Pursuit Ends in Faribault—

Early Monday morning, one of our officers attempted to stop a vehicle on State Avenue for speeding; the vehicle was traveling at 43 in a 30 zone. As the officer initiated the stop, the target vehicle sped off at a high rate of speed, eventually leading to northbound on I-35. As the officer caught up to the vehicle, he noted the vehicle had an alert on it for the purported driver having two felony warrants and being the suspect in a 2nd Degree Assault. The pursuit lead to the City of Faribault where the vehicle entered the city. Near the intersection of Highway 60 and Lyndale, Faribault officers positioned Stop Sticks in the roadway in an attempt to deflate the fleeing vehicle tires—they were successful, and the vehicle came to a stop. Faribault and Owatonna officers conducted a high-risk traffic stop with the vehicle and the driver was taken into custody. The driver, Branden Hendrickson, age of 21 of Owatonna, was jailed and has been charged with Fleeing in Motor Vehicle, Motor Vehicle Theft and Driving After Revocation. As it turns out, Hendrickson was not the person wanted in the alert, but was operating the vehicle without consent. As a by-product of the successful Stop Stick usage, an Owatonna squad suffered tire damage and restitution for the damages will be sought from Hendrickson.

Death Investigation—

On May 9, 2020 at 9:53 PM, our officers were called to 325 Hoffman Drive for a male passed out on a sidewalk. Our responding officers located a 48-year old male, David Tomaschko, with traumatic injuries and deceased. Investigating officers and detectives determined the male lived at the apartment complex and the investigation indicated the victim had fallen from his apartment window to the sidewalk below where he was discovered. This case remains an active investigation; however, suggests the death appears to be accidental in nature.

OPD Assists the Department of Corrections—

On May 6th, our officers assisted a Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) agent as he conducted a search of a DOC residence that had been the source of complaints of possible illegal drug activity. During the course of the search, pills, controlled substances and drug paraphernalia were located in the room of one of the occupants. While speaking with one of the occupants, he was seen looking at the ceiling above one of our officers. The officer investigated and found a shelf that contained baggies of presumptive controlled substances, including methamphetamine, Fentanyl, cocaine and ecstasy. Both residents of the home, Nathan Prusinski and Nashid Abdul-Zahir were on supervised release and were arrested for a probation violation. Abdul-Zahir has since been charged with one count of 3rd Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and three counts of 5th Degree Possession of Controlled substances—all felonies.