



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:** Deputy Bernie Hernandez

**Date:** September 17, 2021

### LCSO Locates and Arrests Attempted Murder Suspects

On Thursday, September 16, the Leon County Sheriff's Office Real Time Crime Center received information that attempted homicide suspects out of Highlands County, Florida were travelling westbound on I-10 and nearing Leon County. Leon County Sheriff's deputies began an active search for the suspect vehicle and were able to locate the vehicle heading westbound on I-10 at mile marker 203. Deputies initiated a traffic stop in the area of Capital Circle NW and West Tennessee Street, but the vehicle failed to stop and fled.

After a short pursuit, deputies successfully deployed spike strips in the area of Pensacola Street and Nina Road. Despite the successful deployment, the vehicle continued to flee, with deflated tires. At one point, the vehicle traveled southbound in the northbound lane, against oncoming traffic. The vehicle eventually turned left into a nearby subdivision where it rammed a security gate and later crashed into a tree.

Deputies were able to pin the vehicle against the tree, effectively disabling the vehicle. The driver, identified as 22-year-old Najiah Sholtz, and the passenger, identified as 26-year-old Derwin Callahan, were taken into custody for active warrants. No deputies were injured during the encounter.

With the assistance of LCSO's Aviation team, LCSO K-9 units were able to also locate a gun magazine and 9mm ammunition which had been tossed from the vehicle during the chase.



**ARRESTED:** Najiah Benae Sholtz  
**DOB:** 02/25/1999  
**CHARGES:** Out of County Warrant - (Attempted 1<sup>st</sup> Deg Murder, Battery)  
Damage to Property  
Resisting an Officer / Fleeing and Eluding



**ARRESTED:** Derwin Traevon Callahan  
**DOB:** 11/23/1994  
**CHARGES:** Out of County Warrant – (Attempted 1<sup>st</sup> Deg Murder, Battery)  
Poss. Firearm by Convicted Felon



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