



Chatham County Police Chief Jeff Hadley Statement

May 14, 2021

Good Afternoon, my name is Jeff Hadley I am the Chief of Police for the Chatham County Police Department and on behalf of Chairman Chester Ellis, the Board of Commissioners and the County Managers Office I called this press conference to make a statement in regards to the Officer Involved Shooting that occurred on Tara Ct. in Unincorporated Chatham County last evening.

Per departmental policy the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was requested to do an independent investigation of this incident. The GBI recently issued a press release and I will read their statement based from their preliminary investigation.

“Preliminary information indicates that officers from CCPD were dispatched to a residence on Tara Court in Savannah regarding a person with a weapon. A neighbor called 911 and indicated that a man, identified as Vincent Gadson, 71, had pointed a gun at him. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the 911 caller. Another neighbor arrived on scene and told officers that Gadson was still outside of his residence with a gun and was actively pointing it at him.

Officers then made contact and communicated with Gadson for approximately 15-20 minutes in an attempt to de-escalate the situation. Gadson refused to comply with the officers’ commands to drop the gun, and then to move away from it. At one point, Gadson put the gun down on a chair on his porch, but then again picked up the gun. Two officers fired their weapons, striking Gadson. Gadson was transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center for treatment, where he is listed in stable condition.”

The two officers involved are described as:

Corporal

30 years old

Was certified as a Police Officer in December 2016.

Joined CCPD in April of 2019 as an Officer.

Was promoted to Corporal in January 2021.

White male

Officer

41 years old

Joined CCPD July 2019 as a Recruit.

Was certified as a Police Officer in September 2019.

White male

Per CCPD policy, the officers were wearing their Body Worn Cameras and they were activated at the time of the shooting.

While this is still under investigation, based on what I know at this point I believe these officers did a tremendous job in a very stressful and difficult set of circumstances.

This will mark the first time a Chatham County Police Officer has been involved in an Officer Involved Shooting since we began policing the County in February 2018.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Gadson family and we pray for a quick recovery for Mr. Gadson.

I want to thank my staff for their dedication and professionalism as they managed this incident last evening and for the manner in which they approach their service to this community every day.

Lastly, I want to thank Chairman Ellis, the Board of Commissioners, the Managers Office and most importantly the community for their support and confidence in the Chatham County Police Department.

So that I do not impede or compromise the GBI Investigation, I will be not answering any questions at this time.

Thank You and God Bless.