

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

Eugene J. Conway

Sheriff



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Sheriff's Deputies and Syracuse Police Officers Apprehend Car Thief

City of Syracuse, New York – The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and the Syracuse Police Department have apprehended a man accused of stealing a AAA flatbed truck and leaving a path of destruction through many Syracuse Streets before being shot by police.

At approximately 12:58 PM, a AAA Roadside Assistance employee was helping a disabled motorist on Townsend Street near East Laurel Street in the City of Syracuse when a male walking in the area jumped in the cab of the truck and drove off. The AAA employee notified 911 and his employer, who was able to track the vehicles movement by its Global Positioning System.

Deputies were alerted to the trucks location after its GPS signal was detected in the Shop City area. While deputies were responding to that area, the truck was observed traveling west bound on Court Street. As deputies attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the truck, the suspect refused for several blocks and began ramming patrol vehicles in an attempt to flee.

The suspect traveled through downtown Syracuse during lunch time where he continued to use the flatbed truck to clear his path causing significant damage to additional patrol vehicles, civilian vehicles and also injuring officers as well as the civilians. Deputies and a Syracuse Police Officer eventually utilized lethal force in an effort to stop the suspect after the suspect intentionally drove towards officers and pedestrians while on West Street near Gifford Street. The suspect continued to evade police for another block before colliding with a Syracuse Fire Truck on Dickerson Street near the Rescue Mission.

The suspect was taken into custody and treated at the scene for a gunshot wound before being transported by AMR ambulance to Upstate University Hospital where he is currently listed in stable condition.

The name of the suspect will be made available once he is formally charged. The names of the deputies and Officer involved in the shooting will not be released for 72 hours pursuant to the Sheriff's Office and Syracuse Police Department policy. The officers injured in the collisions were transported to an area hospital where they were treated for minor injuries.

The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office and the Syracuse Police Department continue to investigate the incident and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

For information pertaining to the involved members of the Syracuse Police Department, please contact Sgt. Rick Helterline.