Felony Warrants Arrest

On Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at 5:52 P.M., Monterey PD Detectives and Police Officers were conducting surveillance on Cielo Vista Drive. The purpose of the surveillance was to locate and apprehend Leslie Flores, 58, of Monterey. Flores had fourteen (14) active warrants, four (4) of which were for felony offenses with no bail. Detectives also had information that Flores was in possession of a firearm.

The four (4) felony warrants were for violations of California Penal Code (PC) 245(a)(4) – Assault with force to likely cause great bodily injury, 422(a)PC – Criminal threats, 33215PC – Possession of a short-barreled rifle, 30605(a)PC – Possession of an assault weapon, and a violation of the California Vehicle Code (CVC) 2800.2(a) – Felony evading.

Over the last few months, Flores has evaded Monterey Police officers on three different occasions.

On April 25, 2024, at approximately 2:20 P.M., a Monterey Police Officer recognized Flores in the 300 block of Larkin and attempted to stop his vehicle in order to apprehend him for the outstanding warrants. Flores fled the traffic stop with wanton disregard for the safety of pedestrians and other motorists in the area. Flores was not apprehended.

On June 22, 2024, at approximately 6:26 P.M., a Monterey Police Officer observed Flores in the 100 block of Cielo Vista. Upon seeing the Officer, Flores fled on foot into the Skyline Forest area. Officers attempted to locate Flores but were unsuccessful.

On June 27, 2024, at approximately 4:34 P.M., Monterey Police Detectives recognized Flores in the area of Mar Vista Drive and Porta Vista Drive. They attempted to stop Flores’ vehicle in order to apprehend him for the outstanding warrants. Flores fled the traffic stop with wanton disregard for the safety of pedestrians and other motorists in the area. Flores was not apprehended.
On July 3, 2024, at approximately 6:15 P.M., Monterey Police Detectives confirmed Flores was at the residence they were watching. Monterey Police Detectives set up a perimeter of officers around the residence. Flores became aware of the police officers presence and ran out the back of the residence. A Monterey Police Officer immediately confronted him. Flores ran to the side of the residence, climbed up a tree, and entered his residence through an open window.

The Monterey Police Department requested mutual aid and activated the Monterey Peninsula Regional Special Response Unit (MPRSRU). In addition to the MPRSRU, the Seaside Police and Fire Drone Team, the California Highway Patrol, and Monterey County Sheriff’s Office K-9 units responded. The Monterey Fire Department also responded to assist with road closures and to stage for medical emergency purposes.

Over the next several hours, the MPRSRU used loudspeakers to advise Flores he was under arrest and to exit the residence. The MPRSRU Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) attempted to make contact with Flores using a variety of methods and were unsuccessful.

After several hours of not receiving a response, the MPRSRU breached the front door and the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office Drone team used their indoor drones to help clear the residence. Flores was not located during the cursory search.

The MPRSRU began to methodically clear each room. Officers were aware the house contained a hiding area under the house. Officers searched that area but did not locate Flores. An observant officer saw what appeared to be a fresh handprint on the wall within the hiding area under the house. It appeared that a tunnel had been dug which led into an adjacent room. The entrance to the tunnel was covered and officers could not see what was on the other side.

The MPRSRU used a chainsaw to cut through the floor in the adjacent room. After removing several floorboards, the MPRSRU located Flores hiding in a 6-foot hole under the floorboards.

On July 4, 2024, at approximately 2:15 A.M., Flores was arrested. He was transported to the Monterey County Jail on his outstanding warrants. He was additionally charged with Penal Code 148(a)(1) – Delay, obstruct a peace officer. The incident lasted approximately 8 hours.

The incident involved over 30 personnel from the following agencies: Monterey County Sheriff’s Office, California Highway Patrol, Marina Police Department, Sand City Police Department, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Police Department, Seaside Police Department, Monterey Police Department,
Pacific Grove Police Department, Monterey Fire Department, and Monterey County Behavioral Health Department.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is encouraged to contact Detective Sergeant Greg Galin (831) 646-3872, or to remain anonymous call (831) 646-3840.

CONTACT: Michael Bruno, Assistant Chief of Police
PHONE: 831-646-3965
EMAIL: bruno@monterey.org

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