



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

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## News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### **Deputy's Quick Response Leads to Arrest of Pueblo West Man**

**Pueblo, CO:** The quick response and keen awareness by a Pueblo County Sheriff's deputy to a theft from auto call early this morning in Pueblo West led to the arrest of a 24-year-old man, who was later found to have methamphetamine in his possession.

The deputy was responding to a call at about 12:20 a.m. after a witness reported seeing someone in a white truck stealing items from a vehicle parked in the 0-100 block of E. Birch Hill Drive. While enroute to the call, the deputy saw a truck matching the description of the suspect vehicle traveling north on Byrd Drive. The deputy noticed the truck, a 2001 GMC Sonoma, did not have license plates and initiated a traffic stop. The driver stopped but then attempted to get out of the vehicle. The deputy gave verbal commands for the man, identified as Michael Marquez de McFarland, 24, to remain in the vehicle. The deputy was able to detain Marquez de McFarland and learned that he had an outstanding warrant. He was taken into custody without incident.

While standing near the truck, the deputy noticed there were several items in the bed of the truck, including tools that matched the description of items taken from the vehicle on Birch Hill Drive. The truck was seized and deputies are seeking a warrant to search the vehicle. Marquez de McFarland did not have proof of ownership for the truck.

While Marquez de McFarland was being booked into the Pueblo County Jail, the deputy found a plastic baggie with an unknown substance on the seat of her patrol vehicle where Marquez de McFarland had been sitting. The substance later tested positive for methamphetamine. While being processed into jail, an intake deputy noticed Marquez de McFarland had something in his mouth. Marquez de McFarland quickly swallowed the item, which he later said was a baggie similar to what was found in the patrol vehicle.

Marquez de McFarland was transported to a local hospital for a medical clearance and was later booked into the Pueblo County Jail for tampering with physical evidence, unlawful possession of a controlled substance and several traffic offenses. Other charges could be forthcoming pending the outcome of the search of the vehicle.

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