

## **PRESS RELEASE**

On September 1, 2009 at approximately 10:00 p.m. Officers responded to Stop and Shop for a disturbance. A male subject was reported to be taunting a male party with racial epithets. The victim was a Hasidic Jew. Responding Officers were provided with a description of a suspect and suspect vehicle and reported that it just left the parking lot. Officer Verhaegen exited the lot and observed the suspect vehicle traveling west on Cranberry Highway just west of Stop and Shop. When Officer Verhaegen activated his blue lights and siren, the vehicle failed to stop and turned onto Glen Charlie Road. Officer Verhaegen observed the passenger, Michael Watkins, 37, 726 Post Road Warwick R.I. throw what appeared to be a rifle out the window. The vehicle then stopped. Officer Verhaegen exited his cruiser and Watkins exited the suspect vehicle and charged toward him yelling and screaming. Officer Verhaegen ordered the suspect to the ground. He refused to comply and was subsequently tased and placed in custody with the assistance of Officers Daniel Henderson, Charles Pillsbury, Michael Smith, Robert McClain, Marc Gaspar, Detective Dennis Damata and Sergeant Douglas Jacinto. The operator, Emily R. Putney 19, 185 North Fitzwilliam Rd, Royalston Mass was also placed in custody.

Officers located a loaded shotgun in the immediate area that Verhaegen saw Watkins throw the item from the vehicle. In addition to the loaded shotgun both suspects were found to be in possession of brass knuckles. Both suspects will be arraigned in Wareham District Court this morning.

Emily Putney is charged with Failing to Stop for a Police Officer, Carrying a Dangerous Weapon and Possession of a large capacity Firearm. Michael Watkins is charged with Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Possessing a Large Capacity Firearm, Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, Carrying a Firearm without a License, Possession of Ammunition without a Firearms Identification Card, a Firearms Violation with two prior violent crimes and a Violation of Civil Rights.