



Office of the Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Granville County Sheriff's Office Arrests Suspect Following Armed Robbery in the Antioch Community

OXFORD, NC: Granville County Sheriff's Deputies along with other local law enforcement officials responded to a report of an armed robbery involving the theft of a motor vehicle at approximately 3:15pm on 4/9/22. The suspect was described as a black male, approximately 6'2" wearing a gray sweatshirt and black shorts. The suspect and the stolen vehicle were later seen in the Antioch Community of Granville County where the vehicle was recovered, but the suspect fled on foot. The Granville County Sheriff's Office canvassed the area the evening of 4/9/22 in an attempt to locate the suspect but could not locate the suspect.

On the morning of 4/10/22, Granville County Deputies and fire department officials responded to a report of a suspicious fire in the Antioch community. Upon investigation of the fire, it was determined that the suspect from the robbery on 4/9/22 was possibly hiding under the crawl space of the residence and was still considered to be possibly armed. A perimeter was established, and assistance was requested from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team to assist in searching the crawl space of the residence. As the Special Response Team was attempting to clear the crawl space of the residence, they received gunfire from a suspect hiding in the crawl space. Franklin County Deputies returned fire and retreated to a safe position further from the residence. Another secure perimeter was established, and further assistance was requested from surrounding jurisdictions, including the NC State Bureau of Investigation.

A crisis negotiator from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office was also called to the scene and made contact with the suspect under the residence in an attempt to get the suspect to come out from underneath the residence and surrender to authorities. After a few minutes, a male subject fitting the description of the robbery suspect from 4/9/22 crawled out from underneath the residence and was taken into custody. The suspect was transported by EMS with minor injuries and was released by medical professionals a short time later.

An assault style rifle was recovered from underneath the residence. During the incident a Franklin County K9 dog was struck by gunfire and died. The suspect was identified as William Darius Eichelberger, 21 years of age. Eichelberger was transported to the Granville County Magistrate where he was charged with 7 felonies and placed under a \$250,000 bond. More charges are expected. No law enforcement officers were injured in the incident. The Granville County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident along with the NC State Bureau of Investigation.

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