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# Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: October 5, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

## OFFICER SHOOTS VICIOUS DOGS

### 6600 BLOCK OF EAST CALLE BETELGEUX

**\*\*\*UPDATE – OCTOBER 7, 2011\*\*\***

On the afternoon of October 7, 2011, personnel from the Tucson Police Department's Operations Division East made contact with the owner of the pit bulls involved in this attack. The owner, identified as **24-year old Kevin Nelson**, lives in the 6600 block of East Calle Betelgeux, near where the attack occurred. Investigators coordinated with a Pima Animal Care Officer on appropriate charges. Nelson was issued a criminal citation and field released for **14 misdemeanor violations of Tucson Code, including six counts of Vicious or Destructive Animal, and two counts each of Vaccination Required, License Required, License Tag to be Worn, and Dog Being at Large.**

The victim and his dog are both expected to recover.

**Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – October 7, 2011**

At approximately 6:30 a.m. on October 5, 2011, the Tucson Police Department received the first of several 911 calls reporting dogs attacking an elderly male and his dog in the 6600 block of East Calle Betelgeux. A Tucson Police Department Solo Motor Officer was working a traffic enforcement assignment, just blocks away. He responded to the incident scene within one minute of the call.

The officer arrived to find two pit bull dogs showing aggression towards the **86-year old male victim**, his dog, and several Samaritans who had either been driving by or come out of their homes to assist the victim. One of them had armed herself with a folding chair that she was swinging at the dogs in an attempt to keep them at bay. When the dogs continued to be aggressive and presented an ongoing immediate threat to the citizens and him, he fired his issued duty handgun, striking both dogs several times and killing them at the scene.

The 86-year old male victim sustained non-life threatening injuries and was initially treated at the scene by paramedics. His dog suffered injuries, also reported as non-life threatening, and was transported to a local veterinary hospital for treatment. None of the Samaritans were seriously injured and fortunately, although Palo Verde High School is within sight of the scene, there were no reports of students walking to school being attacked by the dogs.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the pit bulls running at large and the attack is ongoing and no charges have been filed at this time. A separate administrative investigation is also ongoing, examining the officer's actions in response to this incident. This type of post-shooting administrative review is standard protocol when an officer discharges their weapon in the line of duty, and is intended to determine whether department policies were followed, and if current training, equipment, supervision, and policies are adequate and appropriate.

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