



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORREST AVENUE SHOOTING SUSPECT ARRESTED

Athens Police Apprehend Forrest Avenue Shooting Suspect

ATHENS, TENNESSEE - March 25, 2019 - On February 12, 2019, officers from the Athens Police Department initiated an investigation into a shooting on Forrest Avenue. A woman was in her car when a suspect in another vehicle opened fire on her. Although she wasn't shot, she was injured from flying glass. The shooting occurred in a residential neighborhood, and Ingleside Elementary School was put into lockdown as a result.

On the evening of Thursday, March 21, 2019, officers from the Athens Police Department took a suspect into custody in reference to this shooting.

After the shooting in February, officers worked exhaustively, following leads and examining evidence related to the shooting. Eventually, they obtained enough evidence to seek a Grand Jury Indictment against Joseph Kibodeaux (DOB 3/7/92). The Grand Jury returned an indictment against Mr. Kibodeaux on March 19, 2019. Over the next several days, APD Officers and members of the 10th Judicial Circuit Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force searched for Mr. Kibodeaux. On the evening of March 21, Officer Jason Roberts located the suspect and took him into custody.

Chief Couch, of the Athens Police Department, said "I'm incredibly proud of the hard work put forth by Detective Gary Miller, many other APD Officers, the District Attorney's Office, and the DTF members that worked on this case. It goes without saying that this type of reckless behavior can't be tolerated. People deserve to be secure in their own homes without worrying that a stray bullet will harm their family." City Manager C. Seth Sumner added, "The successful apprehension of the suspect was only made possible through the tools and investment in our officers that we have been able to make over the past year. The Friendly City is getting tougher on crime and this sends a message that violent behavior is not welcome here. I'm thankful and proud of the difference our officers' efforts are making in protecting Athenians."

ORIGINAL RELEASE

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – February 14, 2019 – On February 14, 2019 at approximately 1:15pm, the Athens Police Department was dispatched to Forrest Avenue, in reference to a woman who believed she'd been shot while sitting in her car. As the woman called Dispatch, she began fleeing the area. Given the proximity of the reported gunshots to Ingleside Elementary School, officers contacted school staff and recommended that the school be placed in lockdown.

The recommendation for lockdown was made out of an abundance of caution, and to ensure that no children were allowed outside on the playground.

The victim was later located and treated for wounds to her arms. Although she did not appear to have actually been shot, she did suffer wounds to her arms from broken glass. Evidence of gunshots were found on her vehicle and on houses in the neighborhood. Officers are following up on numerous leads in an attempt to identify the shooter or shooters.

The investigation into this crime is ongoing, and the Police Department asks that anyone having further information contact the Athens Police Department at (423) 744-2730.

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