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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chico Police Take Two Men Off Streets with Wild-West Shooting Arrests *-- Dangerous and Potentially Deadly Moments Averted --*

Chico, CA – Thanks to the quick response and effective work by members of the Chico Police Department, an individual with a substantial and violent criminal history and another who has participated in criminal activity are now behind bars facing additional criminal charges. A highly dangerous situation which could have become deadly was diffused with no injuries to citizens or officers.

On Wednesday, June 7, 2017 shortly after 1:15 P.M., Chico Police Officers responded to the 100 block of Cohasset Road to numerous reports of shots fired. Emergency dispatchers received numerous calls reporting a suspect running on Cohasset Road, firing a weapon. As officers were arriving on scene, dispatch received additional information that the suspect was last seen running behind businesses located along the east side of the Esplanade.

Witnesses reported seeing the suspect get into a gold 4-door sedan and head north on the Esplanade. Officers immediately located the suspect vehicle and a brief pursuit ensued. The suspect vehicle turned onto Mandalay Court; a dead-end street. Officers quickly blocked the suspect vehicle. The driver remained inside the vehicle and was immediately taken into custody. The passenger took off on foot with officers in pursuit. The subject ran towards the front door of a nearby residence and was attempting to get in when officers ordered him to stop. He complied and was taken into custody. The residence the subject was trying to enter was occupied at the time by a female tenant and her two small children.

The passenger arrested is identified as 23-year old Tyrone Sotolongo of Stockton. Based on numerous witness interviews, investigators determined Sotolongo was the individual shooting the firearm on Cohasset Road. Records indicate Sotolongo has a substantial criminal history. He was currently wanted via parole by San Joaquin County for absconding. Sotolongo was arrested and booked for multiple charges, including Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Shooting into an Inhabited Dwelling, Reckless Discharge of a Firearm, Possession of Heroin and Fleeing from Police.

The driver is identified as 23-year old Marcelino Juarez, also of Stockton. A search of the vehicle involved revealed over \$9-thousand dollars in cash and 21 grams of heroin. Juarez was arrested and booked on Felony Evading from Police and Possession of Heroin.

Additional charges could follow based on the investigation.

During the investigation detectives located a victim in the area. Due to the ongoing investigation, that individual is not being identified. He admitted he had been shot *at* but was not struck by any gunfire. Numerous bullet casings were found in the street on Cohasset Road and nearby parking lots, however detectives did not locate anyone who was the victim of a gunshot wound.

Investigators did locate one occupied business in which a bullet pierced through the front window. The business was open at the time and occupied by a single employee. Investigators also located an unoccupied vehicle in the parking lot that had been struck by a bullet which entered the rear window and went through a child safety seat inside the car.

“This was a highly dangerous and rapidly changing incident which occurred in a business and residential area of Chico,” said Chico Police Chief Michael O’Brien. “From the large number of innocent citizens in the area, individuals visiting local businesses at the time and even the unsuspecting mother simply at home with her children; all of them were in danger. This could have concluded much differently. We are thankful nobody was injured due to the gunfire and reckless actions of the subjects involved. Our officers and detectives moved quickly to mitigate a potentially deadly situation.”

It appears the suspect and the victim had some type of contact in front of a business near 180 Cohasset Rd. The suspect shot at the victim numerous times as the victim ran towards the Esplanade. The suspect then chased the victim. Witnesses in the area say the suspect shot at the victim several more times.

At the time of the subjects’ apprehension investigators did not locate a firearm in their possession. It is believed the suspect discarded the firearm somewhere along the route he took while leaving the scene.

With the assistance of a K-9 unit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, investigators conducted a lengthy search for the firearm. The K-9 located the firearm hidden in some bushes.

“This was another public safety risk which was mitigated,” said Sergeant Scott Harris. “Our law enforcement teams quickly located a loaded firearm in an area where it could have been discovered by an adult or children.”

Detectives continue the investigation; processing evidence and interviewing witnesses to determine the cause of the shooting. Anyone who has not already been interviewed by police and witnessed the incident or may have additional information is asked to call the Chico Police Department Detective Bureau at 530.897.5820.

Location:100 Block of Cohasset Rd. Chico

Date/Time:06-07-17

Incident Case Number 17-3979

Victim Confidential

Suspect Tyrone Sotolongo / Marcelino Juarez; both Stockton Residents

Supervisor: Sgt. Scott Harris

Watch Commander: Lt. Billy Aldridge

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