

Harrowing crash leaves two homeless, one injured

August 14, 2023



Mike Noon and John Brannon WERE residents of 840 L St, all-too close to US Highway 101, in Crescent City. Mike resided in unit four and John lived in unit three.

The past tense of both residences is indicated after an alleged stolen Porsche driven by Jacob Ogden, 22, led authorities on a wild chase which began in Bandon, Oregon and ended just after 11PM, Thursday, July 27 in a horrific crash at 840 L St. Uninjured Ogden was arrested and booked on several felony charges. The suspect claimed he was homeless.

Miraculously, no one was killed. Per new California bail guidelines, and under the strong objection of the district attorney, Judge Robert Cochran released Ogden on his own recognizance.

“ We thought a bomb exploded when the vehicle struck our homes” said Noon and Brannon. “ We’re both lucky to be alive.”

73-year old Brannon is in poor health but did not incur any injuries as a result of the collision. He is suffering from serious financial loss, with no place to live, through no fault of his own. Brannon is paying his own motel expenses out of his meager Social Security benefits. He needs help. A call to Interim Housing at the Dept. of Human Resources was not returned by press time. Brannon is meeting with out-of-area family to discuss his limited options. His daughter Amber has set up a Go Fund Me account, Help Needed for Displaced Dad, O1665f1d and expressed his appreciation for any financial assistance.

Mike Noon, the resident in unit four is also homeless, living in the same motel but his costs are covered by Section 8 vouchers. Noon has resided in this immediate area for almost 14 years and has observed numerous close calls and vehicle mishaps, drivers losing control and pummeling onto the vacant lot and damaging their vehicles.

A third individual, the neighbor, requesting anonymity, suffered major lower back injuries as a result of the Porsche careening into his garage. The neighbor is recovering.

Property owner Paul Maguire has also been impacted. This past February, an alleged DUI driver lost control of his vehicle and crashed into Maguire's residential property located next to 840 L, completely destroying that building.

Maguire bemoaned,

"...Two crashes in six months is staggering. I have to consider the option of rebuilding or not. It's a dangerous corner and may not be suitable to rebuild unless there is some kind of barrier on 101 South at 9th." The buildings have been red tagged by the city, as Maguire ponders his options. Maguire has owned the buildings for just 18 months. "I'm going to speak with the city and request its assistance in speaking with Cal Trans, which maintains the 101 to see if a barrier at 9th and 101 can be studied and considered. The corner is dangerous.

Meanwhile, Ogden, free on his own recognizance, awaits his preliminary hearing.