

# Press Release

**LAKE CITY**  
**POLICE**  
**DEPARTMENT**



*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

**For Immediate Release**  
April 26, 2026

**Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer**  
Ph. (386) 247-1148

## Three People Shot, One Arrested

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, at approximately 12:54 A.M., officers from the Lake City Police Department responded to Encore, located at 556 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida, regarding a report of a person shot.

Upon arrival, officers located multiple gunshot victims near the rear of Encore, located on NE Railroad Street. Officers immediately began providing lifesaving measures to one victim inside a vehicle. Lake City Fire Department and EMS personnel arrived and continued medical treatment. Two additional victims were located nearby and received medical care before being transported. In total, three individuals were shot. Two victims were transported to a local hospital, and one was airlifted to a nearby trauma center.

During the investigation, officers determined the shooting occurred across the street in a parking lot. Officers secured the scene, located several fired shell casings, and identified multiple areas of blood evidence. Detectives with the Criminal Investigations Division responded and continued the investigation.

Through investigative efforts, Davario Watkins was identified as the suspect. At approximately 3:45 A.M., a Columbia County Sheriff's Office deputy located Watkins' red Nissan pickup truck at Pleasant Point Apartments, located at 153 NW County Road 25A. Watkins was detained a short time later.

Chief of Police Gerald Butler stated, "This was a violent incident that placed several lives at risk. I commend our officers, deputies, fire personnel, and EMS crews for their quick response and immediate lifesaving efforts. Our detectives will continue working to ensure the facts are fully developed and the person responsible is held accountable."

The investigation remains active and ongoing. The Lake City Police Department thanks the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Lake City Fire Department, and EMS personnel for their assistance.

Anyone with information regarding any crime is encouraged to contact the Lake City Police Department at (386) 752-4343 or report information anonymously through the LCPD TIPS line at (386) 719-2068 or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at (386) 754-7099.



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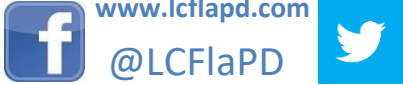
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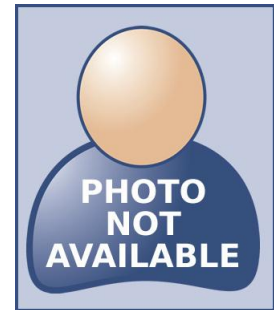


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*Chief of Police Gerald Butler*

**Name:** WATKINS, DAVARIO TYSHON  
**DOB:** 04/23/1992  
**Sex/Race:** Male/Black  
**Hair/Eyes:** Blk/Bro  
**Address:** Pleasant Point Apartments 1521 US-441 #17, Lake City, FL 32055  
**Charge(s):** Attempted Murder  
2 counts Agravated Battery  
Leaving the Scene of a Traffic Crash



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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