Attempted Homicide at Safe Haven Boley Facility

Date / Time of Release: 8/29/14 @ 0045 Hours

Incident: Attempted Homicide
Location: 555 31st St S (Safe Haven Boley Facility)
Date / Time of Incident: 08/28/14 @ 2140 Hours

Victim(s): Stephen Swiontek

Arrested: Rafael Sanchez (W/M 12/24/1953)
555 31st St S

Charges: Attempted 1st Degree Murder

Brief Description of Incident:
On 8/28/14, patrol officers responded to a call of a stabbing at the Safe Haven (Boley) Center at 555 31st St S. Upon arrival, officers learned that two of the live-in residents were involved in a verbal altercation. One of the residents, Rafael Sanchez (w/m 12/24/1953), retrieved a pair of scissors from an unknown location in the facility. Sanchez then returned to the common kitchen area and stabbed the victim, Stephen Swiontek (w/m 02/05/1968), in the neck several times, striking a major artery. Sanchez then left the facility, but was apprehended within a few blocks of the scene. Swiontek was transported to Bayfront Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Sanchez did not provide a statement and was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Release Prepared by:
A/Sgt. Matthew Furse, Homicide Unit

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.