



Marshall Police Department

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Jesus E. Campa
Chief of Police

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PRESS RELEASE

“Reports of Gunfire lead to the arrest of two convicted felons”

Multiple reports of a gang fight and gunfire at West End Park on West Rusk Street set the stage for a busy night for the Marshall Police Department on Wednesday, March 25. Reports of a large gang fight came into MPD dispatch at 7 pm but the responding officers were not able to locate anything unusual when they arrived. Another large fight with shots fired was reported on Paula St. in Bel Air Manor forty five minutes later. Once again the crowd had dispersed before officers arrived. Patrol officers and officers assigned to the Marshall Criminal Apprehension Team saturated the area in an effort to locate the parties involved.

Two more reports of gunfire were fielded by MPD between 9 and 11 pm. Gunfire in the 700 block of North Bolivar resulted in a residence and vehicle being struck but no injuries to occupants were reported. Witnesses and concerned citizens indicated that one of the shooters was an individual named Joe Michael Allen.

At 01:55 am a patrol officer observed a suspicious vehicle parked at West Rusk and Adkins Street, one block from the Marshall Junior High School. The vehicle had two occupants and they were identified as Joe Allen and Van Smith, both residents of Marshall.

Both subjects had outstanding warrants and were taken into custody. Officers located a stolen pistol, a large quantity of cash and several vials of a suspected narcotic inside the vehicle. MPD Crime Scene Investigators and Detectives responded to the scene to assist with the investigation.

Allen and Smith are both previously convicted felons and were booked into the Harrison County Jail charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm,

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Theft of a Firearm, Possession of a Controlled Substance PG 2, and their respective outstanding warrants.

“This type of violent behavior is not going to be tolerated in the City of Marshall. Every resource at our disposal will be utilized in order to bring peace to our community and anyone who chooses to engage in these activities can expect a relentless investigation from the men and women of the Marshall Police Department.” Chief Jesus “Eddie” Campa also commends the citizens of this fine city who stepped up and provided suspect information to his officers. Law enforcement is a cooperative effort and he is pleased to see the community buying in to our efforts.

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