



Eureka Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

Eureka Police Department

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3/04/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: EPD Officer Injured During DUI Related Pursuit – Driver Arrested

Contact: Sergeant Steve Watson

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On 3-03-10, at about 1136 PM, a Eureka Police Department Officer on patrol attempted to stop a white Toyota pickup for a lighting violation at 4th and L Streets. The driver, later identified as 24-year-old Ross Emery Olson, continued driving around 5 MPH over the speed limit until eventually yielding on Broadway in front of Bob Crivello's Used Cars. Due to the length of time it took for the vehicle to stop, other EPD officers responded to assist. When the investigating officer explained to the Olson why he had stopped him, Olson became uncooperative. Olson admitted to having consumed alcoholic beverages earlier. The officer asked him to step out of the truck for field sobriety tests (FSTs), but Olson ignored him. The Toyota's doors were locked and the driver's side window was only partially open. After Olson refused to comply with repeated requests to exit his vehicle, a second officer walked over to the driver's side to assist in removing him from the vehicle.

Olson began rolling the window up and put the truck into gear to leave. In an attempt to stop him, the second officer grabbed the top of the window to keep it from going up and the window shattered. When the officer then reached into the vehicle to get Olson to stop, Olson drove off at a high rate of speed. The officer was caught, hanging half in and half out of the vehicle, as it traveled southbound on Broadway. He was stuck in this precarious position for a distance of about a block. The Toyota's estimated speed was at least 30 MPH when the officer fell out and onto the roadway. He received road rash type injuries to his arms and legs. The injured officer was later treated for his injuries and released at a local hospital. He is expected to make a full recovery.

The ensuing pursuit lasted from Broadway and 6th Street to the 7100 block London Drive on Humboldt Hill. The speeds during the pursuit were low level, reaching approximately 40 MPH on the service streets and 60 MPH on the highway. Olson drove into his own driveway, jumped out of his vehicle, and attempted to run inside his house. However, his front door was locked. Olson then aggressively confronted two EPD officers, who were pursuing him. Olson attempted to punch the officers, who deployed a TASER against him. Olson continued to fight even after being "Tased," but he was eventually taken into custody. Humboldt County Sheriff's Office deputies had also responded to assist EPD.



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Olson was transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility where he was booked for assault with a deadly weapon on an officer, felony evading, DUI, and other charges.

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