



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UPDATE: Aggravated Kidnapping Investigation Leads to Arrests for  
False Report and Fabrication of Evidence**

New Braunfels, Texas — On January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, the New Braunfels Police Department received two reports of a gun-wielding man entering vehicles. The first incident was reported on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> in the 800 block of West San Antonio Street outside of the McKenna Event Center. A 35-year old man reported to officers that a man entered his vehicle, displayed a firearm, and instructed him to drive. The man further reported that after a brief struggle inside the car, the alleged suspect exited the vehicle along the I-35 frontage road and was last seen on foot running towards Ruele Road. Later that same day, the alleged victim's wife used a closed social media group to post a description of the alleged suspect, prior to any description being released by the police department.

The next day, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, a second incident was reported by a 21-year old female who alleged that a man with a nearly identical description entered her car with a firearm and instructed her to drive to Houston. She went on to tell police that she spent nearly two hours driving around in circles on rural roads near the New Braunfels Airport before stabbing the suspect in the leg and fleeing on foot to a bar in the 4000 block of FM 758 in Guadalupe County.

Initially these reports were taken very seriously by the police department and the community at-large, which spent the next several days in a heightened state of alert. In fact, for several days following these reports NBPD officers responded to numerous calls for suspicious people that possibly matched the description of the alleged suspect. The ongoing investigation included NBPD, the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office, and large-scale searches (by ground and by DPS helicopter). However, in the weeks that followed, NBPD detectives conducted an exhaustive investigation that eventually revealed that these Aggravated Kidnapping reports were false and, when confronted with that evidence, both alleged victims admitted that they had lied to police. To be clear, the New Braunfels Police Department would like to assure the public that there currently is not (nor was there ever) an armed man that was entering vehicles and kidnapping drivers. He simply didn't exist.

Detectives have since secured warrants for the arrest of both alleged victims.

- 35-year old Michael Neumann of New Braunfels was arrested March 1<sup>st</sup> and charged with False Report to a Peace Officer (which is a Class B Misdemeanor under the Texas Penal Code – see links below).
- 21-year old Sabrina Quintero of New Braunfels was arrested March 1<sup>st</sup> and also charged with False Report to a Peace Officer as well as Tampering With or Fabricating Physical Evidence (a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Felony) for allegedly staging evidence to support her claim.

Following their arrests, both were taken to the Comal County Jail where bond for Neumann was set at \$500, while bond for Quintero was set at \$2500.

Unknown to the public, a third kidnapping claim was also reported to police on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. In that case a female driver was involved in a hit and run crash on the Main Plaza, and as a way to avoid those charges she claimed that just prior to the crash an unknown male had entered her vehicle and demanded she keep driving, despite the accident. Officers were quickly able to determine that her story was untrue and 25-year old Rebecca Palmer was arrested that same day and also charged with False Report to a Peace Officer.

The New Braunfels Police Department strongly emphasizes the seriousness of falsely claiming a crime has been committed. These investigations have taken a significant amount of time and manpower and have prevented those detectives from spending more time investigating real cases. We would also like to assure residents that NBPD will always take every police report seriously, but if those reports prove to be false, we also assure the public that our detectives will learn the truth and make arrests accordingly.

NOTES:

Texas Penal Code 37.08: [False Report to a Peace Officer](#)

Texas Penal Code 37.09: [Tampering With or Fabricating Physical Evidence](#)

Photos attached:

Mugshot: Michael Neumann

Mugshot: Sabrina Quintero

Mugshot: Rebecca Palmer

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