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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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On April 20, 2021, at approximately 2:54 PM, an officer of the Madison Police Department conducted a traffic stop on a 2009 Mazda Tribute van on Highway 463, eastbound between Highland Colony Parkway and Interstate 55. The vehicle in question was suspected in involvement in a previous felony shoplifting incident at the Best Buy store in Madison. As the officer was interacting with the driver of the vehicle at the driver's side window/door of the stopped vehicle, the driver drove off eastbound onto Highway 463 dragging the officer with the vehicle. As the vehicle turned south onto the Interstate 55 onramp, the officer was able to free himself from the outside of the fleeing vehicle. Other officers arriving on the scene gave aid to the officer while other officers pursued the fleeing vehicle south onto Interstate 55.

As the vehicle reached the 105 mile-marker in Ridgeland it struck the left cement guard rail of the interstate causing two of the pursuing vehicles to interact with the fleeing vehicle. The fleeing vehicle came to a stop in the far-left lane of the southbound interstate at which time the driver was taken into custody. There were no other occupants of the fleeing vehicle and other than the two police vehicles, no other vehicles were involved in the traffic crash. The Ridgeland Police Department as well as the Madison County Sheriff's Office assisted with the accident scene.

The officer that was originally dragged by the fleeing vehicle was transported to the University of MS Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the suspect vehicle was identified as Jerrell T. Staten, age 21, of Jackson, MS. He was transported to Merit Health Medical Center in Canton, MS as a precaution to be checked after the accident. Upon his release he will be charged with Aggravated Assault of a Law Enforcement Officer and Felony Fleeing. Other charges are pending as the felony shoplifting investigation continues.

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