

# Downtown shooting, fight escalate into police chase to Cheektowaga

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By Staff

October 13,  
2019



One man is in serious condition and a suspect in custody after a bizarre chain of events that started with a shooting early Sunday.

The incident began at 2:28 a.m. in the 200 block of Franklin Street, Buffalo Police said, when a man was struck by gunfire. Police responding to a call of shots fired found a fight had broken out in a group of 12-15 people.

As officers were attempting to break up that fight, a vehicle drove into the scene, injuring three officers. The vehicle then sped away.

"We do not believe the driver of the vehicle was the shooter," Capt. Jeff Rinaldo said Sunday afternoon.

A police pursuit of the vehicle ensued. In the course of the chase, the driver hit three police cars, but he was finally boxed in in Cheektowaga near the Kensington Expressway and Cayuga Road.

The shooting victim, 28, of Tonawanda, remains in serious condition at Erie County Medical Center. The driver who led the police on a chase is in custody and is being questioned; police are not sure whether he was involved in the fight.

Police are reviewing footage from security cameras in the area. They ask anyone with information to call the TIPCALL line at 847-2255.