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## NEWS RELEASE

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Chris Magnus  
Chief of Police

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**Date:** 09/20/2020  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT ARREST OF A TUCSON POLICE OFFICER 205 WEST IRVINGTON ROAD**

On September 17, 2020 at approximately 7:20 p.m., officers from Operations Division South were dispatched to 205 West Irvington Road (Roy Laos Transit Center) for a report of a fight between several individuals. When officers arrived, they were advised by security that the suspects had already left so they left the scene. At approximately 8:20 p.m., officers were dispatched back to the same location and were advised one of the suspects had returned. A security guard pointed out the suspect and told officers he wanted him arrested for trespassing. As officers began to make contact, the adult male suspect laid face down on the ground and put his hands out. After officers put handcuffs on the suspect, he became uncooperative and started to resist. The officers tried rolling the suspect on to his side, but he began yelling, kicking his feet and refused to give officers his name.

Officer William Gallego responded to the scene to assist. Gallego recognized the suspect from a previous contact and called the suspect by his name. The suspect then spit on Gallego's pant leg. For reasons we do not know, Gallego placed his boot on the back of the suspect's head. He then walked to his vehicle to obtain a restraint device. When Gallego returned, he walked past the suspect and struck his head with his shin on two separate occasions. Officers were able to restrain the suspect's legs, but he refused to stand so they carried him to their patrol car. The suspect was then booked into the Pima County Jail on one count of Trespassing and one count of Failure to Identify. The suspect was not injured during the incident.

On September 18, 2020, Gallego's supervisor reviewed the body-worn camera footage as part of a standard review when force has been used by an officer. The sergeant noticed Gallego's actions and notified his chain of command who also reviewed the footage. An internal criminal investigation was then conducted. Based on video evidence, investigators believe Gallego made intentional contact with the suspect's head two different times while he was handcuffed on the ground. Detectives obtained probable cause for an arrest and on September 20, 2020, Gallego was booked into the Pima County Jail on one count of Aggravated Assault (13-1204 A4 – a class 6 felony). Gallego resigned from the Tucson Police Department prior to being booked into jail. Gallego had been with the department for 16 years.

Additional details will be released as they become available.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.



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