



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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

Author: Lt. Oberholtzer

Contact Number: (717) 735-3300

Date: February 25, 2010

Arrest

The Lancaster City Police announce the arrest of Antwan GOMEZ 19 year old, for the brutal attack and rape of a 25 year old Lancaster woman in a foot alley in the 300 block of W. Walnut St. on the early morning hours of January 16, 2010.

GOMEZ was identified after Detectives spent hundreds of hours piecing together evidence and conducting dozens of interviews with persons who GOMEZ had contact with following the assault. Detectives Jimmy Mummau and Nate Nickel led the investigation. The work will continue by our investigators through the course of the prosecution of GOMEZ.

At 0323 hrs, 16 January a resident of the 300 block of W. Walnut St. called LCWC and reported that an unknown female was lying facedown in the alleyway between his residence and an adjoining residence. The caller reported that this female was the victim of a possible rape and that his wife saw an unknown male walking out of the alley to W. Walnut St. and then turn (W) onto W. Walnut St. Investigators learned from this couple that they were awoken by their dog, which was barking. The Resident at this point he exited his house and went to the alleyway gate and saw the victim lying facedown and that she had been obviously seriously assaulted. The resident and his wife aided the victim and called 911. Investigators unequivocally believe that this couple action saved the victim's life.

Responding Officer Jeffery Gerhart arrived on the scene and located the victim in the alleyway. The victim was transported by ambulance to Lancaster General Hospital (LGH) for treatment and examination.

Investigators pulled video from the Lancaster Community Safety Coalition and several area businesses in the days following the assault. Detective Nathan Nickel obtained video footage from the Lancaster Safety Coalition specifically camera footage overlooking W. Walnut St. and N. Charlotte St. during the time period of the assault. Detective Nathan Nickel found video footage of the victim at 0313 hrs. this same date, walking (S) on N. Charlotte St. accompanied by an unknown dark skinned male wearing a black baseball style cap, dark hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans. This time being approximately ten (10) minutes prior to the assault being reported to dispatchers.

    

The investigation into this brutal crime will continue beyond today. Due to the continued investigation, pending prosecution and anticipated contact with witnesses some of whom are listed in criminal affidavits, the Lancaster



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Police investigators respectfully request that media refrain from publishing witness or victim names or addresses. Investigators have concern that the publishing of names may discourage citizens in Lancaster from reporting future crimes, and many witnesses have asked that their names not be put in the newspapers when providing police with information.

(end of release)