



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: January 11, 2018

LOCATION: 2200 Mission Street

TOPIC: Vandalism - Vehicle Pursuit

CASE NUMBER: 18S-00280 & 18S-00281

INFORMATION:

SANTA CRUZ - On January 11, 2018 at approximately 0005 hours, the Santa Cruz Police Department responded to a business located within 2200 block of Mission Street for a reported vandalism. On arrival, officers learned the suspect, who had reportedly been disturbing customers at the location, had been asked to leave the establishment. The suspect also subsequently threw a metal chair through a glass door prior to leaving the location. It is notable that as a citizen chased the suspect, the suspect advised he was in possession of a firearm (no firearm seen).

Later that same morning at approximately 0107 hours, officers returned to the 2200 block of Mission Street on a report that the listed suspect had returned. After arriving, an officer located the suspect vehicle near Pendegast Avenue and Ranking Street. After an unsuccessful attempt to stop the suspect (identified as Michael Richards), Richards led officers on a vehicle pursuit. During the pursuit, Richards drove erratically, and at one point, stopped abruptly, accelerated his car in reverse, and rammed an officer who was driving a marked police car. As the pursuit continued, Richards drove through San Lorenzo Park, left his car, and fled on foot into the San Lorenzo River Levee.

Following a search of the area, Richards eluded capture.

On the same date at about 0730 hours, officers responded to the 800 block of Riverside Avenue on a report of a disturbance between two subjects. One of the descriptions provided matched that of suspect Richards. As the officers arrived, Richards again fled on foot, and eventually ran into the San Lorenzo River Levee. Richards remained in waist deep water as officers attempted to negotiate his surrender for about an hour. Officers were eventually able to effect an arrest on Richards. It is notable officers used a number of less-lethal munitions during the course of Richards' arrests.

Officers subsequently obtained a medical clearance for Richards at Dominican hospital, and he will be booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail for felony evading, felony assault on a police officer, and resisting arrest. The police department is actively investigating the above listed vandalism incident, and additional criminal charges related to Richards may follow.

Photo Attached

For additional information, contact: Lieutenant Garcia

Phone: (831) 420-5842

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.

Case 18S-00280 & 18S-00281 Photo



Michael Richards
11/17/1974
Transient