

# Sheriff



**WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR. – SUMTER COUNTY**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

On May 11, 2012 at 9:05 pm Sumter County Sheriff's Office Deputy was approached at the Spirit Travel Center, 293 E C-470 Lake Panasoffkee Fl. by a female who advised her husband had been kidnapped. The female was on the phone with her husband, Joel Johnson who stated to the deputy that at approximately 3:45 pm he drove to the Circle K convenient store C-48 and C-470 Beville's Corner to get gas. After getting gas he parked his black Toyota Prius in the parking lot and entered the store to buy some miscellaneous items. The victim then got back into his unsecured vehicle to leave. At this time a male subject pointed a semi automatic hand gun at him from the back seat. The victim was told to drive to I-75 and go north. After several hours of driving the victim informed the suspect that he was running low on gas. The suspect told him to stop at the next rest area. After stopping at the rest area the victim was told to keep his head against the steering wheel, and not to look up for five minutes. The suspect exited the vehicle and fled on foot in an unknown location. The deputy advised victim, Johnson to call 911. Cobb County Georgia responded to his location-rest area at exit 47 of I-75.

The victim provided the following description of the suspect. A black male in his late 20's about 5'5" to 6'00" tall, with a "deep, raspy, smoker's type voice", wearing tan metal framed aviator style glasses with dark tan lenses, blue jeans, black "hoodie" which he wore low covering his forehead down to the top of his glasses, and black leather gloves.

If any one has any information regarding this case please contact:

Detective Darren Norris  
352-569-1600

Or

Crimeline at  
1-800-423-TIPS  
1-800-423-8477

Lt. Bobby Caruthers  
PIO  
05/14/12  
2:24 PM