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9551 Civic Center Drive   Chief Terrence Gordon
Thornton, Colorado 80229

News Release

July 29, 2023
11:30 AM
Public Information Officer J. Walker
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Subject: Auto Theft, Tower Rescue (9800 Block Riverdale Road)

On July 28th, 2023, at approximately 7:00 AM, the Thornton Police Department responded to the 4200 block of E 100th Avenue on the report of a car theft. As police began to investigate, the adult male suspect in the theft returned to the scene in the stolen car. Police attempted to contact the man, now identified as thirty-six-year-old Julian Fernandez, but he quickly ran on foot from the area and out of sight. Additional officers came to the area to help find Julian, and shortly thereafter he was seen jumping a security fence and climbing up a radio tower west of Riverdale Road, in the 9800 block. Police ordered him to stop, but he continued climbing, eventually reaching the top of the three-hundred-and-twenty-foot tower.

The Thornton Police Department's Crisis Negotiation Unit came to the scene and began talking with Julian to try and safely resolve the situation. After over twelve hours, the Thornton Fire Department, with assistance from multiple other agencies, were able to climb the tower and assist Julian in getting down safely. Julian was transported to an area hospital for an evaluation.

This case remains an ongoing and active investigation. There is no further information at this time.

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