



For Immediate Release  
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## Officer Involved Shooting Update

Harrisonburg, VA – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) continues investigating an officer involved shooting that occurred overnight.

On February 26 at approximately 11:56 p.m., an officer with HPD initiated a traffic stop on a 2000 Chevrolet truck in the area of North Liberty Street and West Elizabeth Street. The vehicle did not stop and continued to speed away from the officer, disregarding multiple stop signs and red traffic signals in the area. A pursuit was not initiated, but officers remained in the area in an attempt to locate the vehicle.

At approximately 12:37 a.m. on February 27, an officer located the vehicle traveling in the area of East Washington Street and Simms Avenue. The officer continued to follow the vehicle while other units responded as back up. A second stop was initiated in the 300 block of Summit Street where the vehicle pulled over. As officers began to approach the suspect vehicle, a male subject identified as Dakotah Contreras, 19, of Verona, exited the truck and immediately began firing at four officers. Officers returned fire. Contreras fled on foot through a residential area still armed.

After a short foot pursuit, officers located Contreras in a back yard of a nearby residence and gave him demands to drop the firearm. Contreras refused and additional shots were fired. Contreras was then taken into custody and officers began rendering aid while rescue responded. Contreras was transported to Sentara RMH Medical Center by ambulance and later airlifted to the University of Virginia Medical Center.

Contreras is in stable condition and has been charged with four counts of attempted capital murder and four counts of use of a firearm in commission of a felony. He is currently in the custody of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office.

This incident remains under investigation by HPD with the assistance of the Virginia State Police Officer Involved Shooting team. Anyone with information pertaining to this case is encouraged to contact the Major Crimes Unit at (540) 437-2640. Callers can provide anonymous tips by calling Crime Solvers at (540) 574-5050 or text "HPD" plus the tip to CRIMES (274637).

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