

AJC TOP LOCAL STORY OFFICER SHOT - Covington - Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA) - September 4, 2018 - page B1

September 4, 2018 | Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA) | Steve Burns and Bo EmersonStaff | Page B1

A Covington officer was battling for his life Monday night after he was shot by a shoplifting suspect outside a Walmart.

The injured officer was identified as Matt Cooper, 34, a six year veteran of the police force, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Cooper was summoned to the Walmart along Industrial Boulevard in Covington shortly before 12:30 p.m.

There, Cooper encountered **Aaron Demonta Fleming**. A foot chase ensued. Fleming, 21, ran across the street and behind another shopping center with Cooper in pursuit.

Several shots were fired. Cooper was struck and airlifted to Atlanta Medical Center.

Fleming sustained a fatal gunshot wound.

The GBI said early information indicates Fleming's gunshot wound was self inflicted.

WSB-TV reported that the officer had been shot in the head. The GBI said Cooper was in serious condition.

"This is something we all pray every day will never happen, but here we are," Capt. Ken Malcom said.

"It is very heavy on all our hearts. Please pray for our officer."

Two other suspects are in custody. The GBI is investigating the officer-involved shooting.

Covington is about 35 miles east of Atlanta and is the county seat of Newton County