

# WINTER HAVEN POLICE

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Date: January 17, 2015  
Time: 9 P.M.  
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WINTER HAVEN – Winter Haven Police are investigating three separate shootings that occurred in the North East area of the city tonight.

Today at approximately 5:25 p.m. Winter Haven officers were in the area of 3<sup>rd</sup> St., and Ave. T, NE in Winter Haven as additional security because of large crowds in the parking area at Three Brothers Family Food Store. Officers heard multiple shots fired and people began running from the area. Officers began to detain individuals to investigate and as interviews were conducted, it was learned that a citizen who was parked in the parking lot was agitated over his car being blocked in. This unknown individual fired rounds into the ground to express his displeasure. Rounds were located in the ground, corroborating the witness' accounts. That individual was not located at the time officers arrived.

As officers were investigating the parking lot incident, additional shots were heard in the area. Officers heard a series of shots being fired and as they were leaving the parking lot, a woman approached from across the street saying that she had been shot. The woman, who had been sitting in her front yard in the neighborhood, had a gunshot wound to her upper body. She was transported by ambulance to Lakeland Regional Medical Center where she has been treated and is scheduled to be released later this evening.

Officers began canvassing the area on foot in an attempt to find those responsible for the two shootings. While they were tending to the shooting victim in the area of 5<sup>th</sup> ST. NE and Sears Ave., a vehicle was seen driving in reverse at a high rate of speed. The vehicle was ultimately stopped and as the officers spoke to the two occupants of the vehicle, one of the officers spotted a gun on the passenger floorboard. Immediately, officers commanded the driver and passenger to exit the vehicle. The driver leaned down towards the floorboard and the officer commanded the driver to show his hands. The driver continued to reach between his feet and at that time the officer, fearing for his safety, fired one round, striking the suspect in the upper body. At the same time, the passenger fled from the passenger side, but was quickly



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apprehended. The suspect has been identified as 18 year-old Deandre Coffey (DOB 1-1-96, 1527 Ave. H, NE, Winter Haven). He is not cooperating with detectives. His criminal history includes Shoplifting and DWLSR.

The other suspect was flown to Lakeland Regional Medical Center where he is undergoing surgery at this time.

As standard procedure, the officer involved will be placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation, which will be conducted by the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

The Winter Haven Police Department is currently investigating the shots fired at Three Brothers Family Food Store and the injured citizen who was sitting in her yard. The Polk County Sheriff's Office will be conducting the officer involved shooting.

We are still investigating two shootings in the city. Anyone with information regarding either of these incidents is asked to call Heartland Crime Stoppers at 1-800-226-TIPS (8477). Callers could be eligible for a CASH reward.