



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

**SHERIFF**  
**MIKE PRENDERGAST**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 15, 2018

For more information, contact:

**Heather Yates,**  
**Community Relations Director**  
(352) 341-7459

## **Traffic stop leads to officer-involved shooting**

At 3:11 a.m. a Citrus County Sheriff's Office deputy attempted a traffic stop in the area of Periwinkle Lane in Homosassa which led to a pursuit. The suspect, William Bryant, 21, of Homosassa, struck the deputy's vehicle with his vehicle during this encounter. At some point during the incident it appears that Bryant tried to strike the deputy with his car at which point the deputy fired at Bryant. The pursuit ended when the suspect crashed his vehicle near a residence off Stone Gate. He was taken to Bayonet Point where he is being treated for his injuries, which appear to be non-life-threatening.

The deputy involved has been placed on paid administrative leave per our policy. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is conducting the investigation into this incident.

"We are very thankful that our officer is uninjured and that no one else was hurt in this extremely dangerous situation," said Sheriff Mike Prendergast. "We can always count on FDLE to do a thorough investigation whenever these extremely dangerous and unfortunate incidents occur. These things take time, so we will not be releasing any further information until their investigation is concluded."