

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

6255 ALAWAY AVENUE ○ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Greg Browning
Chief of Police

Committed to Service and Excellence

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INFORMATION RELEASE

Subject: Assault/Vehicle Pursuit

Date: 04-18-2007

From: Sgt. Tom Bates

Case or Incident # 2007-012080

Summary:

On 04-17-2007, at 8:58pm, The Juneau Police Department received a report of an assault in progress at a residence in Douglas. As officers were en-route to the call they were told by JPD dispatch that the disturbance sounded on the phone as if it was becoming increasingly violent.

When officers arrived in the area a black Ford pickup was seen leaving at a high rate of speed without any headlights. Officers pursued this vehicle using lights and siren but it would not stop. It traveled across the JD Bridge turning on to Egan Drive traveling outbound in the inbound lanes. The vehicle then swerved into the proper lanes at 12th street and continued outbound at times reaching speeds of over 90 mph. At no time did the driver turn on his headlights.

Officers backed off of the pursuit when it became unreasonably hazardous but kept the fleeing vehicle in sight. It turned from Egan drive on to Glacier Highway just before Sunny Point, and then turned into Switzer Village where the driver lost control, ran up into a yard and struck two vehicles parked in the driveway at a residence. Both those vehicles, and the suspect vehicle, were heavily damaged. The driver fled on foot through a yard and over a wooden fence where he was apprehended by officers.

22 year old Jason Kito was charged with two counts of Assault in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Mischief 3rd Degree, Attempted Burglary 1st Degree, and Fail to Stop at the Direction of a Police Officer 1st Degree, all felonies. He was also charged with Driving without a Valid License, and two outstanding warrants.

Kito was admitted to Bartlett Regional Hospital and will be lodged at the state prison when he is released.

Any charges reported in this press release are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

***** END OF STATEMENT *****

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*****UPDATE 4-18-07*****

From: Lt. Kris Sell

On 4-18-07, at about 1145 hours, KITO was released from the hospital and lodged at the Lemon Creek Correctional Center.

Any charges reported in this press release are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

***** END OF STATEMENT *****

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