



## LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster

Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603

[www.lancasterpolice.com](http://www.lancasterpolice.com)

Author: Det. Lt. Switzer

Contact Number: 735-3300

Date: April 20, 2009

### Arrests in Robberies

Shortly before 1:30 am, Thursday morning, April 16th Officer Thomas Ginder of the Lancaster Bureau of Police was dispatched to take the report of an Armed Robbery, which had just occurred in 1st Blk Pearl St. Off. Ginder spoke to the victim, a 23 year old Lancaster City man, who reported that he had been robbed at gun point by two Hispanic males. The victim indicated that, as he was walking on Pearl St, he was approached by the two suspects, both dressed in dark clothing and that one suspect displayed a small black and silver handgun and threatened him, while the other suspect took his wallet and cell phone. The suspects were last seen, fleeing the scene, east on First St. A description of the suspects was broadcast to other Officers, who checked the area, but the suspects could not be located at this time.

At about 1:50 am, this same morning, Officer Eric Pannone, was dispatched to take the report of an Armed Robbery, which had just occurred in the 700 Blk High St. Upon arrival, Off. Pannone spoke to the victim, a 46 year old Lancaster City man, who also indicated that he had been robbed at gun point by two Hispanic Males. The victim indicated that as he was walking in 700 Blk High St, he was approached by the two suspects, both dressed in dark clothing and that one of the suspects displayed a small black and silver handgun and threatened him, while the other suspect took his wallet. The suspects were last seen, fleeing the scene, south through the O'Hallorans Bar parking lot. The victim also indicated that just prior to being approached by the suspects, he saw a small red vehicle pull into this same parking lot. A description of the suspects and the vehicle was broadcast to other Officers, who checked the area, but were unable to locate the suspects or the vehicle at this time.

Lancaster City Officers also became aware of an Armed Robbery, which occurred at Stonemill Rd and Doverfield Dr in Manor Twp shortly before 3:00 am. The suspects in this Robbery had a similar description, as did the vehicle that was involved. Then, at about 4:25 am, Officers Joseph Harris and Justin Miller observed a red Mazda sedan at the traffic signal, at Hershey and Wabank Sts. They began to follow this vehicle and also observed that it had right front damage, as well as a missing headlight on that side. The Officers followed the vehicle as it traveled west on Wabank Rd to Charles Rd, into Manor Shopping Center, back on to Charles Rd, then on to Millersville Pike and to S. West End Ave. The Officers broadcast this information to other Officers for assistance and as Officers Ginder and Pannone arrived to assist, they were able to stop this vehicle in 800 Blk Second St.



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The vehicle was found to be occupied by the below three suspects....

Carmelo Rivera Jr, 19  
1st Blk N. Mary St.  
Lancaster, Pa.  
(front seat passenger)

Jose Miguel Leon Jr., 20  
600 Blk W. Chestnut St.  
Lancaster, Pa.  
(driver)

Jeron Antonio Copeland, 18  
300 Blk S. Ann St.  
Lancaster, Pa.  
(rear seat passenger)

As the occupants were patted down for weapons, Rivera was found to be in possession of a black and silver Bersa .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun, which also fit the description of the gun used in the Robberies. One of the vehicle occupants was also found to be in possession of loot from the Robbery in Manor Twp and as a result, all three suspects were ultimately arrested and conveyed to the police station, where they were subsequently interviewed by Detectives.

As a result of this investigation, Detective Nathan Nickel charged all three suspects with 2 Counts of Robbery(F-1) and 2 Counts of Criminal Conspiracy(to commit Robbery, F-1). Rivera was also additionally charged with Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act(Firearms not to be carried without a license, F-3). Det. Nickel was in contact with Manor Twp Detective Tricia Mazur, who also charged the three suspects with 2 Counts of Robbery(F-1) and Criminal Conspiracy(to commit Robbery), as well as the same firearms charges against Rivera, due to the fact that the Manor Twp Robbery involved two victims.



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**Arrests in Robberies**

Detectives are exploring the possibility of these suspects being involved in other crimes of a similar nature. Anyone one with information is asked to call the Lancaster City Police at 735-3300 or the Manor Twp Police at 299-5231. Callers do not have to give their names to provide information.

*(end of release)*