

Print Clips

SUBJECT: APD

CBS 46

Gun, badge stolen from unmarked APD unit in rash of break-ins

By: Jonathan Andrews

ATLANTA (CBS46) -

Thieves stole a gun and badge from an unmarked APD unit as that vehicle and several others were broken into in NW Atlanta on Tuesday.

Police said the thieves burglarized four cars, including the unmarked Atlanta Police Department car outside R Thomas Grill.

In addition to the police equipment stolen from the Atlanta Police car, GPS units and cash were taken from the other vehicles.

Police have not released any descriptions of the suspects, and said the crimes remain under investigation.

<http://www.cbs46.com/story/35173066/gun-badge-stolen-from-unmarked-apd-unit-in-rash-of-break-ins>

SUBJECT: AFRD & APD

Fox 5

President Trump honors first responders for their service during I-85 collapse

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA - President Donald Trump is honoring Atlanta's first responders for their work with the I-85 bridge collapse. He will be meeting with the first responders in the Roosevelt Room in the White House.

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and other city leaders gathered Wednesday morning to honor first responders for their heroic efforts during the Interstate 85 bridge fire and collapse last month.

"It is a privilege and an honor to be here today to recognize the brave women and man of the Atlanta Police Department and Atlanta Fire Rescue Department for their exemplary service during the I-85 bridge disaster," Reed said at Atlanta City Hall.

Reed said thanks to the courage and professionalism of the first responders, no one was killed in the fire or resulting from the collapse of the bridge which carries more than 250,000 vehicles on a typical day.

"I think a great deal of the credit belongs to each and every one of you," said Mayor Reed.

A standing ovation followed.

The massive fire broke out around 6 p.m. on March 30 and caused a portion of the interstate to collapse, crippling traffic in both directions of the busy highway indefinitely.

Mayor Reed said when the fire first broke out, a group of about eight Atlanta police officers immediately investigated smoke and noticed the intensity of the blaze. Their team made a quick and critical decision to clear traffic.

Atlanta Fire Rescue firefighters then arrived on scene, but were pushed back by heavy flames and dark black smoke. They were able to quickly secure the scene and called for additional help. Fire officials said they were able to pull all the firefighters out from under the overpass just before the collapse after noticing signs of fatigue in the structure. Firefighters also worked to keep the fire from spreading to a nearby Goodwill store.

SUBJECT: Marta

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

MARTA works to calm fears after rider is killed in train shooting

By: Joshua Sharpe

At 4:30 p.m. Thursday, tensions exploded inside a MARTA train pulling into the West Lake station. Bullets flew from a pistol, tearing passengers' flesh and dropping blood as panic and confusion rose over what could cause such a brazen act of public violence.

The shooting, which left a man dead and three other people wounded, comes amid increases of MARTA ridership as Atlanta roads remain choked in the aftermath of the fiery I-85 bridge collapse. The stations have been packed, with officials including Gov. Nathan Deal and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed encouraging ridership as the road is rebuilt.

Quickly after the killing, MARTA sought to calm fears.

The system police issued a statement saying Zachariah Hunnicutt, the 38-year-old father who died, was "targeted" in an "isolated" case. Officers quickly arrested suspect Chauncey Lee Daniels, 37, on charges of murder and aggravated assault, reportedly as he tripped trying to leave the scene.

"The safety of our passengers continues to be our No. 1 priority," Police Chief Wanda Dunham said in a news release.

MARTA declined to elaborate on why Hunnicutt would've been targeted, citing the integrity of the pending investigation.

Ominously, Hunnicutt posted a video to his Facebook page on Tuesday afternoon, unleashing a tirade about a woman he claims was trying to "assassinate" his character. He's standing at a MARTA station in the footage.

"Now you want to shoot at somebody," he says.

When asked about the dispute with the woman, MA.

RTA declined to comment on whether it could be related to the shooting.

Family also told Atlanta media Hunnicutt and Daniels worked together and previously fought.

Whatever the motives might be, Hunnicutt's death marks the fifth homicide investigated by MARTA police this fiscal year, a highly unusual spate. The previous four years saw zero homicides in the system's jurisdiction.

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Fire officials said they were able to pull all the firefighters out from under the overpass just before the collapse after noticing signs of fatigue in the structure. Firefighters also worked to keep the fire from spreading to a nearby Goodwill store.

Thankfully, no first responders were injured.

I-85 remains closed from I-75 to Georgia 400. Traffic is being diverted off at those points.

