



## NEWS FROM SANFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 6, 2018**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT RONNY NEAL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
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### **Sanford Police Seeking Suspect in Mall Parking Lot Shooting**

Sanford, FL (March 6, 2018): Sanford Police respond to a Shooting with Injuries in the Parking Lot of the Seminole Towne Center Mall.

On March 5, 2018 at 7:36 pm, the Sanford Police Department responded to the parking lot at 200 Towne Center Circle (Seminole Towne Center Mall) in reference to a shooting with injuries. The Sanford Police made contact with a 19 year old victim, later identified as Ja'vonte Washington, who was in front of the Burlington Coat Factory. According to information received, Mr. Washington was suffering from a gunshot wound. As a result of Ja'vonte Washington's injury, Sanford Fire Department responded and transported Mr. Washington to the hospital for medical treatment. Mr. Washington is in stable condition.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Ja'vonte Washington was involved in a verbal altercation with a known suspect, just outside the Burlington Coat Factory. As the argument escalated, the known suspect brandished a firearm and shot Ja'vonte Washington in the parking lot. The suspect fled in a black vehicle (unknown make or model).

The Sanford Police are searching for the known suspect. This is an ongoing investigation; therefore, the name of the suspect has not been released. Currently, Sanford Police are actively looking for the suspect, who made an attempt to take the life of Ja'vonte Washington. All information received indicates that this is an **isolated** incident.

Chief Smith states, *"I am proud of the men and women who serve the Sanford Police Department. The joint effort shown tonight is a depiction of what is necessary to identify individuals who commit crimes like this. This act of violence is senseless and my officers will remain vigilante and dedicated in finding this known suspect and bring him to justice".*

Anyone wishing to report information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Sanford Police Department or Crimeline at 800 423-TIPS (8477) or visit [www.crimeline.org](http://www.crimeline.org). Calls made to Crimeline remain anonymous, and tips to Crimeline that lead to solving a felony case are eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000 dollars.

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