



NEWS RELEASE

January 23, 2023 | NR 0122010

MEDIA REQUESTS:

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Update: The suspect who pulled a weapon on officers on the evening of Sunday, January 22, remains in critical condition at a local hospital. The 36-year-old male is facing a charge of First Degree Felony Aggravated Assault on a Peace Officer that carries a bond of \$1,000,000. Three other charges are pending. His name is being withheld at this time.

"Our officers do their best to avoid circumstances where lethal force has to be used. In this instance, a man appeared to be entering a vehicle that contained what looked like drugs - and then placed a child inside that vehicle. Our officer announced himself and gave specific orders that were ignored. The result was a man pulling out a stolen handgun from the back of his waistline, and he was shot.

In law enforcement, when a split-second decision has to be made, we hope we have trained well enough to protect the community and officers alike. We understand that we will be judged based on the facts involved with an incident. Our department makes it a point to gather and release those facts in an expeditious manner to the extent we legally can.

We ask our Citizens to keep all involved in this incident in their thoughts and prayers for healing.

We await the outcome of an independent investigation being conducted by the Department of Public Safety- Texas Rangers. It is understandable that this investigation may take some time." – Chief Marcus Dudley Jr.

Original media release:

Male Shot in North Abilene

Abilene, Texas – On Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. a neighbor called requesting a check of a residence located in the 3500 block of N. 9th. They were concerned that there was a window broken.

Upon arrival, officers approached a vehicle that was in the driveway of the home, but no one was in the vehicle at the time. They noticed what appeared to be illegal narcotics in the vehicle. Seeing there was no active burglary, officers began to formulate a plan to address the illegal narcotics.

While formulating the plan, officers observed a male approach the driver's side of the vehicle. One officer made verbal contact with the individual, identifying himself as a police officer. The male was ordered to show his hands. He instead reached towards the back of his waistline and retrieved a handgun. The officer fired at the male striking him at least once in the torso area.

Officers determined that a child was in the vehicle during this incident. The unharmed child was quickly removed from the area and reunited with family.

Officers on scene then began to provide medical aid. The suspect was transported to the hospital and is listed in critical condition with a gunshot wound.

In accordance with administrative policies, the officers involved have been placed on Administrative leave. The incident is being investigated concurrently with the Department of Public Safety – Texas Rangers.

Respectfully,
Rick Tomlin
Public Information Coordinator

We work together to build and maintain a community of the highest quality for present and future generations.

Respect • Integrity • Service Above Self • Excellence in All We Do

