

NEWS RELEASE

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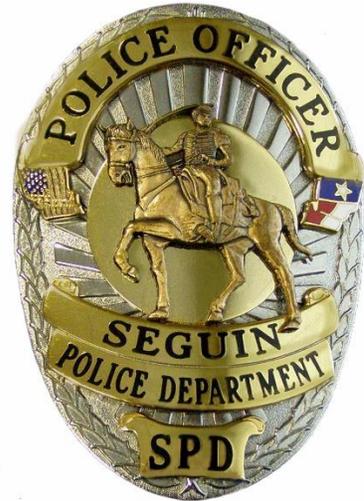
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Officer Avoids Injury by Shooting Aggressive Dog *Incident Occurred Outside Seguin Walmart*

SEGUIN, Texas – A Seguin police officer was able to avoid injury during an incident involving an aggressive dog Monday night. The officer was forced to shoot the animal after it charged him. The incident occurred just prior to 8 p.m. in front of the Seguin Walmart. The dog has since been treated and released from an animal emergency clinic.

“Officers are dog lovers too and certainly don’t want to have to do something like this,” Seguin Police Sergeant James Springer said. “The officer feared for his safety as the dog charged at him in an aggressive manner.”

The incident started when Walmart contacted the Seguin Police Department about three subjects who were soliciting money and refused to leave the property. Upon arrival at the scene, an officer immediately made contact with a subject standing in front of the store. The man was identified as Manuel Martinez (01/14/68) and was arrested for an outstanding public intoxication warrant.

The officer then waited near a dog tied to a backpack at the front of the store. The owner eventually exited the store and returned to the location. The officer gave the subject a final opportunity to voluntarily leave the property. The subject then returned to his bag and dog. At this point the dog became detached from the bag and charged the officer in an aggressive manner. The officer attempted to retreat backward while fending the animal away with his left arm. The officer was forced to use his right arm to unholster his weapon and fire one shot into the dog. The officer then fell backward to the ground.

The dog's owner then confronted the officer. The subject eventually turned away and attempted to return to his bag. The officer, not knowing what could be in the bag, went hands-on to take the subject into custody. The subject was identified as Mykkill Payne and was arrested for criminal trespass.

"The officer had the wherewithal to fire his weapon toward the ground and away from any potential bystanders," Sgt. Springer continued. "There were no people in the line of fire."

The dog sustained an entry wound between the left ear and eye and an exit wound to the neck. Seguin Animal Services was immediately dispatched to the scene to care for the injured animal. The dog was transported to a New Braunfels emergency animal clinic where it was treated and released. The dog, believed to be a Pitt bull mix, is currently in the care of Seguin Animal Services and was active and walking Tuesday morning.

"Officers are trained to deal with threats of all natures, whether human or otherwise," Sgt. Springer continued. "This officer felt his safety was in immediate danger and deadly force was necessary to protect himself."

All incidents involving the use of force are thoroughly investigated by the Seguin Police Department. Video of this incident was obtained from a Walmart security camera.

"It's always unfortunate when something like this happens," Springer said. "In this case we have the video that gives a clear indication of what occurred. We feel releasing this video to the public should end any speculation about the facts surrounding the incident."

The third person who was the subject of the call from Walmart was not located.

About the City of Seguin

Seguin, Texas is located along Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational, and employment opportunities. Seguin's robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2009, Seguin was proud to be selected by Caterpillar as the site of a major new engine manufacturing facility.

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