



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release:
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Investigation initiated following shooting incident

Suquamish, Wash. -- An investigation has been initiated into gunshot injuries sustained by both an adult male and female, following a confrontation between police officers and the male driver that occurred Saturday night in North Kitsap.

Two law enforcement officers sustained minor injuries after being struck by a motor vehicle.

Location: 6500 block of NE Nelson Street, in the unincorporated town of Suquamish and within the boundary of the Port Madison Reservation (Suquamish Tribe).

Time & date: reported at 9:25 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010.

Involved:

- (1) Male, age 33, Kingston resident, and female, age 27, Poulsbo resident.
- (2) 1998 Chrysler Sebring, black in color.
- (3) Two male officers from Suquamish Police Department.

Situation:

Officers from Suquamish Police Department responded to a residence on NE Nelson Street following a 9-1-1 broadcast to north county law enforcement agencies of an unknown disturbance problem, with reports of a male yelling and the sound of gunshots being heard on NE Nelson Street in the town of Suquamish.

Additional information was soon broadcast by the Suquamish officers that they had been struck by a fleeing vehicle and shots had been fired at the car.

While Kitsap County Sheriff's patrol deputies were en route to Suquamish to assist, a second 9-1-1 broadcast transmitted a report of two persons with gunshot injuries who were inside a car stopped in the parking area of the Suquamish Police Department, located in the Suquamish Village complex at 18490 Suquamish Way NE.

Responding deputies believed that these persons were the same suspects as in the fleeing car on NE Nelson Street. It was unknown if they were armed.

As sheriff's units arrived at Suquamish Village, they detained the gunshot victims in handcuffs for officer safety. Emergency medical support was requested. Engine and medic units from North Kitsap Fire & Rescue responded to provide immediate first aid and emergency life saving action.

The injured male driver, age 33, sustained several gun shot injuries to his upper torso. He was airlifted from Suquamish Elementary School to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, and is listed today as being in satisfactory condition.

The female passenger, age 27, sustained a minor injury to her upper left arm. She was transported to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, for further evaluation and treatment. She has since been released.

Additional units from the sheriff's office, Bainbridge Island police, Poulsbo police, the Port Gamble department of public safety, Suquamish police and the Washington State Patrol responded to help secure the immediate area or assist with the start of the investigation.

Investigation:

Sheriff's detectives have initiated an investigation into the shooting incident.

Although the investigation is in its initial stages, a preliminary report indicates that three responding Suquamish police officers approached the Nelson Street property on foot and contacted persons who were outside of the house. The officers were in uniform.

Since the initial 9-1-1 dispatch reported gunshots as being fired, for personal safety reasons the officers issued verbal orders to the group of people to stop, remain where they were, and to keep their hands visible.

The 33 year-old man refused to obey the officers' commands. Instead, he entered a 1998 Chrysler Sebring and rapidly reversed out of the driveway toward the officers. One officer was struck by the Sebring's bumper and the vehicle ran over the foot of a second officer.

Both officers fired their weapons at the car. The male driver was struck in the upper torso while the female passenger sustained minor injuries from debris / fragments.

The suspect driver kept the Sebring moving and drove to another residence on NE Geneva Street, also in Suquamish. There they obtained another vehicle and left to seek medical attention. They realized that they wouldn't make it to the hospital and, instead, pulled into the Suquamish police station for help.

The two injured Suquamish officers were transported to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, for evaluation and treatment. They have since been released.

Aftermath:

Crime scene investigators had three separate locations to process: the NE Nelson Street incident scene, the property at NE Geneva Street and the parking area in Suquamish Village. Investigators remained on-scene until approximately noon Sunday.

The Chrysler Sebring was impounded for evidentiary purposes and is being processed by forensic investigators.

The injured male driver is well known to North Kitsap law enforcement agencies. He is a felon with multiple past convictions for assault, burglary, narcotics offenses and various crimes concerning intimidation. Presently he has an outstanding no bail felony warrant of arrest issued by the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) for escape from community custody. He is under DOC control and guard while a patient at Harborview. Upon release he will be transported and booked into Kitsap County Jail on the arrest warrant.

Upon completion of the investigation the entire case file will be provided to the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office for review / charging. If criminal charges are filed against the vehicle occupants their identities will be released in the charging documents.

The investigation continues. Anyone who may have information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619. Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

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