



Tigard Police Department

Media Release

13125 SW Hall Boulevard | Tigard, Oregon 97223 | www.tigard-or.gov/police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | **September 14, 2016**

Contact:

Jim Wolf, Public Information Officer
Tigard Police Department
Phone: 503-718-2561
Email: jim@tigard-or.gov

Trooper Assaulted In Tigard-Suspect Later Arrested

On September 13, an Oregon State Police Trooper was assaulted in Tigard by a wanted suspect. The incident began at approximately 4:15 p.m. when a state trooper spotted a suspicious vehicle along SW 129th Ave. near Gaarde St. in Tigard. After checking the vehicle registration, the trooper attempted contact with the lone male occupying the vehicle. Without warning, the suspect became combative and physically confronted the trooper. Both men continued to move along the street while remaining physically engaged. At some point, a Taser was deployed by the trooper; however it was ineffective. Both men continued to struggle until the suspect allegedly deployed pepper spray into the face of the trooper. A call for assistance was made by the trooper while the suspect fled the scene. Arriving patrol units began strict containment of the area while officers attended to the injured trooper.

While multiple police agencies and K-9 teams from Washington County were scouring the area, multiple 9-1-1 calls into the dispatch center advised that a shirtless man had entered into at least two random homes in the area, not far from where the incident initially began. Witnesses told police that the suspect entered the homes and exited a short time after. In both incidents, the home's occupants were able to force the suspect out. No one was injured as a result. Residents in the area affected were advised by a telephone alert message to shelter-in-place while numerous police officers and Sheriffs' deputies searched for the suspect.

Police ultimately located the suspect, 24 year-old John Michael Auer, who was spotted entering a garage near the area where he was first encountered by the trooper. Auer fled the garage through a window and concealed himself at a neighboring home until encountered by police. Auer was taken into custody at approximately 5 p.m. and charged with Assault, 2 counts of Burglary and Escape. Auer was also wanted on two warrants. Auer exhibited signs of a medical condition when found and was transported to a local hospital from the scene. Auer was released from the hospital hours later and lodged in the Washington County Jail. Additional charges may be forthcoming as the investigation widens.

1612224

