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CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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Today, at 4:40 p.m., one of our officers was sent to the hospital after an exposure to fentanyl during an arrest. It happened at a store on Cleveland Boulevard, when two officers responded to investigate a shoplifting in progress. The officers arrived and detained 22-year-old Marcus Vasquez inside the store. During the arrest, and search of the suspect, one officer located fentanyl, in both pill and powder form. The officer recovered the fentanyl and took possession of the dangerous drug pursuant to department policy as evidence to a crime.

As the officer drove Vasquez to the Canyon County Jail for booking, the officer began to experience dramatic symptoms related to a fentanyl exposure, including the initial stages of losing consciousness. Based on training and experience, the officer immediately stopped his car, radioed for medical attention and self-administered a dose of Narcan, to stop the effects of the drug exposure.

Our officers' quick thinking prevented what could have been a fatal exposure to several people. Other officers and paramedics responded to the scene, and provided first aid to both the officer and the suspect. Both were transported to a local hospital for emergency treatment.

Vasquez was later arrested for charges to include shoplifting and possession of fentanyl. The officer remains hospitalized but is expected to make a full recovery.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S.

Narcan is used in people of all ages if an opioid overdose happens or has possibly happened. Narcan comes as a nasal spray and is classified as an opioid antagonist. Each CPD officer carries Narcan.

"Today, our officer cheated death and had the wherewithal to take immediate action when he stopped his car, requested help and administered Narcan to himself. I would also like to mention that not only did he save his own life, but he saved the suspect's life too by stopping the car when beginning to lose consciousness after overdosing. I am proud of him for his actions and his split second decision making during this life and death situation which saved lives. This drug is literally killing Americans every day and we need to have a call to action. Enough is enough and we need to hold dealers accountable!" said Rex Ingram, Caldwell Chief of Police.

All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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