



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT



250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

Neil J. Cervenka
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800
Fax: (707) 961-2806

****MEDIA RELEASE****

Pursuit Results in Arrest of Auto Theft Suspect 04/21/2025

On April 19, 2025 at approximately 9:30 PM, a Fort Bragg police officer was on patrol in the area of Chestnut St and Harrison St when he observed a vehicle fail to stop at a posted stop sign. As the officer turned around to make a traffic enforcement stop, the vehicle accelerated away at a high rate of speed. The officer activated his emergency lights and siren and initiated a vehicle pursuit.

The pursuit was less than a mile, lasted less than a minute, and reached speeds of 70 MPH. The driver collided with a street sign at Chestnut St and S Sanderson Way, but continued on. The driver lost control at the intersection of Sanderson Way and E Oak St while attempting a turn. The vehicle went over the curb and came to rest in the front yard of a residence, but did not contact the structure.

The driver immediately fled on foot from the officer, who initiated a foot pursuit and caught the suspect a short distance away. A few minutes later, Dispatch informed officers the owner of the vehicle had reported it stolen during the pursuit. Further investigation revealed it had been stolen only minutes before the officer initiated the traffic enforcement stop.

The suspect, a juvenile of Fort Bragg, was arrested and booked into Mendocino County Juvenile Hall on the charges of VC 10851(a) – Vehicle Theft; PC 496D(a) – Possess Stolen Vehicle; VC 2800.2(a) – Felony Evading; PC 594(b)(1) – Vandalism over \$400; PC 148(a)(1) – Resist Arrest; VC 20002(a) – Hit & Run.

Captain Thomas O’Neal said, “This is another example of proactive police work leading to the discovery of a felony in progress and arrest of a danger to public safety.”

Anyone with information on this incident is encouraged to contact Officer Beak of the Fort Bragg Police Department at (707)961-2800 ext 224.

This information is being released by Chief Neil Cervenka All media inquiries should contact him at ncervenka@fortbragg.com.

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