



**Date:** February 22, 2014

**Case:** #14-574

**Location:** Wilson Street and Sunset Avenue

**Reference:** Stolen Vehicle Pursuit

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On February 22, 2014, at about 4:40 pm, a Banning Police Officer in the area of Wilson Street and Sunset Avenue received a Lo-Jack notification regarding a recently stolen vehicle. Additional Officers arrived in the area and the vehicle was observed driving eastbound on Wilson Street, toward Sunset Avenue. A traffic enforcement stop was initiated; however, the driver (Michael Allen Leonard, a parolee and gang member) failed to yield and a pursuit was initiated. Leonard attempted to elude Officers by running stop signs and a red light; however, Officers remained behind him. While driving westbound on Ramsey street, Leonard attempted to turn north on Omar Street at a high rate of speed. He lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a large tree. Leonard then fled on foot; however, Officers continued to give chase and he was apprehended a short distance away. Leonard was taken to a local hospital where he was treated for minor injuries sustained when he crashed the stolen vehicle.

Leonard was later booked into the Larry Smith Correctional Facility, in Banning, for felony charges of vehicle theft, reckless evading a peace officer, and a violation of his Post Release Community Supervision.



**Michael Allen Leonard, age 30, San Jacinto resident.**

For inquiries contact the Watch Commander, (951) 922-3170