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News Release

Arkansas City man in custody after armed standoff on Friday

Shots fired at onset of incident; police investigating possible criminal charges

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (December 21, 2018) — The Arkansas City Police Department took an Arkansas City man into custody Friday after an armed standoff developed west of Riverview Cemetery.

Jason Allen Vanderveen, 45, was taken into custody after the standoff, which lasted for several hours as South Central Kansas SWAT moved into position to secure the area and resolve the situation.

Vanderveen has not been arrested, but a police investigation is ongoing that could result in criminal charges. He remained in custody at the time of this release, awaiting a mental health evaluation.

Officers received a report Friday morning that Vanderveen had begun having hallucinations and had become increasingly agitated through the morning. He reportedly had fired a handgun once or twice.

Police responding to 2010 W. Kansas Ave. spotted Vanderveen outside, but he retreated back into his residence. They set about cordoning off the immediate area and evacuating neighboring residents.

The City of Arkansas City's Parks and Facilities Division shop, located directly to the east, also was evacuated and its employees were relocated to the City's cemetery shop, located at 1502 N. 15th St.

Riverview Cemetery was cordoned off during this situation and used as a SWAT staging area.

The area of evacuation was west of 15th Street and east of 23rd Street, to the north of Kansas Avenue and south of Ash Avenue. Police and City workers set up barricades at all four intersections.

No one was injured during the standoff and Vanderveen was taken into custody without incident.

The Arkansas City Police Department was assisted by the Kansas Highway Patrol, South Central Kansas SWAT, Cowley County and Sumner County sheriff's offices, and Burden and Winfield police.

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For immediate release