The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) has identified the suspect wounded in a shootout with Deputies in the Town of Guadalupe Wednesday as 36-year old Jason Sanchez-Vasquez. Sanchez-Vasquez is being treated at the Maricopa County Medical Center and remains in critical condition. Sanchez-Vasquez shot from a stolen vehicle he had carjacked at gunpoint, as it raced through the streets of Guadalupe. It was the second vehicle he’s believed to have stolen after an altercation with another person.

MCSO had responded to multiple 911 calls of shots fired in the vicinity of South Avenida del Yaqui and East Calle San Angelo when the encounters occurred. Deputies were on scene within two minutes of getting the calls at around noon. They confronted Sanchez-Vasquez who fled the scene of the first carjacking while shooting at deputies. He then carjacked a second vehicle and continued his escape. The ensuing chase covered several streets in Guadalupe. The threat to public safety from the speeding suspect vehicle and the suspect’s gunfire resulted in lockdowns of a school and daycare center.

Sanchez-Vasquez was fleeing a pursuit unit when a second marked MCSO vehicle entered the scene at an intersection. Sanchez-Vasquez rammed the stolen car into the MCSO unit, and despite commands by Deputies to surrender, continued to shoot his compact semi-automatic handgun. Deputies returned fire wounding Sanchez-Vasquez and then rendered aid until EMT’s transported him to Maricopa Medical Center.

The suspect has prior violent felony convictions including weapons charges and has served time in the Arizona Department of Corrections.

The Deputies involved were not injured. The case is being reviewed by the Professional Standards Bureau of MCSO, which is standard procedure anytime a weapon is fired. The Deputies are on paid administrative leave and are not being publicly identified at this time.
MCSO thanks the City of Tempe Police, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the Town of Guadalupe Fire Department for their assistance.

MCSO is releasing no additional information at this time. MCSO is not making Sheriff Penzone or Homicide Detectives available for interviews.