



Big Lake Police Department

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

Press Release

Incident Numbers: 20011794

Date/Time: 09/23/2020 10:30am

Suspect Arrested for Fleeing Police

On September 19, 2020 at approximately 1:32am Officer Tyler Hecht observed a white Toyota Highlander with no license plates. The vehicle appeared to be traveling faster than the posted speed limit. As Officer Hecht got behind the vehicle, the vehicle went through a red light at Hwy 10 to go northbound on County Road 43. Officer Hecht activated his emergency lights, but the vehicle made no effort to slow down. The vehicle then accelerated away from Officer Hecht. Officer Hecht pursued the vehicle.

The suspect vehicle continued on County Road 43 and was all over the road and reached speeds of 105mph. Sherburne County Deputy Barrett placed stop sticks at County Road 15/233rd Ave where the suspect vehicle made contact with the sticks. Officer Tyler Sinclair was in the pursuit and utilized the Pursuit Intervention Technique (P.I.T.) to bring the vehicle into the ditch where it came to a stop.

Officers ordered the driver out of the vehicle and to get down onto the ground. The driver did not comply and responded with, "shoot me." Officers approached the driver and he resisted while officers attempted to arrest him. The driver was identified as Michael Johnson (Age 55 – Burnsville, MN). Johnson repeatedly threatened to assault the officers.

Officer Sinclair observed Johnson had bloodshot, watery eyes and could smell an odor of alcohol coming from Johnson. Officers located two open Natural Light beer cans in the center cup holder. Both cans were about half full.

Officers located two rifles, uncased, and wrapped in a blanket in the trunk. Johnson kicked the back of the squad car and threatened the lives of the officers. He gave the officers the address of his cabin and said he would assault them if they ever came there.

Johnson refused to submit to a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT). Officer Hecht obtained a search warrant for a blood or urine sample from Johnson. Johnson was transported to Monticello Hospital where a blood sample was obtained. Johnson was booked at the Sherburne County jail.

Johnson was charged by criminal complaint with; Felony Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle, Gross Misdemeanor Obstruct Legal Process, Misdemeanor DWI, Misdemeanor Open Bottle.