



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Officer Involved Shooting

Around 3:30 AM this morning, two deputies were patrolling the Ocean Street Extension area of the county in separate cars. They came across two vehicles parked on the side of the road and discovered that one of the cars was reported stolen out of San Jose. The deputies found a man and a woman near the stolen car and both were placed in handcuffs. The man and woman were placed in separate patrol cars during the investigation.

While deputies interviewed the man, the woman was able to slip out of her handcuffs, reach through a partially open window of the patrol car and open the car door.

The woman entered the driver's side of patrol car and without warning drove the vehicle directly at one of the deputies. The deputy was struck by the vehicle and was temporarily incapacitated. Rather than fleeing the scene, the woman continued to re-engage with the deputies driving the car back and forth at them.

The deputy who had not been struck by the vehicle fired multiple rounds at the woman to stop the assault. The woman was struck by three bullets in the chest and abdomen.

Other law enforcement officers arrived and detained the woman outside of the patrol vehicle and began administering first aid, possibly saving her life. The woman was flown to an area trauma center where she underwent surgery and she remains at the hospital.

The deputy sheriff that was struck by the vehicle was treated at an area hospital and released, however, he will need additional medical care.

When the woman is released from the hospital, she will be booked into the Santa Cruz County jail for attempted murder against a peace officer and other charges. The male is cooperating with investigators.

The District Attorney's Office is investigating the shooting according to established county wide protocols and agreements.

More information including the body worn camera footage will be provided early next week after the District Attorney's Office has completed their interviews.

PREPARED BY:

Sergeant Brian Cleveland

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