



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2020

Chatham County Police Officers Save Life Using NARCAN®

Chatham County, GA (May 1, 2020) – Two Chatham County Police officers saved a man’s life Thursday night by administering NARCAN® to counter the effects of an apparent drug overdose.

Officers Joshua Willison and John Schmitt were dispatched to the Holiday Inn at 11 Gateway Boulevard just after 11 p.m. to assist with an EMS call. Willison and Schmitt arrived before the ambulance, and found a man who was having extreme difficulty breathing and was unable to communicate with officers. The person with him said it was possible that the man had taken heroin. The man’s breathing became more shallow, and it was apparent that he was in extreme danger. Officer Willison, assisted by Officer Schmitt, administered a dose of NARCAN® nasal spray and the man began to breathe more normally as the EMS team was arriving. He was transported to a local hospital for medical treatment.

All Chatham County Police Department officers are equipped with NARCAN® in their vehicles, and have been trained in its use. NARCAN® is a nasal spray that quickly minimizes the effects of opiates in the body, and is used by law enforcement around the country to save people from accidental and intentional overdoses of the drug. Chatham County Police officers have administered NARCAN® seven times since officers were equipped with it in summer 2019.

Information about substance abuse treatment can be found by visiting the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council’s website at <https://www.chathamsafetynet.org/mental-health-care/>.

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