



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARMED ROBBERY SUSPECTS PURSUED AND APPREHENDED BY OFFICERS

RIVERSIDE, CA – On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at about 8:26 p.m., a witness called into the Riverside Police and Fire Dispatch Center after seeing subjects holding employees and customers at gunpoint on the floor inside a nail salon in the 3600 block of Sunnyside Drive in Riverside. Four suspects were seen fleeing out the back door of the business and leaving in a newer black Dodge Challenger onto Central Avenue. As Riverside Police Officers responded to the area, a Patrol Officer observed the suspect vehicle traveling eastbound on Central Avenue approaching the 91 freeway. The suspect vehicle entered the westbound lanes of the 91 freeway and immediately accelerated away from the pursuing officer and traveling at speeds in excess of 135 + mph. Officers attempted to maintain a visual on the speeding suspect vehicle until the Air Support Unit could arrive, and while other officers positioned themselves along the freeway.

Quickly, the suspect vehicle was found stopped to the side of the freeway just west of the Adams Street on-ramp to the 91 freeway. It appears the suspect vehicle had become involved in a non-injury traffic collision with a motorist on the freeway. The first arriving officers observed three occupants exit the suspect vehicle, fleeing on foot by running up the embankment, jumping a fence and splitting up. The suspect vehicle



remained parked on the freeway and was found by officers to still be occupied by two additional female occupants. They were safely taken into custody.

Officers from the METRO Team (SWAT), West Post Accountability & Compliance Team (PACT), Air Support Unit, K-9 Team, Traffic Unit, and Patrol responded the area of Diana Avenue near the newly constructed arena at California Baptist University (CBU) where the subjects were last seen. As a perimeter around the immediate area was established, construction workers and officers began to address reported sightings of the three subjects behind the adjacent business, in the construction site and on the CBU campus property. Search teams were formed and within thirty minutes, all three subjects were safely taken into custody at different times and at different locations.

Preliminary investigation determined three employees and two customers were in the salon when three male suspects and one female suspect, all described being armed with handguns and one armed with an AR style rifle, entered the business. Both a male and a female employee were "pistol whipped" by a suspect as they took personal property from the victims including purses, cell phones, and cash. The male and female victims who were struck were later taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Four of the five suspects are juveniles and one is an adult female. All were arrested and taken to a local hospital for medical clearance. The juveniles are expected to be booked into the Riverside County Juvenile Hall for armed robbery. The adult female is expected to be booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for armed robbery. Officers are still currently searching areas along the pursuit route for other possible evidence.

While searching for the suspects at California Baptist University, Campus Security worked in coordination with Officers to place the school on a temporary lockdown and make emergency notifications to students and staff. After about thirty minutes when the suspects were apprehended, the lockdown was lifted.

Anyone with information about this investigation should contact Detective Rick Cobb at (951) 353-7135.