SUBJECT: APD

WJHL

Atlanta interstate closed due to toxic chemical spill

By: Allie Hinds

ATLANTA, GA (WJHL/ ABC NEWS)- Both directions of a major highway in Atlanta are shut down after an overturned tractor trailer caused a toxic chemical spill.

The crash happened around 3:00 a.m. on Atlanta's downtown connector where two interstate highways, I-75 and I-85, run side-by-side for several miles.

Monday morning, hazmat crews were at the scene and police did not allow anyone to come within 150 yards of the site of the spill.

A spokesperson for the Atlanta Police Department told ABC News that commuters will likely face one to two hour delays. The interstate is expected to reopen around 9:30 a.m. Police did not say what chemical was released from the overturned vehicle.

This comes just a few weeks after a section of northbound Interstate 85 collapsed in Atlanta after a massive fire.

According to CNN, three men have been arrested on suspicion of intentionally setting the fire. That collapse that is expected to complicate traffic for months.

<http://www.reporternewspapers.net/2017/03/07/aps-accepting-student-transfer-applications-march-24/>

SUBJECT: APD

Marietta Daily Journal

Bomb threat called in to Anti-Defamation League's Buckhead office

By: Everett Catts

A bomb threat was called in to the Anti-Defamation League's Atlanta office in Buckhead March 7.

It was one of four bomb threats called in to the league's offices across the country and adds to a growing number of threats made against Jewish people in the U.S. since the start of 2017.

Officer S.R. Brown, An Atlanta Police Department spokeswoman, confirmed the bomb threat occurred at about 9:45 a.m., with the department's Zone 2 units responding to it.

"The threat was on a loop repeating 'there is bomb' several times," Brown said. "The receptionist who answered the phone could not provide any more information. The office was evacuated by ADL staff. Building personnel and APD officers conducted a sweep of the building and did not locate any suspicious items. Homeland Security responded and obtained information for a follow-up investigation."

In a tweet posted on his Twitter account, league CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said, "Bomb threats called in to 4 more ADL offices. But we are not intimidated. This only hardens our resolve to

<http://wjhl.com/2017/04/17/atlanta-interstate-closed-due-to-toxic-chemical-spill/>

SUBJECT: City Council

WABE

Atlanta City Council Delays Vote On Marijuana Legislation

By: Stephannie Stokes

An effort to reduce penalties for marijuana possession has stalled in Atlanta.

The City Council decided it wasn't ready to vote on the legislation Monday.

The ordinance from council member Kwanza Hall has been in the works for months. It would make less than an ounce of marijuana possession a fine-only offense.

That is, under Atlanta law.

What still worried council members, like Keisha Lance Bottoms, was that stiff penalties would remain under state law.

"I'm concerned that we are giving false expectation that you will not go to jail in the city of Atlanta when the reality is that as a body we cannot control that," Bottoms said.

Council members also said the administration still hadn't addressed the legislation with Atlanta police, although a council work session on the issue took place a month ago.

Activists in the audience booed and hissed at the council members' decision to delay the vote.

They said the city should pass the ordinance and be an example to the rest of the state.

Instead, the legislation now heads back to the public safety committee.

<http://news.wabe.org/post/atlanta-city-council-delays-vote-marijuana-legislation>

Print Clips

SUBJECT: APD

CBS 46

Atlanta Hawks: Former Atlanta Police Chief named Vice President of Safety and Security

By: La-Keya Stinchcomb

ATLANTA (CBS46) - Former Atlanta Police Chief, George Turner, officially retired from his post December 2016, but just four months later he has returned to law enforcement.

The Atlanta Hawks named George Turner the Vice President of Safety and Security.

George brings an unparalleled wealth of knowledge, connections and expertise to our organization,” said Brett Stefansson, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Philips Arena. “The impressive skillset that he has honed over his career and the high level of respect that he has garnered will be an amazing asset for us in and out of the arena. It is our mission to provide an enjoyable and safe experience every time a fan enters Philips Arena and under George’s leadership, we expect to be an industry leader in that space.”

In his new role, Turner will work closely with senior executives to develop effective strategies that safeguard Philips Arena, team members, and guests by assessing and mitigating risks.

“Becoming a member of the Atlanta Hawks team is a fantastic opportunity for me,” said Turner. “As a proud Atlantan and huge sports fan, this role will put me in the fortunate position to still serve a community I love and spend quality time with my family, particularly my seven grandchildren. The venue holds a very special place in my heart, as my first job in college was in this building as an usher, when it was known as the Omni.”

Turner, a 35 year law enforcement veteran, was appointed by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed in 2010.

