



PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange Street • Riverside, CA 92501
Phone (951) 826-5147 • Fax (951) 826-2593

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, November 5, 2007
Contact: Steven Frasher, Press Information Officer
Phone: (951) 826-5147

Loss prevention officer arrested for false report of criminal offense

Riverside, CA -- On Sunday, November 4, 2007, just before 7 p.m., a loss prevention officer employed with Wal-Mart called 911 to report having observed two male adults armed with handguns enter the Wal-Mart store located at 5200 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside. The RPD-dispatched call for service regarding "subjects with guns" involved a response that included nine police officers, two supervisors, the Watch Commander and Air Support. The Wal-Mart store was evacuated of all customers and employees before an extensive search was conducted. The armed subjects described by the loss prevention officer were not located.

RPD initiated an investigation as to the veracity of the loss prevention officer. The following day, November 5, RPD Officers met with the loss prevention officer and reviewed the surveillance footage from the previous day. According to the loss prevention officer, the footage would allegedly depict the suspects removing the firearms from their waistbands at several different times while inside the store. A thorough review of the footage did not reveal the events as described.

The loss prevention officer later admitted to fabricating the entire story and intentionally falsely reporting the incident to the 911 operator. The loss prevention officer, identified as Samuel Johnson, 33, of Riverside, was arrested under Section 148.5 (b) of the California Penal Code for "False report of a criminal offense."

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