



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE 09-098

July 21, 2009

Contact: Elizabeth Watts

Public Safety PIO

elizabeth.watts@myclearwater.com

(727) 562-4333

POLICE PURSUIT INITIATED AFTER SUSPECT RAMS CRUISER

WHO: Suspect: Male
Driving: 2001 Gray Chevrolet Impala
FL Tag: 879-XDV
*Suspect is not the owner of this vehicle

WHAT: Aggravated Assault on LEO w/Motor Vehicle

WHEN: July 20, 2009
10:11 p.m.

WHERE: Began: 1259 Eldridge Street, Clearwater, Fla.
Ended: Keene Road & East Bay Drive, Largo, Fla.

WHY: Two police officers in an unmarked cruiser initiated a traffic stop on the above listed vehicle for a window tint violation at 1259 Eldridge Street. As officers exited their vehicle and approached the vehicle on foot, the suspect driver put his vehicle in reverse and rammed the front of their vehicle, narrowly missing the officers. Due to the violent felony (aggravated assault with a motor vehicle), a pursuit was initiated.

The pursuit headed south on Keene Road, where two civilian vehicles (one in each southbound lane) failed to yield to an emergency vehicle and stopped in the middle of the road. One of the cruisers attempted to stop but had a minor collision with the two vehicles. The damage was minor, but the officer dropped out of the pursuit to check on the welfare of the citizens in those vehicles. No one was injured.

The two other police units (one marked and one unmarked) continued southbound on Keene Road. A supervisor closely monitoring the pursuit, traffic and road conditions terminated the pursuit when it reached speeds of up to 100 mph. At the





CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

same time, the suspect was making a left into oncoming traffic on East Bay Drive. The officer in the unmarked cruiser needed to take immediate action for the safety of oncoming traffic and attempted the PIT maneuver to bring the suspect's vehicle to a stop.

The suspect's vehicle spun out and had a minor collision with another civilian vehicle that was stopped at the light. Simultaneously, the second cruiser involved in the pursuit tried to block the suspect's vehicle in and collided with the police unit that initiated the PIT maneuver. When the suspect's vehicle struck the civilian car, this enabled the suspect to regain control of his vehicle and flee the scene.

Summary:

- Three (3) police cruisers sustained minor damages
- Three (3) civilian vehicles sustained minor damages
- All policy/procedures were followed during the pursuit.
- A supervisor closely monitored the pursuit the entire time.
- The pursuit was called off when the driver showed complete disregard for the safety of other vehicles/citizens.
- An officer took immediate action to stop the vehicle once the suspect started to head into oncoming traffic.
- Police are working to locate the suspect and vehicle.

Largo Police Department responded to the area of Keene Road and East Bay Drive to conduct a hit and run investigation.

#####

