



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
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Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PURSUIT LEADS TO ARREST FOR SHOOTING AND OTHER CRIMES

Riverside, CA – A press release was distributed on January 19, 2017, for the arrest of Juan Duran for an attempted burglary of the Big 5 sporting goods store at 10251 Magnolia Avenue following a vehicle and foot pursuit. Detectives later connected Duran to a commercial burglary and arson to J&R Pharmacy at 8151 Arlington Avenue which occurred on January 10, 2017.

On Tuesday, January 24, 2017, the PAC Team (Post-Release Accountability Compliance Team) conducted a parole search of an apartment belonging to 25-year-old Ruben Mendez in the 8600 block of Arlington Avenue. The team located several items that were taken during the burglary of the pharmacy. They also found two firearms, ammunition, and several other items that were suspected to be stolen property. Detectives also searched a residence in the 6800 block of Butte Drive where they located additional property stolen during the burglary of the pharmacy. The PAC Team and RPD Detectives were unable to locate Mendez but were aware he had a felony warrant for auto theft and parole violation.



On Sunday, January 29, 2017, RPD patrol officers stopped a vehicle with stolen license plates near Rutland and Philbin. At the same, patrol officers attempted to stop another stolen vehicle following it, the vehicle did not stop, and it turned into a high-speed pursuit throughout city streets which concluded with patrol officers using the PIT (Pursuit Intervention Technique) to stop the vehicle. The driver, Ruben Mendez, fled on foot toward the river bottom area but was arrested. Officers found an assault rifle in this stolen vehicle.

Around this same time, RPD officers responded to a 'shots fired' call at a residence in the 4200 block of Pine Street. No one was injured but Detectives noted a bullet strike to the residence and recovered an assault rifle casing at the scene. Detectives believe the assault weapon found in Mendez's stolen vehicle was used in the shooting at this residence.

Detectives interviewed the people detained and Ruben Mendez was later booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for attempted murder, possession of an assault weapon, felony evading the police, burglary, arson and other felony charges. The driver of the vehicle with stolen license plates, 27-year-old Raymond Araujo, was booked for attempted murder, possession of stolen property, probation violation, and other charges.

Persons with information on this case can contact Detective Andy Cook at (951) 353 – 7953 or acook@riversideca.gov or Detective Aurelio Melendrez at (951) 353 – 7119 or amelendrez@riversideca.gov. Persons wishing to remain anonymous can email RPDTips@RiversideCA.gov or call 1-800-78-Crime.



RUBEN MENDEZ



RICHARD ARAUJO