

Officer Cooper undergoes surgery to relieve - Newton Citizen, The (GA) - September 6, 2018

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COVINGTON — The Covington Police officer who was shot in the head Monday while pursuing a shoplifting suspect had surgery Wednesday to relieve swelling and pressure on his brain.

An update on Officer Matt Cooper on the Covington Police Facebook page stated that the surgery was a "proactive/precautionary measure," adding, "The surgery went very well."

The surgery was performed at Grady Memorial Hospital where Cooper was transferred Tuesday after he was initially transported by air ambulance to Atlanta Medical Center. Doctors have not yet performed a surgery to remove the bullet, which is lodged next to Cooper's carotid artery.

Cooper, 34, was wounded shortly after noon on Monday after he and another officer were called to the Walmart on Industrial Boulevard in response to a shoplifting incident.

Two juvenile suspects were apprehended in the parking lot of the store, but a third, 21-year-old **Aaron Demonta Fleming** of Conyers, fled across the street behind a shopping center. Cooper and another officer pursued him, and Cooper was shot once in the head.

Fleming's body was found a short time later in nearby woods, dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Fleming was on probation and there was a warrant out for his arrest for probation violation.

A fundraiser for Cooper and his family is planned for tonight, starting at 5 p.m., on the Square in Covington. In addition, proceeds from Saturday's annual Covington Police Fuzz Run will be dedicated to him. The Police Department is asking that anyone attending the 35th annual road race wear blue to show their support for Cooper.