



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

Type of Incident: Pursuit of Stolen Vehicle
Location of Incident: Chico into Glenn County
Date/Time Occurred: 9-30-2016 at 2330 hours
Date/Time of Arrest: 9-30-2016 at 2350 hours
Incident Case Number: 16-7451
Victim Name: Withheld
Suspect: Blas Torres – 52 year old Oroville resident

Narrative: On September 30th, 2016 at about 2330 hours, Officer Ament was on patrol in west Chico when he observed a green minivan pull into a gas station. The night before, Officer Ament took a stolen vehicle report of a green minivan which looked like the one at the gas station. Officer Ament ran the license plate which returned to a different vehicle than the one the plate was on. Officer Ament waited for additional units before he attempted a traffic stop. When the Chico Officers attempted to stop the minivan, it failed to yield. The minivan headed towards Glenn County on several different back roads at speeds between 70 and 100 mph. During the pursuit, there were no other vehicles on the road. The minivan drove off the road into a field west of Ord Ferry and Hwy 45, approximately 12 miles west of Chico. The suspect, later identified as Torres, fled the vehicle and jumped into the canal. Officers located Torres as he struggled to stay afloat and was taken into custody without further incident. The passenger that was in the vehicle also fled on foot but was not apprehended. There were no injuries or property damage during the 21 mile pursuit. The owner was very happy to take possession of his vehicle undamaged. Torres did not appear to be under the influence, but was driving on a suspended license. Torres was booked for possession of stolen vehicle, felony evading, and driving on a suspended license. Torres was later transported to Butte County Jail with bail set at \$31,000.

Supervisor: **Watch Commander:** Lt. Aldridge

Prepared By: Sgt. Todd Lefkowitz **Date/Time:** 10-1-2016 0430 hrs.