

Portland man arrested for trying to tow police car

by Cheryl McDermott

Apparently in retaliation for having earlier received a ticket from a Gresham Police Officer, a Portland man was arrested Thursday when he allegedly tried to tow the marked patrol vehicle of an officer who was investigating a domestic disturbance call.

According to Gresham Police Sgt. Claudio Grandjean, Officers Pohlman and Conroy were dispatched to a report of a domestic disturbance between a man and woman at an apartment complex at 3181 NE 23rd Street about 3:45 a.m., December 13. They each arrived separately, and went to the apartment to investigate.

A third officer who had been assigned to another call, but had since completed the associated duties, then arrived on scene as well, Grandjean said.

When the third officer arrived, Conroy elected to respond to another "hot" call, and noticed upon returning to his vehicle that a tow truck driver had hooked up Officer Pohlman's patrol vehicle to his tow truck and was preparing to drive away.

Conroy ordered the driver, Steven Gerald Syverson, 32, to release the vehicle, which he did after hesitating and mentioning "a ticket he had received courtesy of the Gresham Police" on a previous occasion, Grandjean said.

As Officer Pohlman returned to the parking lot, Syverson allegedly got in his truck, locked his doors, and refused to cooperate. While inside his truck, he called police dispatch to ask for police response, "apparently unsatisfied with the police response he had generated when he decided to tow a marked police vehicle," the sergeant said.

Officers called the manager of the towing company, who arrived and was able to convince the driver to surrender, Grandjean reported.

Syverson was placed into custody and lodged in the Multnomah County Detention Center. He is charged with unlawful use of a vehicle, obstructing governmental administration, interference with a peace officer, and third-degree criminal mischief.

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