



INDIO POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

"Our Community... Our Commitment"

Date and Time of Release: **Sunday, April 17, 2022 / 4:50 P.M.**

Date and Time of Original Release: **Sunday, April 17, 2022 / 1:00 A.M.**

Date and Time of Incident: **Saturday, April 16, 2022 / 10:46 P.M.**

Subject: **UPDATE- Assault Investigation - Ave 48 and Calle Conejo**

Suspect Information: **Michael Anthony Berber, age 32 of Fountain Valley, CA
- Arrested**

Anonymous Information: **Coachella Valley Crime Stoppers 341-STOP (7867)
"See Something Say Something"**

Update: The suspect has been identified as Michael Anthony Berber, age 32, of Fountain Valley, CA. Berber was detained on Saturday, April 16, 2022 at approximately 11:19 P.M. in the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms, without incident, by the California Highway Patrol. The suspect was arrested for Assault with a Deadly weapon on a Police Officer and felony Evading/Reckless Driving, and violation of his probation. Berber was booked into the John Benoit Detention Center in Indio early Sunday morning. See the attached booking photograph below.

Eastbound traffic was restored on Ave 48 between Hjorth Street and Monroe Street shortly after 1:30 A.M. on Sunday morning. The injured Indio Police Officer has been released from the local hospital and is expected to make a full recovery. We would like to thank the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol for their assistance in apprehending the suspect.

Original: At about 10:46 P.M., an Indio Police Officer was responding to reports of a vehicle not following the traffic control direction on Ave 48 in Indio. When trying to detain the suspect on Calle Conejo and Ave 48, the driver fled, striking the Officer. The suspect fled the scene westbound on Ave 48 and then northbound on Jefferson Street while being pursued by Indio Police.

Once the suspect merged onto the westbound I-10 freeway, California Highway Patrol took control of the vehicle pursuit with the assistance of Indio Police. The suspect was stopped at the intersection of Monterrey Ave and Varner Road in the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms. Suspect information is forthcoming.



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The Officer was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and is in stable condition. This is still an ongoing investigation and festival traffic is delayed eastbound on Ave 48 between Hjorth Street and Monroe Street until approximately 3:00 A.M. If anyone has any further information regarding this case, please contact Indio Police at (760) 391- 4051 or call anonymous information through Valley Crime Stoppers at (760) 341- STOP(7867).

For more information, contact: Indio Police PIO – (760) 541-4500



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