



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory Armed Robberies Arrest

The Wichita Police Department (WPD) arrested 38-year-old Willie Smith of Wichita on Tuesday in connection with three recent armed robberies.

As a result of the investigation of armed robberies reported at QuikTrip, 1532 S. Seneca, Pete's Liquor, 322 W. Harry and Express Mart, 565 S. Market, Smith was identified as a suspect.

On Tuesday, the WPD Violent Crimes Task Force began attempting to locate Smith. He was eventually located inside a residence in the 800 block of south Topeka at approximately 4:30 p.m. and eventually exited the home.

The WPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and SWAT negotiators were activated to assist with the investigation. Utilizing time and distance, the WPD SWAT negotiators were able to communicate with Smith. SWAT negotiators utilized verbal de-escalation techniques to have Smith exit the home after approximately three hours and he was taken into custody without incident. Smith was booked into jail for three counts of aggravated robbery.

Smith has an arrest history of aggravated escape from custody, robbery, theft and flee and elude police. Smith had been released from prison on Monday Oct. 8.

The investigations are ongoing and will be presented to the US Attorney's Office.

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