<http://www.cbs46.com/story/35135351/atlanta-hawks-former-atlanta-police-chief-named-vice-president-of-safety-ad-security>

SUBJECT: The Mayor

Fire Engineering

Firefighters, Police Honored for Service During I-85 Bridge Collapse

By: Staff Writer

Nearly two weeks ago, Atlanta firefighters and police officers were standing on a burning bridge, working to save lives

"Large chunks of concrete were coming down and that was an indication that the bridge may fail," Sgt. Cortez Stafford said.

Wednesday afternoon they were together again, this time at City Hall being honored for their service.

Mayor Kasim Reed said it was important for him to take the time to recognize the men and women who all rushed to the I-85 bridge both before and after it collapsed.

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/pt/2017/04/firefighters-police-honored-for-service-during-i-85-bridge-collapse.html>

SUBJECT: AFRD/APD

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

I-85 collapse: Atlanta police, firefighters going to White House for heroism honors

By: Leon Stafford

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed on Wednesday praised the city's police and firefighters for their response to last month's I-85 bridge collapse, one day before a handful of the first responders are expected to be congratulated by President Donald Trump in Washington.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the quick response and split second decisions of all of these officers saved countless lives," Reed said in a ceremony held in the Old Council Chambers at Atlanta City Hall. "You want heroes? In my opinion we have a whole bunch of heroes with us in this room today."

Trump is expected to congratulate first responders in a ceremony at the White House on Thursday, though details have not been ironed out.

A bridge portion of I-85 in Buckhead collapsed during rush hour March 30 after a blaze under the viaduct severely damaged the structure. Police and firefighters quickly sealed off the area, a major thoroughfare for metro Atlanta. The move avoided motorist casualties.

No rescue officials were hurt in the collapse.

Reed said the action of police, fire and rescue prevented a catastrophic situation from becoming a deadly tragedy.

"It's my sense that's why you signed up for the jobs that you do," Reed said.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/local-govt--politics/collapse-atlanta-police-firefighters-going-white-house-for-heroism-honors/WFFyPp5zdSXIbkZeZialRN/>

SUBJECT: AFRD

Rolling Out

Atlanta: 2nd major underpass fire shuts down rail transportation

By: Mo Barnes

A little more than two weeks after a fire took out a span of I-85 in Atlanta, another major fire has disrupted travel in the city. This time the fire was located under a railway bridge near an industrial area of the trendy Buckhead section of the city.

The fire was reported early this morning as Atlanta police notified the rail carrier CSX of the situation. Atlanta is a hub of intermodal transport where freight is loaded and offloaded to trucks and railcars for not only the southeast region of the United States but also globally. Many shipping containers pass through the city on their way to port cities like Miami or Savannah, Georgia.

While the average commuter may not see a significant impact on daily travel, the fire has caused a shipping delay that has yet to be evaluated. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined but some have called it massive. A CSX spokesperson stated, “We are holding train traffic until a bridge inspector gives the OK. They’re on the way there right now.”

The fire is located near Cheshire Bridge Road and Buford Highway, a crucial transport area that is not far from the fire that was started on March 30, allegedly by Basil Eleby, 39, a homeless, mentally ill Black man who has been indicted by a grand jury for felony arson and criminal damage to property.

<http://rollingout.com/2017/04/13/atlanta-2nd-major-underpass-fire-shuts-rail-transportation/>

SUBJECT: AFRD

Officer.com

Suspect Arrested in Fire That Collapsed Bridge

By: Tyler Estep

ATLANTA -- The man accused of setting the fire that destroyed part of I-85 talked with companions about smoking crack cocaine before the blaze started, according to a document released Saturday.

The fire collapsed a well-traveled stretch of I-85 -- triggering millions of dollars in damage and wreaking havoc on traffic, potentially for months, as the state rebuilds the wrecked section.

Basil Eleby, 39, was charged on Saturday with first-degree arson in connection with the fire. Wearing a navy jumpsuit, flip-flops and handcuffs, Eleby reluctantly shuffled into a courtroom at the Fulton County jail for his first appearance hearing Saturday morning.

Judge James Altman announced the arson charge, which was added on top of an earlier felony charge of criminal damage to property, and set bond at \$200,000. The judge said he had considered an amount more "commensurate" with the damage inflicted.

"But in this case," the judge said, "that would amount to hundreds of millions of dollars."

Eleby shook his head vigorously when Altman mentioned the possibility of pleading guilty at a future court proceeding. But the suspect said nothing during the brief hearing.

His public defender had asked the court to let Eleby skip the hearing, but the court refused. The attorney held a green folder up to try to hide Eleby's face from the media.

Eleby and two others, Barry Thomas and Sophia Brauer, were charged Friday in connection with the fire.