



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4941

Type of Incident: Wanted suspect attempts to run over Officer.
Case no: 11-9331
Date/time: 12/20/11 1411 hrs
Location: 1257 East Avenue
Suspect: Varao, Freddie Joseph. Age 44 of Chico
Charges: 245 PC- Assault with deadly weapon (vehicle).
148 PC- Resisting arrest

Case summary:

On 12/20/11 at 1250 hrs, Chico Police received information regarding the possible whereabouts of Freddie Varao. Varao was wanted for his part in a burglary and subsequent vehicle pursuit which took place on 12/19/2011. Officers went to 1257 East Avenue and attempted to locate the subject. He was not found at the address at that time.

At 1411 hrs, Chico Police Officer Robert Glass spotted Varao in front of the East Avenue address. When Officer Glass approached the residence on foot, Varao jumped into a silver/gold Toyota Camry style vehicle. The vehicle had a California License plate which started with 6MM. When Varao saw Officer Glass approaching, Varao gunned the vehicle directly toward the Officer. Officer Glass jumped out of the way of the speeding vehicle. Varao was last seen fleeing in the vehicle, south on Floral Avenue. There was an unidentified male adult in the passenger seat of the vehicle. Due to safety concerns based in part on Varao's reckless driving the night before, Officers did not pursue the vehicle.

Varao is now wanted for the burglary and pursuit on 12/19/11 and will face new charges for Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Vehicle) and resisting/evading arrest. His photo is again being released (see attached) in the hopes that the public will assist by providing information about Mr. Varao's whereabouts. Mr. Varao should be considered dangerous based on his clear disregard for the safety of the public and his willingness to assault a uniformed Officer using his vehicle as a weapon. Anyone with information regarding his whereabouts should contact the Chico Police Department at 895-4911.

****For media inquiries, please contact Sgt. Rob Merrifield at 897-4941****

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Supervisor:

Watch Commander:

Prepared By: Sgt. Rob Merrifield

Date/Time: 12/20/2011 1543 hrs

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