

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

April 21, 2025

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Officer Injured During Easter Celebration

Update

On Sunday, April 20, 2025, at approximately 8:06 P.M., officers from the Lake City Police Department, alongside deputies from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, were providing crowd control at a community Easter Celebration held at the Annie Mattox Recreation Center on NE Center Avenue in Lake City, Florida. The annual celebration is attended by a couple thousand people.

During the event, an altercation occurred between several attendees. As officers and deputies attempted to intervene, gunshots were fired, and one Lake City Police Department officer was struck by gunfire.

Officer Marcus Hardison sustained a gunshot wound to his right arm and was transported to a nearby trauma center for treatment. Officer Hardison is a K-9 handler; however, his K-9 partner, Niko, was not involved in the incident. Officer Hardison has been with the Lake City Police Department for four and a half years.

Rumors circulating on social media have falsely claimed that Officer Hardison was shot by another officer. Chief of Police Gerald Butler clarified, "No officers or deputies discharged their service weapons during this incident."

The Lake City Police Department wishes to thank the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Florida Highway Patrol, Lake City Fire Department, Columbia County Emergency Medical Services, and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office for their assistance during and after the incident.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has video footage is asked to contact Lake City Police Department detectives at (386) 752-4343.



Report information anonymously by calling the LCPD TIPS line at 386-719-2068
or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at 386-754-7099.

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