



18 East 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68848-1180
(308) 233-3214
www.cityofkearney.org

CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

Issued Date: December 21, 2022

Point of Contact: Derek Luke, Lieutenant, (308) 233-5256 Case #22-007733

Felony Assault on Kearney Police Officers during Medical Call for Service

On Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at approximately 8:54 a.m., officers of the Kearney Police Department were dispatched to Casey's, 112 Talmadge Street, in South Kearney to assist Good Samaritan EMS with a unit call involving an adult male reporting a possible medical issue inside the store. The male subject was displaying nonsensical, paranoid, and aggressive behavior toward EMS staff. Once the first officer arrived, the male subject became more agitated and aggressive toward the officer. A physical fight ensued as the officer attempted to restrain the subject, later identified as thirty-two-year-old Christian Gonzalez. Gonzalez continued to offer significant physical resistance and display combative behavior toward law enforcement. Two additional Kearney Police Officers arrived to assist with placing Gonzalez in custody as the first officer was on the floor inside the store with Gonzalez physically resisting. The arresting officers used significant restraint to place Gonzalez in custody as he continued to display extraordinary strength and resistance. During the arrest, Gonzalez bit or attempted to bite each police officer multiple times. Gonzalez was transported to CHI Good Samaritan Hospital Emergency Room for medical treatment for injuries sustained while physically resisting and fighting police officers.

"These Kearney Police Officers were assaulted (bitten) while attempting to restrain and take a male subject in custody who appeared to be experiencing an excited delirium or drug induced paranoia condition. Thankfully, our officers weren't seriously injured. This case is an example of the dangers of this job and the dynamic encounters police officers may face on any given call for service. An assault against any Kearney police officer is completely unacceptable. The officers involved acted with a high level of professionalism and in accordance with established training, policy, and expectations, responding to active resistance and physical aggression. As with all use of force incidents, this case will be reviewed internally". Chief Bryan D. Waugh

This remains an active investigation related to Assault on a Police Officer, Obstructing, and Disorderly Conduct. Additional details will be released as available.

The three officers involved were treated and released for injuries sustained during this arrest. We appreciate the assistance from CHI Emergency Department and EMS staff.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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