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Two die as crash ends police chase

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Article Text:

Two suspects in the stabbing and carjacking of a Jonesboro man were killed early Thursday morning when the car crashed during a police chase through Clayton County and into downtown Atlanta.

One of the suspects was identified as Christian Zorn, 21, of Atlanta. Authorities are still trying to identify the second suspect through fingerprint records, said Clayton County police Capt. Jeff Turner.

Police said the two suspects along with a third man, 17-year-old Duronta Brown of College Park, forced their way into the apartment of a Jonesboro man who had left his door unlocked while he went inside to retrieve something about 1 a.m.

The three men demanded that the victim, Travoski Lee, 22, give them his wallet and car keys. The men stabbed Lee several times in the head, tied him up with electrical cords and left in his car, Turner said.

Lee sustained a cut on his left hand and below his right eye. He also was cut three times on his head, but the injuries were not life-threatening, police said.

An officer spotted the stolen car on Ga. 85 near Forest Parkway and pursued it. As the suspects drove onto northbound I-75, several other officers joined in the pursuit and tried to box the car in with four police cruisers, Turner said.

Brown, who was driving, rammed two police cars before driving into downtown Atlanta and crashing into a bridge railing on Marietta Street near North Avenue about 1:25 a.m., Turner said. Brown broke his arm in the crash. He faces numerous charges.

Turner said the chase lasted about 20 minutes and reached speeds of 90 mph on the highway and 50 mph inside city limits. He said that police videotapes show that officers followed pursuit policy.

Turner said the suspects had committed a felony and officers took into account the fact that there was minimal danger to other motorists, officers or the suspects given the time of the morning.

"The conditions were right as far as allowing us to continue the pursuit," Turner said. "It's unfortunate that two people had to die."

-- Staff writer Mike Morris contributed to this article.

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