



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release - March 6, 2015

SALEM POLICE MAKE ARREST IN DOWNTOWN PURSUIT

On Friday, March 6, at approximately 10:25 a.m., the Salem Police Department responded to the area of South Market and Calhoun Streets in reference to a Virginia State Police (VSP) unit that was attempting to stop a motorist who was driving erratically.

The State Police observed the suspect's vehicle, a 2003 Mitsubishi Montero, traveling east bound in the west bound lanes of East Main Street. The driver was on East Main from Lewis Avenue to Market Street before turning onto Market and heading south.

The State Police vehicle and several Salem Police units attempted to stop the suspect utilizing emergency lights and sirens, but he ignored them. The vehicle continued to disregard police units at low speed on the streets and through several parking lots, including Library Square.

In a parking lot at the corner of Calhoun and S. Broad Streets, the driver drove toward a Salem Police officer, who had exited his patrol vehicle and then struck another Salem patrol vehicle which was occupied. The low speed pursuit that lasted a total of four minutes, ended in the 400 block of South Broad Street where police took the driver into custody.

Randolph Thornton Booker, age 58, of Salem was charged with:

- 1 count of felony Eluding/Evading Law Enforcement
- 2 counts of felony Malicious Assault on Law Enforcement Officers
- 1 count of felony Destruction/Damage of a Law Enforcement vehicle

Booker is being held in the Roanoke County/Salem Jail without bond. There were no injuries and damage estimate to the police vehicle is yet to be determined.

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