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Governor



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Media Release

Domestic Battery Suspect Arrested after Foot Pursuit Near Panther Valley

At approximately 1:00 pm yesterday afternoon, a Trooper with the Nevada Highway Patrol stopped out with a vehicle believed to be disabled on the shoulder area of northbound US 395 near Panther Valley. As the Trooper approached the vehicle, the lone female occupant exited her car screaming and crying. She conveyed to the Trooper that her boyfriend had just battered her and that he had just fled away from the vehicle on foot with her two Pit Bull Terriers.

The suspect, later identified as Michael Shane Stell, 32 of Reno, was seen climbing a right-of-way fence near the north side of the freeway. Another Trooper arrived at the scene and began to chase Stell. Stell was located approximately a half-mile from the freeway near a residence on Clifford Court and refused to comply with the pursuing Trooper's verbal instructions. The Trooper held the suspect at bay by pointing his department issued Taser at Stell while waiting for assistance from responding Troopers.

A few minutes later additional Troopers arrived at the Clifford Court location to assist. While attempting to handcuff Stell, he continued to be physically combative. In an effort to gain compliance, a Trooper deployed his Taser in a drive-stun mode. This technique allowed Stell to be placed into handcuffs. After being placed into handcuffs, Stell continued to kick at one of the Troopers. With Stell's aggressive and combative behavior, the Reno Police Department's paddy wagon (transport vehicle) was dispatched to transport Stell to jail. While waiting for the paddy wagon to respond, Stell was placed in a sitting position next to one of the Highway Patrol vehicles.

He intentionally slammed his head into the police vehicle resulting in a dent to the right front door. Stell had previously sustained minor injuries to both hands while climbing the fence and was medically cleared at the scene before being transported to jail. Troopers were also advised that Stell had a no-bail warrant issued on June 16, 2010, by the Reno Justice Court for previous DUI and drug paraphernalia charges.

He was booked into the Washoe County Detention Facility on the following charges:

- Domestic Battery
- Resisting Arrest
- Assault on a Police Officer
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
- Malicious Destruction of Public Property
- No-bail warrant

As of this morning, Stell is still in custody at the Washoe County Detention Facility.

The victim who was battered was reunited with her dogs after Stell was transported from the scene.

A photo of Snell is attached that was provided by WCSO.



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