



GRESHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

1333 NW Eastman Parkway
Gresham, Oregon 97030
News Release

Travis Gullberg, Chief of Police

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Canine and UAS Officers Locate Hit-and-Run Suspect

RELEASE DATE: Nov. 15, 2023
CONTACT PERSON: On-duty PIO
CASE NUMBER: 23-45835

Gresham, Ore.—Just before 2:00 a.m., a Gresham Police officer parked in his patrol vehicle in the 1200 block of E Powell Blvd., observed a vehicle drive past him eastbound at a speed estimated to be faster than 100 miles per hour. The officer attempted to make a traffic stop on the vehicle using emergency lights but the driver did not stop and continued to drive recklessly and ran red lights to elude the officer.

The officer later located the vehicle after it had spun out and left the roadway in the 3900 block of SE Powell Valley Rd. and crashed into a street sign and a residential fence. By the time the officer located the wreck, the suspect had already fled the scene and ran out of his bright white shoes which the officer located in the road. Officers later determined the vehicle had been stolen from Portland.

Patrol officers surrounded the area and canine officer Debler, along with his partner, Jager, coordinated with a UAS (unmanned arial system) officer to locate the suspect in a nearby backyard. The suspect could likely see and hear the canine and UAS closing in on him and called out to them that he wanted to surrender. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and transported to an area hospital to be checked for his injuries from the crash.

Giovanni Smith, 21, of Portland, was later lodged at the Multnomah County Detention Center on suspicion of Reckless Driving, Attempting to Elude a Police Officer – Felony, Failure to Perform Duties of Driver – Felony, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, and Driving Under Influence of Intoxicants. Smith was also lodged on unrelated warrants.

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