## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## Man Arrested For Hate Crime, Menacing Delivery Driver

December 20, 2020

On Sunday, December 20, 2020, just before 1 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a report of a man who had threatened a FedEx delivery driver with a gun.

The FexEx driver was delivering packages near SW Cascadia Ct. and SW 188<sup>th</sup> Av. in Aloha when a man came out of his house and stood in the street, blocking the FedEx truck. Deputies identified the suspect as 68-year-old Rodney Bryant of Aloha.

The investigation showed Mr. Bryant stood in the street and made racial slurs toward the FedEx driver, who identifies as a Black man. The FedEx driver was able to drive off but Mr. Bryant got in his car and pulled along side the truck, with his car door open. The FedEx driver could see Mr. Bryant had a gun in the car. Mr. Bryant continued to make racial slurs and then said he was "not afraid to use it."

The FedEx driver was able to get away and then called 911. Deputies arrested Mr. Bryant and recovered a pellet gun, which had no orange tip and was indistinguishable from a real gun. Mr. Bryant was lodged at the Washington County Jail on charges of bias crime in the first degree, unlawful use of a weapon, and menacing. His bail was set at \$10,000.

Oregon law states a person commits Bias Crime, a felony, if a person intentionally, because of the person's perception of another person's race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin, places another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury.



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