

CITY OF
VENTURA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Watch Commander, (805) 339-4416
Release Prepared by: Commander Tom Higgins
VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident: Brandishing of a Replica Firearm, Battery on a Police Dog, Resisting Arrest and Trespassing

Location: Highway 101 Overpass at Garden St.

Date/Time Occurred: 02/25/20 @ 1500 hours

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura PD Patrol, Ventura Police K-9, Patrol Task Force, Crisis Negotiators, Ventura City Fire

Suspect(s): Jeffrey Wheelock, DOB: 05/31/82, Vagrant

Report #: 20-12184

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call of a subject armed and brandishing a handgun near the intersection of Thompson Blvd. and Garden St. Officers arrived and contacted the victim, who reported last seeing the subject climbing a fence and go underneath the Highway 101 overpass at Garden St. The subject, Jeffrey Wheelock, is known by officers to frequent the area and located him hiding in a crawl space under the overpass.

Officers gave Wheelock several commands to come out, but he refused and would not show them his hands. With reports that Wheelock was possibly armed with a handgun, a Ventura Police K-9, Miles, was deployed. Wheelock began hitting the K-9 in the head, and was able to further wedge himself into the crawl space. Officers trained in crisis negotiations responded and negotiated with Wheelock for approximately 30 minutes, but were unsuccessful. Officers also deployed water using a fire hose in an attempt to flush Wheelock out, but he still did not come out. The K-9 was deployed a second time, at which time several officers approached the crawl space and were able to physically take Wheelock into custody.

During a search of his property, two replica firearms were located (see attached).

Wheelock was transported to a local hospital for treatment of his injuries as a result of the dog bite, and later booked for brandishing of a replica firearm, battery on a police dog, resisting arrest and trespassing.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

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No officers were injured as a result of this incident. The K-9 did not sustain any injuries as a result of the altercation with Wheelock.

A review of the Ventura County Superior Court website shows Wheelock has prior convictions for felony resisting arrest, burglary, battery, petty theft, trespassing, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

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