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Dog attacks mailman in Union Beach

by CHRISTOPHER BLASZCZYK

Posted: 2006-12-07

On an unseasonably warm last day of November, a mailman's regular routine in Union Beach was brought to a halt by an attack by an unruly dog.

According to police, as mail carrier Harry Aumack was delivering mail door-to-door on the 1000 block of Shore Road, he was attacked by a resident's three-year-old boxer.

As homeowner Magdalena Tio, who owns the dog with her husband, Geoffrey, answered the door, the dog ran between her legs and attacked Aumack, Union Beach Police Captain Peter Weinrich said.

According to Weinrich, Tio attempted to wrestle the dog off of Aumack, and received bruises and contusions in the process. Aumack retreated to his truck and with the help of three nearby construction workers, was able to get free of the dog, police said.

Weinrich, Corporal Dan Royle and Officer Lisa Griffin were the first police officers at the scene, and Union Beach First Aid responded to transport Aumack to the hospital. Union Beach Fire Company sent one truck out and the Postmaster of Keyport, who is also responsible for Union Beach, came out to decontaminate the postal truck.

Aumack went to the hospital with several lacerations on his hand, Weinrich said. Weinrich described the scene of the attack as "severe in nature."

According to police, the Humane Society responded to the incident and took custody of the dog. The Union Beach police issued a summons to the owners for failure to register the dog and said the Humane Society would handle other summons dealing with the attacks.

Weinrich said the department had previous incidents with the dog, including the dog running loose and barking complaints. The boxer had also bit a juvenile in May 2005.

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The Keyport Postmaster, Paul Baullagana, stated no mail had been damaged in the incident and was all delivered, so the Tios will not be charged with a federal offense. Baullagana also reported the mail carrier was out of the hospital and back at home, but would be out of work for a while.

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