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Chief of Police

# Webster Police Department

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Michael D. Shaw  
Deputy Chief

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*Community Committed*

To: All Media Outlets

From: Deputy Chief Michael Shaw

RE: Search for suicidal male

Date: October 24, 2017

At approximately 2305 hours, the Southern Worcester County Communications Center (SWCCC) received a call from the Putnam, (Ct.) Police Department reporting that a relative of a person whom walked in to their station was going to kill themselves. This relative was a male and believed to be on the Providence and Worcester (P&W) train tracks. It was also reported that he was in possession of a long gun (i.e. rifle).

SWCCC received a second call reporting the male was on "Facebook Live" and was threatening to jump in front of a train. A P&W train operator had actually just reported seeing a male in the area of the tracks between Main and Hill Streets in Webster.

Webster police officers responded and located the male, who would not comply with commands being given by officers. They were joined by officers from Dudley as well. This resulted in a foot chase and the deployment of a TASER electronic control device in an attempt to subdue him, which was not successful.

More information was developed that the male was in possession of a handgun, and would use it on any police officers that tried to take him into custody. After the male ran into a wooded section behind Chase Avenue, a perimeter was set up, and the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council SWAT Team was activated to respond. Residents were evacuated from their homes for their safety at 91 and 91.5 Chase Avenue, as it was believed he

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was in the immediate area and possibly armed and confrontational towards police.

After attempting to speak with him several times with negative results, and utilizing cell phone technology, his location was later determined to be near the Perryville Road Bridge. The male finally was located by the CEMLEC SWAT team and taken into custody after a brief struggle at around 4:30 am. He was transported to Harrington Hospital at the Hubbard campus for a psychological evaluation. No weapon was recovered, or ever seen. The male stated he never had one. This entire incident spanned almost 5 hours, and involved numerous resources from several agencies.

The Webster Police would like to thank the Dudley, Douglas, and Oxford Police Departments, as well as the Massachusetts State Police and CEMLEC SWAT. We are also thankful to those residents who were impacted by this event and cooperated with us by evacuating their residences for a short while.

Given the sensitive nature of this call, and the fact that no criminal charges are going forward, we will not be releasing the male's name, address, or any other identifying information.