



Middletown Police Department

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Press Release

April 22, 2011

Operator of stolen Motor vehicle rams multiple police cruisers

Earlier this evening around 10:00 pm a Portland Police Officer driving south on Rt. 17 over the Arrigoni Bridge initiated a motor vehicle stop after observing a 2005 red Pontiac Grand Am driving erratically. The vehicle failed to stop when the officer initiated the cruiser's lights and siren and continued south on Main St in Middletown. At the intersection of Grand St. the Pontiac made a U-turn heading north on Main St weaving in and out of traffic striking a civilian's vehicle and a Middletown Police cruiser that were in the north bound lanes of Main St.

Upon checking the registration of the Pontiac, officers were alerted that the vehicle was stolen out of West Haven.

Officers followed the Pontiac back over the Arrigoni Bridge north on Main St to Gildersleeve School. The Pontiac pulled into the circular driveway and ran a Middletown Police Officer off the road into a ditch. The Pontiac then struck two Portland Police cruisers and continued back onto Main St southbound. The Pontiac struck a civilian's vehicle on Main St. Portland Officers followed behind the Pontiac as it sped away back over the Arrigoni Bridge. As the Pontiac came back over to the Middletown side of the bridge Middletown Officers deployed Stop Sticks in attempt to stop the vehicle. The Pontiac continued around the Stop Sticks. The Portland Officer got in front of the Pontiac attempting to stop it as Main St. was congested with vehicular and pedestrian traffic and feared for their safety. The Pontiac rammed the Portland Officer causing the cruiser and the Pontiac to spin out at the intersection of King's Ave. The Pontiac still trying to escape backed into a Middletown police cruiser that was directly behind it. The Pontiac was then boxed in by a third Middletown cruiser. The driver of the Pontiac refused to get out of the vehicle after being ordered out by police officers. The operator had to be forced out by officers and taken into custody.

The driver was identified as Ijeboi G. Holmes, age 36. Holmes had an active warrant for his arrest for Escape from Half Way Home. DOC was contacted and a Remand To Actual Custody Order was signed.

Holmes will be charged with numerous motor vehicle charges and criminal charges with both the Portland and Middletown Police Departments.

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No Officers were injured in the motor vehicle accidents. A couple of Middletown Officers received minor injuries in the apprehension of Holmes.

The occupants of the civilian vehicles that were struck did receive minor injuries from the crashes.

Holmes intentionally struck two Portland Cruisers (one three separate times), two Middletown Police Cruisers (one twice) and to civilian vehicles.

At the time of the press release Holmes was still being processed, no mug shot available.

A detailed list of charges to follow.

Holmes will be held on a \$150,000 by Portland Police.

Lieutenant Heather Desmond
Support Services
Middletown Police Department