

Lynn Barbee
Mayor

Joe Benson
Council Member

Jay Healy
Council Member



Deb LeCompte
Mayor Pro Tem

Mike Hoffer
Council Member

Bruce Oakley
Town Manager

Town of Carolina Beach
1121 N. Lake Park Blvd.
Carolina Beach, NC 28428
Tel: (910) 458-2999
Fax: (910) 458-2997

Issued: April 23rd, 2024
For Immediate Release

Contact: Chief Vic Ward
or Sgt. Colby Edens
(910) 458-2540

Pursuit Leads to Arrest and Charges

Carolina Beach, NC April 22nd, 2024: At 6:45 p.m., Patrol Officers with the Carolina Beach Police Department were dispatched to a reckless driving call in the area of Canal Dr., in Carolina Beach. The reporting party reported a reckless driver almost hit his vehicle head on. Officers quickly located the vehicle in the 300 block of Canal Dr. Carolina Beach Officers made contact with the driver, now known as Briggs H. Smith, a 39-year-old male of 1008 Canal Dr., Carolina Beach, N.C. During the initial contact a struggle ensued, and the driver fled from the area leading officers on a pursuit through Carolina Beach. During the pursuit, the driver attempted to hit a police vehicle head on. At one point, the driver briefly stopped, refused to get out of the vehicle, began fleeing again and struck a Carolina Beach Police vehicle. The pursuit continued towards Snow's Cut Bridge and Carolina Beach Police Officers terminated the chase for public safety purposes. Other agencies within New Hanover County were notified and the New Hanover Sheriff's Office observed the vehicle traveling on Carolina Beach Rd. at a high rate of speed. The Carolina Beach Police Department coordinated with the Wilmington Police Department with the possible location of the driver. Wilmington police responded to the area and took the driver into custody after Griggs Smith assaulted and resisted the arresting officers.

Charges by Carolina Beach Police Department:

- 1 Count of Felony Flee to Elude Arrest
- 1 Count of Fugitive Order (Dauphin County, PA)
- 1 Count of Felony Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Government Official
- 1 Count of Hit and Run
- 1 Count of Reckless Driving
- 1 Count of Driving While License Revoked
- 1 Count of Resisting a Public Officer

Charges by New Hanover County Sheriff's Office:

- 1 Count of Reckless Driving
- 2 Counts of Failure to Stop at a Red Light
- 1 Count of Driving Left of Center

Charges by Wilmington Police Department:

- 2 Counts of Malicious Conduct by a Prisoner
- 1 Count of Assault on a Government Official
- 2 Counts of Resisting a Public Officer
- 1 Count of Simple Possession of Schedule VI
- 2 Counts of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- 1 Count of Open Container of Alcohol

Briggs Smith was taken in front of a New Hanover County Magistrate and was placed on a No-Bond hold pending extradition and additional bond for local charges. Briggs Smith was confined in the New Hanover County Jail awaiting first appearance.

The Carolina Beach Police Department thanks the assisting agencies, the Kure Beach Police Department, the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, and the Wilmington Police Department for the assistance in this incident.

No further details will be released at this time.



Mugshot: Briggs Smith

###