



Big Lake Police Department

790 Minnesota Ave, Suite 100 · Big Lake · MN · 55309

Press Release

Incident #: 20002576

Date: 02/28/2020

SUSPECT CHARGED WITH FLEEING IN A VEHICLE

On February 24th at about 1:10 am, Officer Tyler Hecht observed a vehicle with a lighting violation traveling on Eagle Lake Road. When Officer Hecht caught up to the vehicle, he ran the license plate, he found it did not match the vehicle it was on. The driver who later identified as Richard A. Penaz (Age 28 – Monticello, MN) made several quick, evasive turns and pulled into a driveway. Officer Hecht pulled behind Penaz and activated his emergency lighting.

Penaz provided Officer Hecht a name and date of birth, which was later found to be fictitious. Penaz told Officer Hecht he pulled into the random driveway because he knew a police officer was following him. Officer(s) Guy Chaffe and Tyler Sinclair arrived on the scene to assist. As Officer Sinclair was speaking to Penaz, he rolled up the window and put the vehicle in reverse. The officers moved out of the vehicles path to avoid being struck, Penez backed into the roadway and fled the scene. Penez traveled out of Big Lake and through Monticello on Highway 25, at times reaching speeds of 100 MPH. Between Monticello, and Buffalo, both Wright County Sheriffs Deputies and Buffalo Police deployed “stop sticks,” deflating the front tires of the vehicle. Driving on rims, Penaz continued at 50-60 MPH. As Penaz approached the Buffalo City Limits, Officer Chaffee administered a pursuit intervention tactic, placing the suspect vehicle into the ditch safely.

Panez was taken into custody without further incident, he was booked into the Sherburne County Jail and charged by criminal complaint with; Fleeing in a Vehicle, False Name and Date of Birth, and Driving While Revoked.