

# AROUND TOWN

During the week of 5/12/24 to 05/18/24, the Hermantown PD had 174 calls.  
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

## Traffic Pursuit

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at just prior to 0043 hours, officers near the Haines Road observed a vehicle that the front license plate appeared to be damaged or crumpled, making it difficult to read what the plate number was.

As officers began trying to catch up to the vehicle, it turned west onto Market Street. The vehicle then immediately turned into the parking lot of Dairy Queen off of Market Street without using any form of turn signal. The vehicle then turned onto Frontier Way, again without using any turn signal, to head towards Haines Road. The suspect vehicle did not yield to emergency lights and it began increasing speeds driving south on Miller Trunk Hwy.

As the vehicles approached the intersection of Mall Drive, the suspect vehicle angled to the south, but suddenly slammed on its brakes and turned north. Officers attempted to pit the vehicle, and caught the rear end of the vehicle.

The vehicle, as it approached the Haines Road intersection, braked again and drove through the grass median to go south on Haines Road in the wrong lane of traffic. Luckily there were no other vehicles on the roadway at that time, and the vehicle immediately corrected into the right lane of traffic as they passed the median divider. The vehicle turned westbound on Market Street, and officers attempted to position the squad for a PIT again. The vehicle braked hard, causing the squad to run alongside the driver side of the suspect vehicle

The suspect vehicle then turned into the Holiday Inn parking lot, where it accelerated towards the front entrance of the Holiday Inn and eventually towards the back-parking lot of the Econo Lodge. The vehicle then collided with a grass divider in the back lot of the Econo Lodge, coming to a stop. Officers made intentional contact at a low speed with the squad to the back of the suspect vehicle to prevent it from fleeing again. The 23-year-old man was seen crawling over to the passenger side door to open it. The suspect then began fleeing on foot towards the backside of the Econo Lodge.

The suspect ran into the back door of the Econo Lodge. As the suspect ran through a second pair of doors, he forcefully pulled the door shut on officers. The officer observed the suspect throw a knife onto the ground in front of the front desk. The suspect ran out the front door and into the grass, where he began to suddenly drop to his knees and raise his hands.

The man was told he was under arrest at this time. He also advised that he had warrants for his arrest. He was also observed as revoked in the state of Minnesota. The officer had the man sit in an assisting officers' squad.

There, the man had withdrawn a container of methamphetamine and spilled it in the rear of the officer's squad.



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Jim Crace

### Commanders

Mark Gunderson  
Jon Esterbrooks

### Sergeants

Griffin Pfeiffer - K9  
Jon Pernu - K9

### Detective Bureau

Jeff Dwyer  
Jake Williams

### Officers

Jason Salo  
Jon Enright  
Erika Johnson - SRO  
Olivia Gottschald  
Andrew Leibel  
Alex Prouse  
Rebecca Towner  
Devin Kleive  
Lucas Hedin

### Clerical

Dana Ross  
Samantha Knapp  
Ashley Johnson

### K-9

Tuuko  
Jack



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Furthermore, 911 dispatch advised that the vehicle had just been called in as reported stolen in the city of Duluth.

The man was lodged on his warrant, fleeing in a motor vehicle and on foot, 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Possession, DAR, Speeding, and failure to signal a turn. Regarding the possession charge, officers learned the man had numerous felony-level convictions for controlled substance crimes in the past several years.

## Suspicious Person

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 1656 hours, officers received call that a suspicious male was seen walking eastbound on Hermantown Road. Officers contacted the 33-year-old male who explained that he was homeless and got lost the previous day trying to walk to Alexandria where he has family. The man admitted to knocking on some doors yesterday trying to see if someone would let him use their phone to call for a ride. The man indicated he understood why he may have spooked some residents in the area.

The man admitted to sleeping in the woods off Hermantown Road last night and was now trying to walk back to Duluth. Officers provided the man with a courtesy ride to CHUM.

## Traffic Stop

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 around 0037 hours, officers observed a vehicle driving with an inoperable plate light, making the plate completely dark from the rear.

The driver, a 40-year-old woman, advised that she did not have a valid license, and the passenger stated he did not have one either.

The officer learned the woman was revoked in MN, and she had an active misdemeanor warrant for DWI and DAR. The woman was then advised that she was under arrest. The passenger stated he had a valid driver coming to get the vehicle.

## Shoplifting

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at approximately 2249 hours, officers were dispatched to Walmart for the report of shoplifting. The reporting party stated that the female shoplifter was cooperative and waiting on scene for officers.

Officers arrived on scene and spoke to the 21-year-old suspect. She told officers that she did not have a form of identification. Employees stated they witnessed the woman fill a tote in her cart with items. At checkout, she was observed scanning items, but did not scan the tote or any of the items inside the tote. She also forgot to scan an item placed under the shopping cart.

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Officers then spoke to the woman, who explained she used the tote to collect items as the cart was becoming cluttered with all of the merchandise that she selected. She approached the checkout counter and scanned the items that were outside of the tote, but admitted that she forgot about the items in the tote because she was distracted by the response of her taxi. She also stated that there were other transactions occurring around her that she may have mistakenly heard the sound of and believed it was her scanner.

The woman was issued a citation for shoplifting and was trespassed from all Walmart and Sam's Clubs for one year. The stolen merchandise totaled \$213.74.

