



Abilene Police Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aggravated Assault Investigation

ABILENE, TX – On March 6, 2015, Abilene officers were dispatched to shots fired in the 300 block of College Drive. The caller reported a female was lying on the ground, presumably after being shot. This woman was able to get up and into a suburban and leave the scene. We now know that she was taken to Hendrick Medical Center where she remains today. The 25 year old female was shot once in the upper torso by a known male.

When police arrived last Friday evening, they were told that the shooter had possibly run into a house in the 300 block of College Drive. Officers set a perimeter around multiple houses, and eventually SWAT arrived and took over. SWAT was able to clear two homes but did not locate the suspect. The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) learned in the following hours that the victim and suspect had got into an argument two weeks ago, where he allegedly assaulted her. She and her children left the residence and had not returned, until Friday evening. She returned to pick up her mail, but the suspect confronted her before she could get inside. He shot her once in the upper torso, and after she fell to the ground, witnesses said he fired at her again while standing immediately over her. Early investigation indicates another family member might have physically grabbed him at the same time he shot, which explains why he missed at near point-blank range. The suspect then shot several times at family and friends who occupied the Suburban, in which the victim had arrived. Police were unable to locate Joe Corona Barrientes that evening, so an attempt to locate was given. The weapon was also not located.

On Sunday family members of Barrientes brought the involved weapon to police where we took custody of the firearm. It is described as a Taurus .357 revolver. As a matter of follow up this morning, shortly before 10 am, several detectives went back to the 300 block of College Drive in an attempt to find the suspect or any evidence of his whereabouts. While outside of 309 College Drive, family members approached the detectives and told them that Barrientes was inside the residence and threatening to cut himself. They feared for his safety, so they wanted us to go in and apprehend him immediately. We are trained to do otherwise for many reasons, so a crisis negotiator who was on site began yelling for the suspect to exit the residence.

Barrientes refused to respond initially, but finally he began talking to the crisis negotiator, identified as Detective Rusty Antilley. Detective Antilley was able to build rapport with Barrientes and talk him out of the residence in approximately 20 minutes. This was excellent work.

Upon Barrientes' exit, we learned that he had superficially cut himself numerous times, both on the neck and wrists. He was transported to Hendrick Medical Center for treatment, and he is in police custody. He will be evaluated by Betty Hardwick mental health professionals, whereupon he will either be taken to an in-patient hospital or arrested for one count of 1F Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon Family Violence and three counts of 2F Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

Stan Standridge, Chief of Police | 450 Pecan | Abilene, TX | 79602

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Abilene Police
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"You are the
first line of
defense
against crime"

This offense concerns me because of the complexity of family violence. In 2013, we had 1,516 offenses against family members. Last year, in 2014, we had 1,987 offenses. And year-to-date, we have already had 368 Offenses against family members. It should be noted that Barrientes had allegedly assaulted the victim on at least four previous occasions. We must do something different, which is why I am proud to collaborate with Noah Project and house one of their employees in-house at the Police Department. The Department also employs a full-time Victim Impact Coordinator. Intentional strategies accompanied by education on domestic violence can reduce trauma to our families.

This is an active investigation. More information may be released at a later time.

Chief Stan Standridge