**For Immediate Release**

**Oct 04, 2012**

**Update: Stabbing at 344 4th Street South**

Victim: William P. Matthews, W/M, 03/17/50 of 344 4th Street South, Apt #2

Suspect # 1: Oscar Velazquez, W/M, 05/19/71, Transient

Suspect # 2: Name unknown, W/M, 30-35, 5’9” to 5’11”, 170 lbs

At about 5:30 a.m. this morning the victim Matthews heard a knock at his apartment door and upon opening it was confronted by the two suspects. The victim was acquainted with Velazquez, but had not met the 2nd suspect before.

Both men forced their way into the victim’s apartment and Matthews could see that Velazquez was armed with a knife while the 2nd suspect was armed with a bicycle chain.

Velazquez began to accuse the victim of having relations with his girlfriend and made statements that he was going to kill him. At some point the victim was able to grab a hunting knife he kept in the apartment.

They began struggled during which Matthews managed to stab Velazquez several times in self defense. At the same time the unidentified second suspect began to hit Matthews with the bike chain, but eventually retreated and ran out the door.

As the struggle continued Matthews managed to force Velazquez out the door and secured it behind him. He then called police.

Upon arrival officers found Velazquez lying outside with multiple stab wounds to his torso and neck area. He was transported to the hospital in critical condition, but is now expected to survive.

Matthews was also taken to the hospital for treatment of injuries inflicted by the bicycle chain, but was later released.

The second suspect that fled the scene may have also suffered some injury, but he has not yet been located or identified.

The two knives and the bike chain were all recovered from the scene.

Velazquez has been charged with armed burglary and att. homicide and will be transported to the county jail upon his released from the hospital.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org
Previous Release of Thu Oct 04, 2012 08:28 *******

We are currently investigating a stabbing at 344 4th Street South. The call came into our dispatch at 5:37 a.m. this morning.

Preliminary information indicates that the male resident at that address was visited by two men, one of whom he was acquainted with.

An argument erupted between the resident and the acquaintance in which the issue appears to be accusations of marital infidelity involving the acquaintance’s wife.

At some point both sides produced sharp edged weapons and a fight ensued in which the acquaintance was stabbed and cut multiple times by the resident.

The man who had accompanied the acquaintance also became involved and began to strike the resident with a chain, but then fled the scene before police arrived.

Police were called and both the resident and acquaintance were taken to Bayfront Medical Center.

While the resident has relatively minor injuries, the acquaintance has life threatening wounds and is currently listed in critical condition.

I will provide an update with names and more details later this morning.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

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