For Immediate Release  
Feb 27, 2014

Update re. Carjacking and Pursuit

The female victim from this afternoon’s carjacking has been released from the hospital and it appears she suffered only minor cuts and contusions.

The two arrested suspects have not been booked as yet and I plan on releasing the names first thing in the morning.

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

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The details are still preliminary, but at about 4:15 p.m. this afternoon a 91 year old woman was driving her green Toyota Venza in the area of 23rd Avenue North and 7th Street when her vehicle was rammed by a black Dodge Ram pick-up truck occupied by two male suspects

After the collision, one suspect open the door to the woman’s car, pulled her out of the driver’s seat on to the ground and then drove off in the car with the pick-up truck following behind.

The woman was transported to the hospital with a head injury and her current medical status is unknown at this time.

Officers believe that the pick-up truck used in the carjacking had been reported stolen from another jurisdiction eariler, but I don’t have any details on where or when at this time.

At about 5:15 p.m., uniformed officer spotted the stolen Venza in the area of 14 Avenue South and 12 Street. The vehicle was occupied by two male suspects and upon the officers attempting to stop the car it began to flee

As the vehicle was involved in a violent felony, a pursuit was authorized and continued for approximately 20 minutes until the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office helicopter arrived in the area to take over surveillance of the car.

There were a number of directional changes during the course of the pursuit, but it appears that it remained for the most part confined to the southern portion of the city.

At about 5:45 p.m. the two suspects abandon the vehicle in the area of the 800 block of Paris Avenue South and fled on foot between the houses. Officers sealed off the neighborhood and the two suspects were eventually apprehended at separate locations in the immediate area.
During the pursuit the suspects were involved in four separate accidents, three along Dr. ML King Street South at Ivanhoe Dr, 11 Avenue South and 22 Avenue South. One accident occurred at 18 Avenue South and 16th Street.

In the accident at 22 Avenue South and Dr. ML King Street the man whose car was struck by the suspect’s vehicle did complain of back pain and was transported to the hospital. The other three accidents did not involve any injury to the vehicle occupants.

No police vehicles were involved in any collisions during the pursuit.

Both of the arrested suspects are adult males and their names will be released at a later time. The driver is charged with fleeing and eluding, auto theft and multiple counts of leaving the scene of accident. The passenger is current charge with resisting arrest.

The two suspect’s involvement in the initial carjacking is still under investigation and officers have not yet located the stolen Dodge pick-up that was used to ram the victim’s vehicle.

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