

# Teen Arrested for Discharging Firearm

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia – Valdosta Police Department (VPD) Chief Leslie Manahan has released information regarding an incident which occurred on Tuesday, February 27th. Manahan indicates that VPD Officers responded to an E911 emergency call about 9:15 p.m. Numerous citizens had made emergency calls regarding a possible male victim of a shooting which occurred in the 2300 block of Deborah Drive. All witnesses detailed a thorough description of the offender.

The described male was observed running from the area as law enforcement arrived. VPD Officers and Lowndes County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Deputies performed a search. Law enforcement located the suspect and took him into custody without incident.

A 10-year-old juvenile was identified the juvenile male, whose name is withheld due to his age. Officers recovered the juvenile's fire arm during the areas search. Law enforcement have identified the male juvenile's firearm as the one involved in the shooting.

Because of the youth's age, VPD Officers contacted the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The DJJ authorized the juvenile be detained for reckless conduct and possession of a firearm by a minor.

The juvenile was transported to a Regional Youth Detention Center.

Manahan indicates that this investigation is on-going, and further charges are pending.

Chief Leslie Manahan has stated, "This was great teamwork by our department and the sheriff's office to quickly and safely apprehend this juvenile. His reckless actions and disregard for human life endangered the lives of members of our community."



## "ORDINANCE" — continued from page 1

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-\_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND BY ADDING ARTICLE IV TO DEFINE AND PROVIDE FOR REGULATION OF SHOPPING CARTS REMOVED FROM OWNERS' PREMISES; TO PROVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE DATES; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the removal of shopping carts from the premises of property owners has become a nuisance within the City of Lakeland; and

WHEREAS, after careful study and deliberation, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lakeland wish to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Lakeland and do hereby adopt the following:

**Section 1.** A new Article IV of Chapter 34 of the City Code of the City of Lakeland entitled "Abandoned Shopping Carts" is adopted as following:

**"ARTICLE IV. ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS**

**Sec. 34-75 Purpose.**

The Mayor and Council find that it is in the public interest to provide for the prompt retrieval of lost, stolen or abandoned shopping carts in order to eliminate blight and improve the image and appearance of the City. It is the purpose of this ordinance to have the owners and operators of businesses providing shopping carts to use the means available to them to deter, prevent or mitigate the removal of shopping carts from their business premises. It is further the purpose of this ordinance to prevent the illegal removal of shopping carts from business premises.

**Sec. 34-76 Declaration of Public Nuisance.**

Shopping carts that have been illegally removed from the premises of businesses and left abandoned on public or private property through out the City constitute a public nuisance and a potential hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the public. They create conditions of blight in the community, obstruct free access to sidewalks, streets and other public rights-of-way, interfere with pedestrian and vehicular traffic, impede emergency services, and create impediments to the flow of water in drainage systems and other waterways when abandoned within drainage culvert and easements. It is for these reasons such lost, stolen or abandoned shopping carts are hereby declared to be a public nuisance which shall be subject to abatement in the manner set forth in this chapter, or as provide by law.

**Sec. 34-77 Definitions.**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall apply:

*Shopping Cart* shall mean a basket mounted on wheels or a similar device which is

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**VALDOSTA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION**  
**RELEASE REPORT**

Leslie Manahan  
Chief of Police

1. DATE OF RELEASE December 5, 2023	2. RELEASING OFFICER Captain Scottie Johns	3. NATURE OF INCIDENT Traffic Enforcement Grant
4. INCIDENT NUMBER	5. DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT	6. LOCATION
7. PERSON (S) INVOLVED		
8. INCIDENT DETAILS		
<p><b>Valdosta Police Department</b> <i>Awarded \$25,309.76 Traffic Enforcement Grant</i></p> <p>The Valdosta Police Department announced today that it has been awarded a major traffic enforcement grant in the amount of \$25,309.76 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) in Atlanta.</p> <p>Valdosta Police Department received the grant in recognition of its lifesaving work as the coordinating agency of GOHS's Southern Region Traffic Enforcement Network. There are sixteen traffic enforcement networks across the state that help enforce Georgia's year-round safety belt, speed and impaired driving campaigns.</p> <p>"This is our way of supporting the Valdosta Police Department through its continued leadership via Coordinator Sergeant Bucky Griffin and the Southern Region Traffic Enforcement Network," said GOHS Law Enforcement Services Director Roger Hayes. "We want to make sure they can continue their region-wide efforts to protect Georgia motorists from drunk and otherwise dangerous drivers. They've proven their dedication, and this grant serves not only as recognition for that hard work, but as means for continuing the GOHS mission of reducing crashes, injuries and fatalities on our roads."</p> <p>The Southern Region Traffic Enforcement Network includes law enforcement agencies in 12 counties, which include Atkinson, Lowndes, Berrien, Ben Hill, Brooks, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, and Tift counties.</p> <p>"The Valdosta Police Department has had long standing relationship with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), working together to keep our community safe. This grant will help provide resources that will be used to help keep South Georgia roads safe.", stated Valdosta Police Chief Leslie Manahan.</p> <p>The coordinator in the southern region traffic enforcement network region will coordinate year-round waves of high visibility, concentrated patrols, multi-jurisdictional roadchecks and sobriety checkpoints as a partner in campaigns such as Click It or Ticket, Operation Zero Tolerance and the Thunder Taskforce.</p> <p>For more information on the Valdosta Police Department's award, contact Sergeant Bucky Griffin (229) 242-2606, bgriffin@valdostacity.com. For more information on the grant program, call 404-656-6996 or visit www.gohighwaysafety.org.</p>		

39th Session **CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY**

The 39th Session of the Citizens Police Academy (CPA) will be held each Thursday night.  
April 4 - May 23  
6:00 - 8:00 pm.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

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