



POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: David Ferguson
Communications Coordinator
830.221.4134
dferguson@nbtexas.org

Update: Vehicle Pursuit

UPDATE: The driver from Thursday's vehicle pursuit was eventually cleared from the hospital and placed under arrest. He has been identified as 24-year old Jorge Tierrablanca of San Antonio. He was transported to the Comal County Jail and booked on the following charges: Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Unlawful Restraint (with Exposure to Serious Bodily Injury), Evading Arrest or Detention with a Vehicle, Resisting Arrest/Search/Transport, and 2 charges of Harassment of a Public Servant, and Criminal Mischief. Comal County Jail records indicate that bond has been set at a combined \$195,000. As of this release, Tierrablanca remained in custody. The investigation into this case is ongoing and additional charges may be pending.

{Comal County Jail booking photo attached}

ORIGINAL RELEASE: On today's date, at approximately 12:15pm, the New Braunfels Police Department received numerous reports of a vehicle driving erratically on Northbound I-35 through the city of New Braunfels. NBPD officers located the vehicle at around Walnut Avenue and attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but the vehicle (a white pickup truck towing a green trailer with landscaping equipment) refused to stop and continued northbound on I-35 at a high rate of speed. Officers pursued the suspect vehicle, which was traveling at speeds of 80 to 100mph, weaving across all lanes of traffic, and passing vehicles on the inside shoulder in an attempt to evade law enforcement. The suspect vehicle then struck the center concrete median in the 5000 block of I-35 North, significantly damaging the vehicle; however, the driver continued northbound at about 40mph until it crashed into the center wall again, this time coming to a stop in the center lanes of traffic in the 8000 block of I-35 North near Watson Lane.

Pursuing officers then conducted a felony traffic stop and found two males inside the vehicle. The passenger, a 47-year old male from Mexico, was suffering from serious injuries allegedly inflicted on him by the driver of the truck, who was attacking the passenger with a screwdriver during the pursuit. The passenger was taken by ground EMS to Resolute Hospital.

The driver, a 24-year old male from San Antonio, was extremely combative with officers and actively resisted arrest. Once in custody, the driver continued to fight with officers. He spit in the face of both an officer and a firefighter, and he kicked out the back window of a patrol vehicle. Eventually, he was escorted by police in an ambulance to Resolute Hospital to be treated for non-life threatening injuries sustained during the pursuit, crash, and arrest. As of this release, the suspect remains under police escort until medically cleared from the hospital. He is facing a number of charges including Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Unlawful Restraint, Evading Arrest or Detention with a Vehicle, Resisting Arrest, and 2 charges of Harassment of a Public Servant, and Criminal Mischief. Additional charges may be pending in connection with several other vehicles that were damaged during the pursuit.

The main lanes of northbound I-35 were closed in the area of Watson Lane for approximately 45 minutes until crews cleared the scene.

Authority: David Ferguson – NBPD Communications Coordinator