



PRESS RELEASE

City of Pueblo Police Department

POWPO Arrest



July 8, 2021 [FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]



On Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at approximately 10:00 a.m., a Pueblo police officer was patrolling in the 900 block of Lake Avenue when he noticed an unoccupied vehicle in an alley. The vehicle was running and the driver's side door was open. A male who was standing close to the vehicle took off running into the backyard of a residence when he saw the officer. The vehicle was determined to be stolen.

The officer entered the backyard of the residence where he saw two males exit the home through a side door and enter another vehicle. As the officer approached the vehicle and gave the males several verbal commands, the driver started the vehicle and placed it into reverse. The officer gave several more commands for the driver to turn off the vehicle and for the males to show him their hands. The driver complied with the officer's orders, turning off the vehicle and exiting with his empty hands visible to the officer. The passenger, later identified as 36-year-old Michael Hernandez, failed to comply with the officer's orders and moved into the driver's seat of the vehicle. The officer approached the vehicle and opened the driver's side door as he ordered Hernandez to exit. Hernandez started the vehicle and attempted to get the car into gear. Hernandez then launched the vehicle forward and struck the garage door. Next, Hernandez placed the vehicle in reverse and drove recklessly toward the officer, and he struck another car. Hernandez then drove the vehicle southbound on Lake Avenue.

The officer then walked back to the male who had exited the vehicle. The male reported that Hernandez was in possession of a handgun and had been pointing it at him. The male said he heard the officer's commands to exit the vehicle, but he was afraid Hernandez would shoot him. The male nevertheless exited the vehicle.

A short time later, a female called the Pueblo Police Department and reported that a male had just attempted to enter her residence in the 600 block of Acero Avenue. Officers responded and were able to take the male, Hernandez, into custody without incident. Officers located a handgun under the passenger seat of the vehicle from which he had run.

Officers discovered Hernandez had a previous felony conviction for a weapons offense. He was arrested and booked into the Pueblo County Detention Center on an arrest warrant and several other charges including Menacing, Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft and Possession of a Weapon by a Previous Offender (POWPO). Hernandez was featured on the Pueblo Police Department's weekly Safe Streets Wanted Criminal Round-Up on March 5, 2021.

The information contained in this press release is based on preliminary information available at the time of its drafting. The Pueblo Police Department's understanding of this incident may change as additional evidence is collected, analyzed and reviewed. The purpose of this press release is to provide timely information to the public. In consideration of the foregoing, please be advised that any statements expressed herein are subject to change at any time.

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