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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE K-9 ATTACKED BY AGGRESSIVE PIT BULL

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. (9/23/2013) – At approximately 11:33 a.m. this date, Temple Terrace police officers, along with a Temple Terrace police K-9, responded to 8704 Morrison Oaks Court to serve an arrest warrant on twenty year old Aaron M. Bell for the illegal sale of cocaine.

When officers arrived on scene Bell exited his residence and was instructed to lie on the ground. As officers approached Bell to place him under arrest, a pit bull terrier ran from the backyard of the residence and charged toward the officers. The pit bull immediately lunged at and attacked the police K-9, which at the time was being held on leash by the K-9 handler. The pit bull bit the police K-9 near the mouth and locked onto the K-9's lower jaw. The handler attempted to free the K-9 from the pit bull but was unsuccessful. Fearing for the wellbeing of the police K-9, the handler drew his handgun and fired two shots at the attacking pit bull. Both shots struck the pit bull; one hitting the left-front leg and the other hitting the left side of the pit bull's body.

Immediately following the incident, the police K-9 was transported to a local veterinarian and treated for lacerations to the mouth and jaw. The police K-9 was subsequently released to the handler and is expected to recover. The pit bull was also transported to a local veterinarian by members of Bell's family and treated for two superficial gunshot wounds. The pit bull is also expected to recover.

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