Chief of Police Mark G. Kattner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SC DOUBLE HOMICIDE SUSPECT CAPTURED BY THOMASVILLE POLICE

Thomasville officers have captured a man wanted in South Carolina in connection with a double homicide after a Friday afternoon chase.

The Thomasville Police Highway Interdiction Team was monitoring traffic near mile marker 101 when Davidson County Emergency Communications broadcast a "be on the lookout (BOLO)," at 1:55 p.m., for a burgundy Toyota Camry that was stolen out of Rowan County. The BOLO stated the vehicle was operated by Ernest Condre Bethel, who is a double homicide suspect from Richland County, South Carolina.

At 1:59 p.m., the TPD Interdiction Team observed a vehicle fitting the description traveling north on I85 and operated by a person who fit Bethel's description. As officers pulled out onto the highway, the vehicle accelerated in an attempt to elude. Bethel turned onto the off-ramp of exit 103 where he attempted to make a right turn onto Randolph Street at a high rate of speed. Bethel lost control of his vehicle and struck three vehicles traveling north on Randolph Street. Bethel attempted to flee on foot but was captured by officers after a short distance.

There were a total of four adults and one child who occupied the three vehicles struck by Bethel. Four of those, including the child, were transported to area hospitals for non-life-threatening injuries.

Bethel was transported to the Thomasville Police Department where he will be booked into the Davidson County Jail and held pending extradition by South Carolina authorities. The Richland County Sheriff's Office has charged Bethel with two counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder in connection with a shooting that killed two people and injured two others on August 22, 2019, in Richland County, SC.

Bethel, 26, of 2304 E. Boundary Road, Columbia, SC, is facing additional charges by Thomasville Police. The accident on Randolph Street caused congestion for a few hours but is now clear.

Ernest Condre Bethel

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