

High-speed Grafton chase leads to arrest

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Grafton man charged with trying to incite shootout with officers, fleeing them in Highway 60 pursuit

A 38-year-old man was charged Monday in Ozaukee County Circuit Court with calling authorities to tell them he was armed and would not hesitate to shoot officers if they didn't kill him first, then leading them on a high-speed chase through Grafton.

Christian D. Pressley of Grafton was arrested July 12 after fleeing officers at speeds that reached 80 mph on Highway 60 and nearby streets, according to the criminal complaint.

Pressley is charged with felony counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety and attempting to flee an officer and misdemeanor counts of second-offense drunken driving and disorderly conduct.

Judge Sandy Williams set Pressley's bail at \$25,000 during a hearing Tuesday.

According to the criminal complaint, the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department issued a bulletin late Thursday, July 11, asking officers to locate Pressley, who had indicated he was armed with a Ruger P90 handgun, would shoot any officer that confronted him and wanted to commit "suicide by cop."

The sheriff's department updated the bulletin later that night to report that Pressley had contacted the department several times attempting to incite a confrontation, saying he was an excellent shot and would hurt any officer who did not shoot him on sight, the complaint states.

About three hours later, at 2:37 a.m. Friday, July 12, officers spotted Pressley's car speeding west on Highway 60 (Washington Street) into Grafton. One of the officers followed Pressley, who made a sharp turn on Fifth Avenue, jumping the curb and driving onto the sidewalk before heading west on Washington Street. The officer had to swerve to avoid a head-on collision, according to the complaint.

The officer turned around, activated his emergency lights and siren and followed Pressley, who was driving west on Highway 60 at about 80 mph, the complaint states. The officer eventually discontinued the chase.

Later that morning, officers spotted Pressley's vehicle on Highway O and followed it to the 1600 block of Sixth Avenue, where they arrested Pressley outside of his home.

While speaking with Pressley, officers said they noticed he smelled of alcohol, was slurring his words and had bloodshot eyes. Field sobriety tests indicated he was drunk, according to the complaint.

If convicted of both felonies, Pressley would face a maximum nine years in prison and seven years of extended supervision.