

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE
2016-0212

HONOR ◆ COURAGE ◆ INTEGRITY



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Officer
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Burglary / Arson - Austin Elementary School

At approximately 11:40pm on Sunday, September 11, 2016, Uniformed Harlingen Police Officers responded to Austin Elementary School located on the 700 block of E. Austin Street in reference to an alarm activation. Responding Officers and HCISD Security personnel discovered that forced entry had been made into the building through the glass doors on the West side of the Building. As Officers approached, a male subject exited the building holding a hammer. The male subject then fled southbound on foot, pursued by Officers. The male subject was caught minutes later approximately two blocks from the school. The male subject was taken into custody and transported to the City Jail for processing. Further Investigation revealed that entry had been gained by breaking out the glass doors using a wooden barricade. Once inside the building, the subject caused thousands of dollars in damage to vending machines and other school property and set a fire in the Teacher's lounge area. The Harlingen Fire Department responded and quickly extinguished the fire which caused minimal damage. Crime Scene Technicians processed the scene. The adult male suspect is currently incarcerated pending arraignment on the following charges; Burglary to a Building, Arson, Criminal Mischief, and Evading Arrest.



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