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For immediate release:
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Monday, June 12, 2006

Officer safety:

Bainbridge man wanted in connection with domestic violence, attempted assault and eluding

Bainbridge Island, Wash. -- Two Kitsap County law enforcement agencies are looking for a Bainbridge Island man following a domestic assault on Saturday that resulted in a police pursuit situation, and an attempt by the suspect to run down a Sheriff's deputy.

Matthew Christopher Sherman, 23, is wanted by Bainbridge Island Police for assault, 2nd degree (DV), violation of a protection order (DV) and for felony eluding. The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office has probable cause to arrest Sherman for felony eluding and for attempted assault upon a Sheriff's deputy.

Bainbridge Island officers responded to a residence on Tiffany Meadows Drive NE, around 2:45 p.m., Saturday, concerning a 911 report of a protection order violation. There, they found a 39 year-old woman hiding near the residence in fear for her life.

The victim, shaking and having difficulty speaking, finally was able to inform police that she had jumped out of a window to escape from a possible attack by Sherman. The woman said that Sherman had been released from jail recently and had been contacting her repeatedly since then, leading up to an incident just after midnight where he had allegedly strangled her and then left. The call was made to 911 because the victim observed Sherman return to her house, minutes before, on a motorcycle.

Note: The victim is the petitioner in a no contact order with Sherman listed as the respondent. The order has been served on Sherman. Sherman **was released** from Kitsap County Jail on June 2, following a May 7 arrest by Bainbridge Island Police for assault, 2nd degree (DV) and violation of a no contact order involving the same victim.

Based on information provided by the victim, Bainbridge Island officers quickly developed probable cause for Sherman's arrest and broadcast that Sherman was attired in black-colored clothing and riding a red-colored motorcycle.

Coincidentally, a second Bainbridge Island officer, en route to Tiffany Meadows Drive, noticed a motorcyclist matching the description provided of Sherman. When the officer turned his patrol vehicle around to stop the motorcycle, the driver accelerated away and led the original officer, later joined by a second officer, on a high speed pursuit northbound on Bainbridge Island from the vicinity of NE Lofgren Road and Moran Drive NE, at speeds often exceeding 80 MPH.

With Sherman displaying complete disregard for public safety in operating the motorcycle in an extremely dangerous manner, by driving between passing cars and speeding through intersections without stopping for stop signs, the officers terminated their pursuit in the vicinity of North Madison Avenue NE and NE Day Road East.

At the time of the pursuit a Kitsap County Sheriff's deputy was monitoring emergency radio traffic and traveling parallel to the pursuit on State Highway 305 NE. The deputy turned onto NE Hidden Cove Road and encountered Sherman on the stopped motorcycle, straddling the centerline facing west. The deputy exited his patrol vehicle and gave verbal commands to Sherman to keep his hands visible. The suspect looked at the deputy and accelerated directly at him in an aggressive manner. The deputy moved out of the motorcycle's line of travel to avoid being struck. Sherman continued northbound on State Highway 305 towards the Agate Pass Bridge.

At approximately 2:55 p.m. a second deputy, positioned at the intersection of State Highway 305 and Suquamish Way NE, observed Sherman cross the Agate Pass Bridge. This deputy activated his patrol vehicle emergency equipment (lights & siren) to signal the motorcyclist to stop. Sherman again accelerated rapidly, traveling northbound on Suquamish Way with speeds up to 90 MPH. The suspect turned northbound onto Division Avenue NE and contact was lost in the vicinity of Division Avenue and Geneva Street in Suquamish.

Sherman has previous convictions for malicious mischief, 2nd degree on 12/09/2002; negligent driving, 1st degree on 04/14/2005, and for malicious mischief, 3rd degree (DV) and criminal trespass, 1st degree (DV) both on 10/14/2005.

Description: 6' 02" ht., 190 lbs. wt., brown hair and blue eyes.

Persons with information concerning the whereabouts of Matthew Christopher Sherman are asked to contact the Bainbridge Island Police Department, the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office or 911. Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-CRIME-13.



Matthew Christopher Sherman

Date of photograph: 05/08/2006