



College Place Police Department

Media Release

Chief Troy Tomaras

*****For Immediate Release *****

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On December 7, 2018 an off-duty College Place Police Officer recognized a wanted individual while shopping at Walmart. The suspect was identified as 34 year old College Place resident Marco A. Martinez who had a felony warrant for possession of a stolen firearm and possession of methamphetamine.

At 10:30 AM, on-duty Officer Steve Harris entered Walmart and located Mr. Martinez. Officer Harris informed Mr. Martinez of the warrant and attempted to make an arrest. Mr. Martinez resisted and pushed Officer Harris into a store display, then began to run. Officer Harris deployed his Taser but it was not effective.

Sergeant Alan Parker arrived to assist Officer Harris as Mr. Martinez fled on foot. Sergeant Parker overtook Mr. Martinez, tackling him to the ground near the store exit. Mr. Martinez continued to resist while a nearby witness yelled "he's trying to get your gun". A second Taser deployment successfully gained compliance and Mr. Martinez was taken into custody. No injuries were reported.

Department of Corrections Officers took Mr. Martinez into custody for probation violations and felony warrants. It was discovered Mr. Martinez was in possession of methamphetamine following the arrest. Mr. Martinez will receive new felony charges for Assaulting a Peace Officer, Possession of controlled substance, resisting arrest, attempted escape and shoplifting.

Chief Tomaras credits the courage and professionalism of his officers while taking Mr. Martinez safely into custody despite his assaultive behavior. Arrests like this remind us of the dangers our officer's face while making our community a safer place to live says Tomaras.