



CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

SHERIFF
MIKE PRENDERGAST



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2018

For more information, contact:

Lindsay Blair,

Community Relations Specialist & Public Information Officer

(352) 341-7460

Pursuit Leads to Officer – Involved Shooting

At approximately 5 p.m., Saturday February 17, our deputies started looking for a Blue KIA Sedona after our 9-1-1 Communications Center received a call stating 28 year-old Ryan Batchelder from Hernando, was making threats to shoot someone at the Xtreme games 3 store at the 41 / 200 apex across from the Cumberland Farms gas station in Hernando. Patrol units quickly found Batchelder speeding down 41 north towards the shop. Batchelder failed to stop his vehicle. A pursuit ensued NB on 200. Because of high speeds and traffic volume, the chase was cancelled. Marion County Sheriff's Office was also notified.

A short time later, deputies found Batchelder speeding down SB 491 and then SB on 41 through Hernando, passing the Xtreme game store at which point he pointed a firearm at deputies. After multiple attempts to try and stop the vehicle, Batchelder ran the red light at the 41 and 200 apex traveling at a high rate of speed, directly towards our deputies who put themselves between Batchelder and citizens. He slammed his vehicle into a sheriff's vehicle, which in turn, pushed our vehicle into three other parked cars.

The impact of the crash forced other vehicles into a CCSO deputy. That deputy sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to a nearby hospital.

Deputies were then forced to discharge their weapons towards Batchelder's vehicle. Deputies were able to get Batchelder out of the vehicle, but he died a short time later.

"This is a very tragic turn of events, where a man lost his life. We are very thankful that our officers were not seriously injured and that the many citizens who were very close to this extremely dangerous situation did not suffer catastrophic injuries," said Sheriff Mike Prendergast. "Again, we will count on FDLE to do a thorough investigation."

FDLE will now take over the investigation. The deputies involved have been placed on administrative leave with pay per agency policy. We will not be releasing any more information regarding this case until FDLE is done with their investigation.