



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: January 7, 2015/ 1:40 pm

LOCATION: Pacific Ave/ Center St

TOPIC: Officer Assaulted During Arrest

CASE NUMBER: 15S-00191

INFORMATION:

On January 7, 2015 at 1:40 pm a Santa Cruz Police Officer was injured in a struggle with a suspect he contacted near Pacific Ave and Center Street. The officer sustained significant injuries to his eye as the suspect attempted to gouge the eye of the officer during the struggle. The officer was treated and released from Dominican Hospital and will need to follow up with an eye care specialist to determine the extent of damage. The suspect was eventually taken into custody by officers responding to assist. Arrested was:

Robert Craig 33 year old, Transient

This incident occurred when the officer witnessed the suspect in the middle of the round-about at Pacific Ave and Center St. The suspect attempted to pull a motorcyclist off of his motorcycle while traveling through the intersection. The officer contacted the suspect to address his behavior. The suspect was extremely agitated and confrontational with the officer. During the contact, the suspect refused all verbal commands from the officer and was completely non-compliant. The suspect attacked the officer in a "bear hug" and then attempted to gouge the officer's eye out. The officer was able to break free from the subject and deploy his Taser but it was ineffective. The suspect ran south on Pacific Ave a couple blocks when other Officers arrived in the area to assist. They spotted the suspect near Beach St. The suspect was still agitated and non-compliant with officers. Eventually the backup officers deployed their Taser allowing the suspect to be safely taken into custody.

The suspect, Robert Craig has one prior arrest in Santa Cruz in November 2014 for possession of methamphetamine. He had a current warrant out for his arrest for failure to appear on this previous offense. Following the arrest, Mr. Craig was transported to Dominican Hospital for treatment of minor injuries and later booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail for felony battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, attempt mayhem, and threats on a police officer.

It is not known when the Officer will return to work.

Photo of suspect on following page

For additional information, contact: Lieutenant Bernie Escalante

Phone: (831) 420-5823

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com. Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

