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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Armed Robbery at Academy Sports + Outdoors

LIBERTY, Mo. – Today at 10:59 a.m. the Liberty Police Department, along with officers from Clay County, Pleasant Valley, Claycomo and Canadian Pacific Railroad, and the Liberty Fire Department responded to several 911 calls from Academy Sports + Outdoors in the 200 block of South Stewart Road. Callers reported a white male had stolen a firearm and was possibly loading it as he moved somewhere else in the store. Officers arrived on scene at 11:02 a.m. and began checking the building for the armed subject while employees and customers evacuated the store. The suspect was not located during a thorough search of the building.

During the investigation, Liberty PD learned the suspect had attempted to purchase a handgun, but was denied the purchase. He then brandished a knife and jumped over the counter, taking the weapon he was trying to purchase. Employees alerted the store of the situation, but in the chaos, witnesses were not sure if the suspect had left or remained inside. No shots were fired and no injuries were reported.

The completion of the necessary paperwork to purchase a firearm provided the name and address of the suspect, which allowed dispatchers to broadcast possible suspect vehicle information to other metro agencies. With this information, it was determined that he was also the suspect connected to a shooting in Independence a short time later. He is now deceased after a deputy-involved shooting in Clay County.

The Liberty Police Department would like to commend Academy Sports + Outdoors for how their employees handled this scary situation. Thanks to the regional coordination and response by multiple agencies, officers were able to arrive on scene within three minutes.

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