



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster
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Arrest in 1999 Assault Case

On 4 March 2002, Detective Robert L. Deeter filed charges for "JOHN DOE" with a specific DNA Profile for Robbery, Rape, and other Sex related offenses stemming from a 1999 Sexual Assault and Robbery Case. The Lancaster City Bureau of Police has received information, as a result of DNA testing of the evidence collected, which has positively identified Gabriel VALENTIN-RODRIGUEZ as a suspect in this Robbery and Sexual Assault from 1999.

The Robbery and Sexual Assault occurred on 29 December 1999 at approx. 6:15 p.m. The robbery and assault was committed in the King Street garage as the woman was preparing to enter her parked vehicle. The woman was approached from behind as she reached her vehicle, was robbed and sexually assaulted by an unknown race male subject. The victim was unable to identify the subject because she was never able to see his face.

On 2 Oct. 2008, Det. Deeter received notification from the Pennsylvania State Police DNA Lab that they had a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) match for this incident that occurred in 1999. VALENTIN-RODRIGUEZ is currently incarcerated in Florida for similar but unrelated charges. Detectives subsequently traveled to Florida to conduct an interview with VALENTIN-RODRIGUEZ and with the assistance of the Osceola County Sheriff's Department, Sgt. Joni Bishop, were able to obtain a search warrant for a Confirmatory DNA sample.

On 23 March 2009 the John Doe criminal complaint was amended to include Gabriel VALENTIN-RODRIGUEZ biographical information. VALENTIN-RODRIGUEZ is to be extradited back to Lancaster PA to be prosecuted for the 1999 incident.

VALENTIN-RODRIGUEZ is to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a Court of Law.

(end of release)