



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603
www.lancasterpolice.com

Author: Sgt. Todd Umstead

Contact Number: 735-3300

Date: May 20, 2009

Armed Robbery, Arrests

At approximately 9:23 PM, May 19th 2009, a 20 year-old male reported to Lancaster City Police that he was robbed at gunpoint in the 500 blk. of Zook Ave. The victim, a Lancaster City resident, stated that a Hispanic male approached him and struck the victim in the face with a handgun, then pointed the handgun at the victim's face and proceeded to rob him. The suspect stole a Breitling Bentley wristwatch, a Blackberry Storm cell phone, a gold chain necklace with a medallion of Jesus, keys, and a small amount of cash from the victim. The suspect fled the scene on foot and the victim called the police, providing a description of the suspect. Officers also spoke to a citizen who witnessed the robbery.

Officer Josiah King was checking the area near where the robbery occurred and observed a subject matching the suspect description get into a 1995 Dodge Neon in the 300 blk. of E. New St. This vehicle did not have a visible registration plate, so Off. King initiated a vehicle stop at N. Plum and E. Clay St. There were three occupants in the vehicle. Officers observed items in the vehicle that matched the descriptions of the items that the victim reported stolen during the robbery. Officers also observed what appeared to be the grips of two handguns in the vehicle.

The robbery victim and witness were transported to the scene of the vehicle stop, where they both identified the rear passenger as the person who committed the robbery. This was the same individual Off. King saw entering the vehicle on New St. This individual was identified as Pedro Louis Rodriguez H/M/21. The driver of the vehicle, Josue Medina H/M/26 had outstanding traffic warrants through the Lancaster City Police. The front seat passenger, identified as Christopher McCowin B/M/26 was found to have an outstanding warrant for Terroristic Threats stemming from an incident that occurred May 1st, 2009 in the 400 blk. of Manor St. and a bench warrant through the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department. All three individuals were arrested and conveyed to the police station. The Dodge Neon was also conveyed to the police station.

Det. George Bonilla, Off. Jason Zahm, and Off. Josiah King continued to investigate this robbery throughout the night. As a result of their investigation, it was determined that after committing the robbery, Rodriguez entered the Dodge Neon and engaged in conversation with McCowin and Medina about the robbery. Medina then purchased the stolen wristwatch from Rodriguez for \$5.00. The Dodge Neon was searched, and located inside the passenger compartment were the victim's cell phone, wristwatch, and gold necklace. Officers also discovered a 9mm pistol and a .25 caliber pistol in the vehicle.

Detective George Bonilla charged the below individuals before MDJ Janice Jimenez:



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1. Pedro Louis RODRIGUEZ Jr. 21 years old
No permanent address
Lancaster, PA
Charged with Robbery (F-1)
Committed to Lancaster County Prison in lieu of \$250,000.00 bail
2. Josue Luis MEDINA 26 years old
2 N. Mulberry Ave.
Marietta, PA
Charged with Receiving Stolen Property (F-3)
Committed to Lancaster County Prison in lieu of \$100,000.00 bail

Christopher McCOWIN, 732 N. Plum St. was NOT charged with any crime related to the robbery. He was arraigned on the Terroristic Threats warrant and committed to Lancaster County Prison in lieu of \$100,000.00 bail.

Detective Bonilla is continuing his investigation and may bring additional charges in relation to the recovered handguns.

All persons charged with a criminal offense are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

(end of release)