



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

1025 Burwell Street • Bremerton, Washington 98337 • (360) 473-5220

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Bremerton Police Department
(360) 473-5220

Bremerton Officers Stop Dangerous Pursuit

Bremerton Police Officers utilized a specialized technique to stop a dangerous pursuit and arrest the driver. The driver, 31 year old Jeremy Andrus of Bremerton, has been jailed.

Officers were sent to a report of a hit and run collision with serious injuries in the area of Wheaton Way and Sheridan Avenue. As officers were responding, a description of the fleeing suspect vehicle was provided, a white Mitsubishi Lancer. More calls were received from 911, reporting that the suspect vehicle was on Rickey Road near Sylvan Way, and that the car was now dragging its front bumper and running stop signs. As the first officer got to the location of the first hit and run, he determined that two vehicles had been struck and at least one person had head injuries and was vomiting from the impact.

At this time, Bremerton officers were advised that the suspect vehicle had apparently been stolen from the unincorporated area north of the city, and that Kitsap County Sheriff's Deputies had been involved in a pursuit with the vehicle a short time earlier. They had discontinued their pursuit when speeds reached a reported 80 miles per hour.

Bremerton officers again located the suspect vehicle southbound on Wheaton Way south of McWilliams Road, after it had left and re-entered the city limits. The on-duty Bremerton supervisor, in accordance with Bremerton P.D.'s restrictive pursuit policy, determined that the suspect driver had committed violent and dangerous felonies and authorized officers to utilize the Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) to stop the pursuit as soon as possible. PIT is a specialized driving maneuver in which the fleeing vehicle is contacted, causing it to spin, and other officers immediately box the vehicle to prevent it from leaving the area. Bremerton officers maintain ongoing training in this method of stopping a dangerous pursuit, rather than allowing it to continue and further endanger the public.

As the suspect vehicle drove recklessly southbound on Wheaton Way, officers used a PIT technique to attempt to stop the vehicle at the north end of the bridge, but the car regained control and continued southbound. The technique was used again at the south end of the bridge, and was successful and the vehicle was pinned against a curb, where officers approached the car and attempted to arrest the driver. The driver at first held his hands up and indicated he would comply, then pulled his hands back in and actively resisted arrest. A Taser was used to remove his hands from the steering wheel, and he was taken into custody.

Officers reported that the suspect smiled and said that the pursuit was "an awesome time". The suspect was jailed on \$200,000 bail. The probable cause statement is attached.

Bremerton police Chief Steve Strachan said, “We take any pursuit very seriously, and we have a very restrictive policy, but when the driver shows absolutely no regard for safety, has already injured people, and shows every intent to go on injuring other people with his reckless actions, we have no choice but to stop it as soon as possible. Although the suspect doesn’t seem to care about anyone else’s safety, this is another example of the split-second decisions officers need to make in very dangerous situations. Our officers acted quickly and appropriately.”

Steven D. Strachan, Chief of Police
Bremerton Police Department
1025 Burwell Street
Bremerton, WA 98337
Steven.Strachan@ci.bremerton.wa.us

360-473-5224
Fax: 360-473-5890
Assistant: Barbara Forbes
Barbara.Forbes@ci.bremerton.wa.us