



# FORT DODGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 6, 2020**

*Case: FD20-0353 – Vehicle Pursuit and Arrest*

On February 6, 2020, Officers with the Fort Dodge Police Department (FDPD) were dispatched to investigate a call of a suspected stolen motor vehicle, located somewhere on the south side of the City. Officers received information from Sac County that the stolen vehicle was likely being driven by a Matthew James Johnson of Fort Dodge. Our officers located the vehicle in the area of South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Upon visual contact with police, the vehicle immediately took off in an attempt to elude Officers.

The pursuit continued west through the City limits and into the County where additional law enforcement support was requested. FDPD officers along with the Webster County Sheriff's Office and Iowa State Patrol continued the pursuit until reaching just south of Barnum. Though the driver of the vehicle made multiple attempts at avoiding apprehension by trying to strike pursuing officers, at 0854 hours, the driver was taken into custody without incident.

**Matthew James Johnson – 35 years old of Fort Dodge, is charged with the following.**

- Eluding – D Felony
- Assault on a peace officer – D Felony
- Theft 1<sup>st</sup>; Possession of Stolen Property – C Felony
- Driving While Barred (Habitual) – Aggravated Misdemeanor
- Multiple traffic violations

As with all cases, both subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Anyone with information on this incident is encouraged to contact the Fort Dodge Police Department.

**Public Information Officer: Captain Ryan Gruenberg - [rgruenberg@fortdodgeiowa.org](mailto:rgruenberg@fortdodgeiowa.org)**

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Fort Dodge Police Department.

Crime Stoppers can also be contacted anonymously by calling (515) 573-1444 (STOP), online at [www.wccrimestoppers.com](http://www.wccrimestoppers.com) or by texting "LEC" and the tip to CRIMES (274637).