



CLEVELAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Alan Norman, Sheriff

P.O. Box 1508
Shelby, NC 28151-1508
704-484-4888
Fax: 704-484-4856

For Immediate Release

On Sunday, May 14th, 2023, at approximately 1:07am, Cleveland County E-911 Communications received a 911 call transfer from Cherokee County, SC, Sheriff's Office. The female caller said that she was a passenger in a car that had been shot at from a suspect truck that was still following them. The caller inadvertently disconnected, but called back into Cleveland County E-911 a few moments later. The truck was still pursuing them, and reportedly still shooting at them while they were traveling in the Patterson Springs area, on NC 180 South. Deputies from Cleveland County Sheriff's Office saturated the area, attempting to intervene in this violent encounter.

A deputy found the vehicles traveling on Earl Rd. at US74. While the victims continued on, the deputy attempted to stop the suspects at the intersection. The suspects fled by running the red light, and driving on US74 westbound, then turning right onto Dekalb St. At that point, the suspects accelerated and turned off their vehicle exterior lighting. After the deputy momentarily lost sight of the suspect vehicle, he found it had crashed into a home at the intersection of Dekalb Street and Suttle Street. Due to the horrific nature of the crash, deputies and Shelby Police Officers worked together to assist both the fire department and EMS in rendering aid to those in the suspect vehicle.

We will refer you to Shelby Police Department's press release regarding the details of the accident investigation they are conducting.

Further investigation revealed that the shooting incident began in Cherokee County, South Carolina, where the victims' vehicle was struck by gunfire. The suspect vehicle relentlessly pursued the victims for several miles into Shelby. During that time, the caller reported the suspects continued to fire at the victim vehicle. Given this persistence by the suspects, it appears they were determined to kill the occupants of the other vehicle. It was only through the intervention of the deputy that the suspects disengaged from menacing the victims.

Fortunately, none of the occupants in the victims' vehicle were injured, and they are cooperating with the on-going investigation.

Cleveland County Sheriff's investigators responded to the incident, and continue to investigate what crimes took place in our jurisdiction. Cherokee County Sheriff's investigators are conducting their own investigation of the incident in their county.

Any inquiries regarding 911 recordings should be directed to Cleveland County E-911 Communications Center.

Sheriff Alan Norman said, "Given the relentlessness with which these suspects pursued and shot at the victims, it is a miracle that no one in the victims' car was injured. I am proud of the joint effort between all the involved agencies to work through this investigation."