



Bluffton Police Department

For More Information:

Joy Nelson

Community Relations Manager

Bluffton Police Department

(Office): (843) 706-4542

(Cell): (843)540-8308

(Email): jnelson@townofbluffton.com

March 7, 2016

NR# 16-14

Motorist with Gun leads Police on Foot Chase

What:

Road Rage and Foot Chase

Where:

US 278 and Buck Island Road

When:

March 5, 2016

Bluffton police officers were involved in a short foot chase Saturday, March 5, 2016 after reports of a motorist driving down US 278 pointing a gun out the window of his van towards another vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle who called police said he saw the green van and then noticed the driver, Lazarto Smith, pointing a gun at him. He then stopped his car, at which time Smith exited his van, walking towards the driver while pointing the gun. The driver fled and called police.

When police arrived, the driver told police he saw the van pull into the Publix parking lot off Buck Island Road. At that time, police saw the van and tried to pull it over. It sped into the Westbury Park neighborhood. A perimeter was set up around the area. At that time, police saw Smith exit his van and run. Police yelled for Smith to stop, identifying themselves as law enforcement. Smith continued to run. A short chase continued until Smith was ultimately arrested. The handgun the witness described to police was found inside Smith's van.

Smith is currently at the Beaufort County Detention Center where he faces several charges, including failure to stop for blue lights, fleeing to evade and unlawful carrying of a firearm.



Lazarto Smith