



News Release

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Date: July 31, 2022

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<p>CAUTION: THIS INFORMATION IS NOT ENTIRELY INCLUSIVE OF RECENT EVENTS OR ARRESTS. USE OF THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE AT YOUR DISCRETION. SOME NAMES, DETAILS AND ADDRESSES MAY NOT BE ACCURATE AT THE TIME OF THIS RELEASE.</p>

Hatchet-Wielding Man Arrested Following Road Rage Incident

On July 30, 2022 at approximately 12:03pm, Wallingford Police officers responded to the Redwood Flea Market (170 South Turnpike Road) for a fight in the roadway. While responding, officers learned the male suspect was swinging a hatchet at other people. Ultimately, police arrested 33-year-old Charles P. Smith of 717 Second Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516 and charged him with numerous crimes.

The first responding officer encountered Smith standing in the roadway, attempting to confront a victim with a hatchet in hand. The officer immediately ordered Smith to drop the hatchet and to get on the ground. Smith dropped the hatchet but refused to listen to other commands. The officer then placed Smith into handcuffs without incident. Through the investigation, officers found that Smith was initially backing into the roadway on South Turnpike Road into oncoming traffic. A motorist beeped their horn at Smith as he was backing which caused him to become irate. Smith then drove his car around the victim's car, slammed on the brakes, exited his car, ran towards the victim and pulled the victim out of his car leading to a physical altercation. The victim was able to gain control of Smith to stop the fight. Smith then went into the trunk of his car and retrieved a hatchet and started to swing it at the victim. A secondary victim tried to disarm Smith, but could not and Smith started to swing the hatchet at the secondary victim. Smith then drove off at a high rate of speed only to return to try and re-engage with the victims. At this time, responding officers arrived and were able to arrest Smith.

The Wallingford Police Department would like to urge citizens to use caution when navigating the roadways and to try to avoid any altercation at all costs. If you see someone committing multiple traffic violations, or trying to engage you or others in a road rage incident, it's safer to call police and to let us handle it rather than trying to handle the situation on your own.

See next page for booking details



Charles Smith

Age: 33 years

Address: 717 Second Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516

Charges: 53a-61- Assault 3rd Degree, 53a-181- Breach of Peace 2nd Degree (2 Counts), 53a-63- Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree (2 Counts), and 29-38- Illegal Possession of a Weapon in a Motor Vehicle.

Bond: \$2,500

Court Date: 9-09-22 at Meriden Superior Court

WPD Case number: 22-20723