



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
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Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2018

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WHEREABOUTS OF ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECT STILL BEING SOUGHT

Riverside, CA – 14 years ago on August 23, 2004, the Riverside Police Department investigated a domestic violence related attempted murder that occurred that evening in the 2700 block of Iris Street, located in the Eastside neighborhood of Riverside. The suspect, Leopoldo Martinez Garcia, severely battered and strangled his then 24-year-old girlfriend unconscious and also battered and strangled her one-year-old and four-year-old children. The suspect refused to allow the victim to leave or call for medical aid for her or the children. While holding up a shotgun, Garcia threatened to kill the victim and one of the kids, but also put the second child inside the dryer appliance. Fortunately, the victims were able to escape the following day and call police. The suspect was never contacted or located, and it was believed he changed his identity and fled the country.



Leopaldo Martinez Garcia is currently 39-years-old and previously went by the moniker of "Polo." He was an admitted Eastside Riva gang member with a prior history of assault using a firearm and parole violations. Back in 2004, he was described as a Hispanic male adult, 5'7" tall and 170 pounds, light brown hair that could appear red, light brown eyes, protruding ears, with a medium complexion. He also had pierced ears, was very bow legged, and had several distinct tattoos as depicted in the

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attached photos.

Detective Dennis Dodson, who was the original assigned investigator, stated "the circumstances surrounding this case and what the victim and her young children suffered at the time was very traumatic. But there's a trauma that still exists because Mr. Garcia has not been held accountable for his actions that day 14 years ago. This case just always remains in the back of my mind in hopes the suspect will be found and finally brought to justice."

The Riverside Police Department has several officers and a sergeant assigned to the METRO/SWAT Team that have been deputized as U.S. Marshals. Their primary mission is to provide service to the City of Riverside, but also to give assistance to the U.S. Marshals. The close working relationship between both agencies enhances their criminal investigative abilities and allows for the apprehension of suspects who have fled the city, county or state. This working relationship also helps to locate and arrest criminals who may flee to Riverside after committing crimes in other cities.

Although our METRO Team is still working with the U.S. Marshals and utilizing any available resources between both agencies to find Leopaldo Martinez Garcia, we are asking for the public's assistance once again for any information on his current whereabouts. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact Officer Silvio Macias at smacias@riversideca.gov, or Detective Dennis Dodson at (951) 353-7126 or ddodson@riversideca.gov. Those wishing to remain anonymous can email rpdtips@riversideca.gov or utilize the Riverside Police Department's mobile app "Submit a Tip" feature while referencing incident number P304237189.

P304237189

