



Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



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NEWS RELEASE

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17 Year Old Takes Police on a High Speed Chase

Ceres, CA – On July 22, 2012 at 06:33 PM, Ceres police officers took a report of a 17 year old male who had assaulted his mother. The 17 year old male took the family's car without permission after the assault so the vehicle was reported stolen.

Upon further investigation, officers learned the 17 year old had assaulted his father the previous day, resulting in the father sustaining injuries that required treatment at a local hospital. The juvenile's father prevented him from taking the vehicle at that time, and the 17 year old left the home and was reported as a runaway.

On July 22, 2012, the day the family's vehicle was reported stolen, at 11:04 PM, a Ceres police officer located the stolen white Ford Focus on Central Avenue and Industrial Way. The vehicle was being driven by the 17 year old and was occupied by two additional passengers. The Ceres police officer activated his emergency lights and siren to initiate an enforcement stop.

The 17 year old lead the police on a high speed chase reaching speeds of up to 90 MPH through country roads. The pursued vehicle drove into an orchard off of Keyes Road, where officers temporarily lost sight of them. The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department helicopter, informed officers on the ground that the vehicle had collided into a home. A Ceres police officer ran to the roadway, anticipating the occupants to exit the vehicle and the vehicle sped towards the roadway.

The 17 year old intentionally steered the stolen vehicle towards the officer, so the officer fired his duty weapon at the vehicle in an effort to defend his life. The officer managed to move out of the path of the vehicle and the vehicle was not struck by the bullets.

A Police Intervention Technique, (also known as the P.I.T. maneuver) was implemented by a Ceres police officer to disable the stolen vehicle on Sperry Road and Whitmore Avenue. The vehicle spun into an orchard, where it collided into a tree.

The occupants of the vehicle fled on foot into the orchard. The 17 year old driver and a 17 year old female, also a reported runaway, were apprehended. The third occupant fled the area and was not located.

The names of the minors will not be released due to their age, nor will the identity of the victims in this case. The name of the Officer who fired his weapon will be withheld at this time since this matter remains under investigation.

The Ceres Police Department is asking anyone with any information on this case to call: Sergeant Dennis Perry at (209) 538-5638 or the Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers at:

Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.

Phone number: 1-866-60-CRIME

Text Tips: "274637" TIP704 in the wording

Website: www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers