



# SHREVEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest



**Ladarius Small**

On July 19, 2025, Shreveport Police Department officers conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of West 70th Street and Louise Street. During the stop, a passenger in the vehicle—identified as Ladarius Small—repeatedly refused to comply with officers' lawful commands to exit the vehicle. After multiple warnings, officers were forced to deploy a Taser to gain compliance. Small was then safely taken into custody and charged with Resisting an Officer.

We believe this situation presents an opportunity to educate the public on the law and expectations during traffic stops. The United States Supreme Court has affirmed that officers have the authority to order individuals out of a vehicle during a lawful stop:

- *Pennsylvania v. Mimms* (1977): Officers may order drivers out of the vehicle for safety reasons.
- *Maryland v. Wilson* (1997): This authority also extends to passengers.

Failure to comply with these lawful orders can result in arrest under Louisiana Revised Statute 14:108, which prohibits resisting an officer and requires individuals to obey commands given by law enforcement acting in their official capacity.

The driver of the vehicle was also cited for possession of marijuana. Like all SPD use of force incidents, this case will be reviewed and forwarded to our training academy.

We hope future encounters can be resolved peacefully through cooperation and understanding. Ensuring everyone's safety—both officers and community members—depends on mutual respect and lawful compliance.