



April 28, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vehicle Flees to Avoid Traffic Checkpoint

Martinsville, VA – On Thursday, April 27th at approximately 9:30pm, the Martinsville Police Department was conducting a traffic checking detail in response to citizen concerns in the area of Clearview and Royal Drive.

During this operation, two officers were headed towards the detail when they observed a white Ford Mustang approach the checkpoint. Before entering the checkpoint the Mustang made an illegal U-turn, striking the curb on Clearview Drive and accelerating at a very high rate of speed. Officers followed behind the vehicle with lights and sirens activated for approximately two (2) miles when they lost sight of the vehicle and terminated the pursuit. The pursuit reached speeds of 85 mph. Officers continued searching for the vehicle and located it off the roadway and unoccupied at the intersection of Nautica Way and Beaver Creek Drive.

As additional officers from Martinsville Police and Henry County Sheriff's Office were headed to the scene, officers heard what appeared to be a single gunshot in the wooded area approximately 150 yards from the suspect vehicle. Officers and Deputies quickly established a perimeter. Within a very short time, law enforcement personnel moved towards the location of the apparent gunshot utilizing a K-9, thermal imaging and appropriate tactical gear. As they approached, they observed what appeared to be an adult male who had succumbed to a single gunshot wound.

Henry County Sheriff's Office is handling the investigation as it relates to the scene in the wooded area and the recovered vehicle. Virginia State Police is handling the crash investigation. Martinsville Police Department is handling the pursuit investigation. This is obviously an ongoing investigation. We appreciate any information community members may have as it relates to this situation.

Anyone with any information about this incident is asked to contact Crime Stoppers at (276) 63-CRIME. Crime Stoppers is an anonymous tip line and callers with information leading to arrest and conviction could be eligible for up to a \$ 2,500 reward.

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