Officers did not return fire, and there were no injuries.

The Savannah Police Department SWAT Team was then asked to respond and assist in additional less-lethal efforts to draw the suspect out of the residence. When those attempts, and hours of negotiations, failed SWAT Team members entered the residence and took the suspect into custody just before 8:00 p.m.

Several minutes after the suspect was taken into custody, he began experiencing a medical issue while still on the scene. A Chatham Emergency Services EMS team and ambulance that had been at the scene as a precaution during the standoff, immediately began to render medical assistance, and the suspect was transported to Memorial Hospital for treatment. The suspect died a short time later at the hospital.

In accordance with its Standard Operating Policies and Procedures, the Chatham County Police Department has asked the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to investigate the circumstances surrounding the suspect's death. All questions regarding the investigation should be referred to the GBI.

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