



POLICE DEPARTMENT

**CITY of THE DALLES**

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## Press Release—Updated April 17, 2019

The driver involved in a vehicle pursuit with The Dalles Police Department on April 15, 2019 is identified as Jessica Widner (32 years old). Officers terminated the pursuit just outside Rowena as it was determined the speeds were not safe for the driver, the Officers, and the public.

In-car video confirms that Officers had discontinued the pursuit but unfortunately, Widner's vehicle was involved in a single vehicle crash about one mile west on Hwy 30 after the pursuit was terminated. Winder was critically injured and was transported to a Portland area hospital by Life Flight.

Police Reports of this vehicle pursuit and resulting crash have been forwarded to the Wasco District Attorney's office for review.

Vehicle pursuits expose innocent citizens, law enforcement officers, and fleeing violators to the risk of serious injury or death. Deciding to continue a pursuit is a critical decision that must be made under difficult and unpredictable circumstances.

Pursuits are discontinued whenever the totality of objective circumstances known to the Officer and his/her supervisor indicate that the risks of continuing the pursuit reasonably appear to outweigh the risks resulting from the suspect's escape.