



**Shreveport Police Department  
Chief Wayne Smith**

Media Inquiries:

Angie Willhite

[shreveportdpio@shreveportla.gov](mailto:shreveportdpio@shreveportla.gov)

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**Man arrested for attempted murder of a police officer**



**Lavonta Smith**

Shreveport Police Violent Crime Investigators have jailed a man after he fired multiple shots at a police officer during a traffic stop earlier this morning.

Just after 2:30 a.m. a Shreveport Police officer was responding to assist another officer on a traffic stop. As he was driving, he observed a driver disregard the traffic light at Midway Avenue and Mansfield Road. The officer initiated a traffic stop, the driver refused to stop, and a pursuit ensued. During the minutes long pursuit, the officer heard multiple gunshots and at least one of those shots struck the driver's side front windshield of the police cruiser. The officer was not struck by the projectile but did receive minor injuries from shrapnel.

The driver continued to flee from officers until he reached the dead end of the 100 block of West 77<sup>th</sup> Street. The driver, later identified as Lavonta Smith (10-27-1997), exited the vehicle with a .223 caliber pistol and fled on foot. He was apprehended a short time later. No shots were fired by police officers.

Smith was transported to the Shreveport Police Complex where he was interviewed by detectives then booked into the Shreveport City Jail on one count of Attempted First Degree Murder and one count of Aggravated Flight from a Police Officer. Other charges are forthcoming.

"I'm asking my officers to intensify their efforts to protect our public and that includes proactive patrolling of our streets. This officer was doing the job asked of him and could have easily lost his life doing so. We are thankful that nobody was seriously injured this morning and appreciate our communities ongoing support." Chief Wayne Smith