



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brookhaven Officer Dragged by Vehicle

Brookhaven, GA July 13, 2016 – Tyrone Chapman (38 YOA, B/M) has been arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault on police after dragging a Brookhaven Police officer with his car during a traffic stop. He is currently held at the DeKalb County Jail.

At approximately 3:50 a.m. this morning, Officer T. Lefever noticed a vehicle stopped in the intersection on Peachtree Road at Dresden Drive with the driver hunched over the steering wheel. The officer was able to wake the driver up to speak to him. The driver provided a name and date of birth to the officer, which was learned to be false.

While questioning Chapman about his identity, he abruptly put the car in drive and accelerated from the scene. Officer Lefever had reacted to Chapman's efforts to put the car in drive by putting his arm in to the vehicle in an attempt to stop him. As the vehicle accelerated, Officer Lefever became lodged in the window to the point that the officer feared possibly being killed if he let go and fell to the ground at such a high rate of speed. At one point, Officer Lefever made eye contact with the driver and said, "You're going to kill me" as he tried to climb in to the open driver's window. Chapman replied, "I don't want to kill you" and began to stop the car.

Once stopped, Chapman complied with the officer's command to step out of the car. However, Chapman failed to put the car in park. While back up officers approached to watch Chapman, Officer Lefever was able to jump into the once again moving vehicle to stop it before it caused damage to the residential property in the neighborhood Chapman had driven into. Officer Lefever and Officer S. Miller were then able to take Chapman in to custody without further incident.

"We are very thankful that Officer Lefever was not injured in this incident," noted Brookhaven Police Chief Gary Yandura. "In today's policing climate, officers are operating at a heightened sense of awareness. This situation could have ended very badly for our officer and the suspect."

Chapman was found to have a suspended driver's license and was charged with the following list of offenses:

- Aggravated Assault on Police
- Felony Obstruction of Justice

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- Driving While License Suspended
- Impeding the Flow of Traffic
- Criminal Damage to Property, 1st degree

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