For Immediate Release
Mar 05, 2015

Update re. 335 7th Avenue North

To summarize the events of this morning, at about 6:38 a.m. officers were dispatched to 335 7th Avenue North, Apt #8. The caller, Michelle Vail, DOB 05/06/1982 (DMV Photo Attached) said that a former boyfriend was standing outside her door and she was fearful that he was going to kill her. Vail also said that she armed and officers arriving on the scene determined that she was in possession of a shotgun.

Vail refused to open the door to officers who noted that she appeared distraught and seemed mentally unstable. At some point they could hear the screams of a child inside the apartment and as officers forced their way in the front door, Vail and her seven year old son, Oscar Vail, apparently jumped out the 2nd floor window to the ground below.

Both Vail and her son were taken to the hospital. Michelle Vail's injuries appear to be superficial while her son is being admitted at All Children's Hospital for further observation. There are no indications of serious injury on his part at this time.

The child was interviewed by detectives at the hospital and stated his mother had told him that a serial killer was coming to get them and he needed to jump out the window, which he did. Detectives also learned that Vail and her son had just relocated to St. Petersburg from Ormond Beach, Florida. The St. Petersburg Police have had no prior contact with the family before this incident.

Vail is being charged with one count of aggravated child abuse. DCF has been notified to coordinate custody of the child once he is released from the hospital.