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Two East Cleveland Police Officers Shot in Overnight Incident, Manhunt Underway

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Two police officers were shot overnight in East Cleveland, Ohio, during an active incident that has prompted a large-scale search for the suspect. East Cleveland Mayor Lateek Shabazz confirmed the shooting early Friday morning. Both officers are hospitalized, and their current conditions have not yet been released.

The shooting took place in a residential area, where a heavy police presence remains. Photos shared by *WEWS News 5 Cleveland* reporter Mike Holden show multiple police vehicles with emergency lights on, signaling an ongoing tactical response. Authorities have launched a manhunt that involves multiple agencies and includes drone and K9 support. A 2021 study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) suggests drones and K9

units may improve suspect apprehension rates, particularly in urban environments where suspects often flee into confined spaces or dense neighborhoods.

East Cleveland is a city of roughly 13,900 residents, located just east of Cleveland. It has long faced challenges related to crime and public safety. According to the FBI's 2023 Uniform Crime Reports, the city's violent crime rate is approximately 2.5 times the national average, reflecting persistent safety concerns for both residents and law enforcement. Incidents like this further highlight the dangers faced by officers working in high-crime areas with limited resources.

The exact details of the incident are still emerging. However, early reports indicate that the shooting may have taken place near a secondary location, possibly close to a car wash, though authorities have not confirmed that information publicly. Law enforcement has not released the names of the officers or the suspect, and no motive has been disclosed.

Mayor Shabazz called for calm while urging residents to cooperate with police as the investigation continues. "Our officers put their lives on the line every day to protect our city," he stated, emphasizing the seriousness of the situation and the need for community support during the ongoing search.

This event adds to growing concerns about officer safety nationwide, particularly in areas facing elevated levels of violent crime. While details remain limited, the deployment of tactical resources, including specialized units and technological support, reflects the seriousness of the law enforcement response.

Officials are expected to release more information as the investigation unfolds. The community has been asked to remain alert and report any suspicious activity to authorities. Local and state law enforcement agencies are actively assisting in the manhunt.

Updates are expected throughout the day as more information becomes available. The investigation remains ongoing.