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Salazar: Bexar County jail inmate who tried to escape found in a closet wearing a deputy uniform

Megan Rodriguez, Staff writer

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Aaron Allen Voyce, 22, has been at the Bexar County jail for about six weeks on animal cruelty charges for allegedly beating his family's dog to death with a baseball bat and on an aggravated assault charge.

Via Bexar County Sheriff's Office

Bexar County Sheriff's Office deputies thwarted what was likely an escape attempt by a jail inmate on Thursday, Sheriff Javier Salazar said.

Salazar said Aaron Allen Voyce, 22, has been at the jail for about six weeks on animal cruelty charges for allegedly beating his family's dog to death with a baseball bat and on an aggravated assault charge.

Voyce was supposed to be on the seventh floor of the jail for a Zoom court hearing; but when he didn't report, officials began to search for him about 2 p.m. Around that same time, Salazar said a fire alarm was pulled on the fifth floor, and officials responded to that. Someone saw a pair of sandals worn by inmates in a vacant office and then found Voyce in a fifth-floor closet that held air-conditioning duct work.

When found, Voyce was wearing most of a BCSO deputy uniform that Salazar said he likely grabbed from a desk drawer. Salazar said Voyce was wearing uniform pants and a uniform shirt that was missing patches, a badge and name tag. He was barefoot.

Salazar said that only a few minutes passed between Voyce not showing up at his hearing and when he was found in the closet. He added that Voyce was nowhere close to actually escaping.

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Salazar said Voyce was taken into custody "without a fight," but that he was "talking

gibberish" and "wasn't making sense." Salazar said that, along with the charges he is in for, indicate mental health issues.

Though it seems that Voyce was trying to escape, Salazar said officials are investigating to see if that was the case and deciding whether Voyce will be charged for an attempted escape.

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"I don't know that he even understands what he did to get here; I don't know that he understands what he did today," Salazar said. "And is adding a charge going to help the situation at all anyway? Or is it just going to be prolonging a stay in a jail for somebody that shouldn't be here in the first place?"

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Salazar said Voyce likely set off the fire alarm by mistake.

Once Voyce was found, Salazar said headcounts were taken of deputies and inmates. At this point, Salazar said he doesn't believe that anybody was involved or that there was any foul play on the part of personnel, but said officials will "continue to look at that."

"Clearly, we need to handle this inmate more carefully," Salazar said when asked if the inmate would now require more security given the escape attempt.

Salazar said officials are in the process of reviewing video to see exactly what Voyce did.

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Megan Rodriguez covers Alamo Heights, Olmos Park and Terrell Hills for the Express-News.

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