



UW-Madison
Police Department
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

TO: WLECHA Award Committee
FROM: Lt. Cherise Caradine
DATE: August 14, 2019
RE: Award Nomination for PO Howard Statz and K9 Szeci, Middleton Police Dept.

In the early evening hours of Wednesday, July 10, 2019, a UWPD Police Officer recognized a stolen vehicle in downtown Madison. Prior to attempting to stop the vehicle, it took off at a high rate of speed, striking a curb and causing damage to the rear wheel then fishtailed into oncoming traffic. As the officer attempted to stop the vehicle, it fled and turned into a highly populated residential area.

The officer found the vehicle abandoned as the occupants fled through the neighborhoods west of Camp Randall Football Stadium. Assisting officers saw the fleeing subjects and were able to get both in custody after an approximate mile long foot pursuit. UWPD requested aid from Middleton Police Department K9 Szeci and his handler PO Howard Statz for an article search after the foot pursuit for any evidence.

PO Statz and K9 Szeci began their article search at the stolen vehicle's location and continued on the assumed route the suspects took. As K9 Szeci entered a church parking lot, his behavior distinctly changed and began pulling PO Statz to the southeast corner near a privacy fence. K9 Szeci continued pulling toward a narrow walkway when his behavior changed again. K9 Szeci slowed his search process and began actively sniffing. UWPD Officer Austin looked where K9 Szeci's nose was and observed a firearm hidden between several rocks. PO Statz pulled K9 Szeci away from the rocks and officers recovered a loaded SIG Sauer 226 9mm. The suspects inside the stolen vehicle had been involved in a home invasion earlier that day and involved in a shooting that week.

We are grateful for the assistance of K9 Szeci and PO Statz for recovering a loaded firearm from the edge of a church parking lot and residential area. If this loaded gun had not been recovered by law enforcement, it could have easily and dangerously ended up in the wrong hands. Locating the gun also assisted in charges from other crimes the suspects had committed.

Respectfully submitted for Meritorious Article Find.



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