



Fayette County Sheriff's Office
Wayne Hannah, Sheriff **November 30, 2010**

Press Information

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The Fayette County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating an aggravated assault case against a Fayette County Sheriff's Deputy.

On November 29, 2010 at approximately 9:30 PM a Fayette County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling on County Line Road in east Fayette County for an equipment violation. As the Deputy approached the vehicle he was able to smell what he suspected to be marijuana coming from inside. The suspect vehicle was occupied by a male driver along with a second male who was sitting in the passenger seat. The Fayette Deputy requested a second deputy to assist him with the traffic stop. When the second deputy arrived the driver was asked to exit the vehicle where they moved out of the roadway near the passenger side of the vehicle away from traffic.

While the deputies were speaking to the driver about the suspected odor of marijuana coming from inside, the passenger jumped into the driver's seat of the vehicle in an attempt to flee the scene. The second deputy partially entered the suspect vehicle in an attempt to prevent the passenger from leaving the scene. A brief struggle ensued before the passenger was able to put the suspect vehicle into gear and began to drive away; ignoring commands to stop. The second Deputy who was partially in the vehicle was being dragged and nearly pulled underneath the suspect vehicle. The driver continued to flee and the Deputy discharged his firearm at the fleeing passenger in an attempt to stop the force being used against him. The Deputy was thrown from the fleeing vehicle, receiving non-life threatening injuries, and was transported to Piedmont Fayette Hospital.

The passenger fled the scene in the suspect vehicle and was located a short time later at a residence in Clayton County. The passenger was injured by a gunshot wound to his body and was transported to Atlanta Medical Center. The extent of the injuries to the passenger is unknown at this time. Criminal charges against the passenger are also pending in this case.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigations has been asked to investigate the use of force incident.