

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Kristin Graziano
3691 Leeds Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405



NONEMERGENCY

843-202-1700



DISPATCH

843-743-7200



CRIME STOPPERS

843-554-1111

Man suspected in robbery arrested after pursuit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – Deputies from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office on Saturday night arrested a man after a woman was robbed of her car earlier in the evening near Ladson.

Patrol units responded after 6:40 p.m. to the reported armed robbery near businesses at 3792 Ladson Road. A woman reported that a masked man armed with a knife approached her as she loaded belongings into her vehicle. The robber demanded the keys and pushed the knife toward her, cutting her hand. The victim was not seriously injured and later declined EMS. The man drove off in the vehicle.

A description of the Cadillac SUV was distributed among patrol deputies and partner agencies. Shortly before 7 p.m. on Highway 165 in the Ravenel area, deputies spotted the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop, but the Cadillac fled at high speed. A pursuit ensued over area roads. Though the deputies lost sight of the vehicle at one point, they eventually spotted the SUV again before 8 p.m. and pursued it again. The vehicle came to a stop near Highway 162 and McCombs Road, where the driver got out but was quickly captured without incident.

A knife believed to have been used in the earlier crimes was recovered. The suspect also was found in possession of cocaine. The vehicle had sustained front-end damage believed to have occurred during attempts to elude deputies.

The driver, Roger Lavar Smalls, 33, of North Charleston, was taken to a local hospital for evaluation. After his release from the hospital, Smalls was booked early Sunday at the Al Cannon Detention Center on charges of failure to stop for blue lights, driving under suspension, habitual traffic offender, possession of cocaine and hit and run (failure to report striking fixtures on a highway). He is expected to face additional charges in connection with the robbery.

UPDATE Oct. 10, 2022

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Detectives on Monday afternoon added the following additional charges for Smalls: armed robbery, first-degree assault and battery, and possession of a knife in a violent crime. He remains at the Detention Center.



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