



## 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: Lt. Todd Umstead

Contact Number: (717) 735-3300

Date: January 12, 2012

### Robberies Update

At 3:55 p.m. January 4, 2012, Lancaster City Police responded to a hold-up alarm at J. A. Sharp Jeweler, 322 N. Queen St. While en route, Officers learned that this alarm was for a robbery that had just occurred. Officers responded to the store while additional officers searched the area for the suspect. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, late 30's- 40's wearing a red hooded jacket, gray pants, with salt and pepper hair/mustache. The suspect displayed a gray/black handgun in his waistband and demanded money from the register. The suspect fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured in this robbery.

At 9:37 a.m. today, January 5, 2012, Officers responded to a hold-up alarm at Park's grocery, 201 W. Vine St. Officers learned that just prior to their arrival, a robbery occurred at this store. The suspect, described as a light-complected Hispanic male, approximately 5' 10" tall, wearing a black jacket, light-colored beige pants, light grey or white hooded sweatshirt underneath the jacket, and a multicolored knit cap, entered the store and displayed a silver and black handgun, which was tucked in his waistband. The suspect demanded that the male employee open the cash register. The employee complied and the suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect fled on foot, last seen travelling north on Water St., then east on Mifflin St., towards Prince St. there were no other employees or customers in the store when the robbery occurred. No one was injured in this incident.

Police are actively investigating these robberies and yesterday's robbery that occurred at 873 N. Queen St. Police are reviewing Lancaster Community Safety Coalition video and are also checking to see if any privately owned video cameras captured any part of these incidents. Police are considering the possibility that these three incidents may involve the same suspect.

\*\*\*UPDATED INFORMATION\*\*\*

January 12, 2012:

Following an intensive investigation, Lancaster City Police have made an arrest in the following robberies:

1.) January 4, 2012, Royer's Flowers, 873 N. Queen St.



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- 2.) January 4, 2012, J. A. Sharp Jeweler, 322 N. Queen St.
- 3.) January 5, 2012, Park's Grocery, 201 W. Vine St.

Surveillance video of the suspect was obtained from one of the businesses. Additional surveillance footage of the suspect was captured on Lancaster Community Safety Coalition (LCSC) cameras. This footage was extremely instrumental in identifying the suspect. LCSC personnel assisted this investigation by helping to review large amounts of video footage during the time frames that these three incidents occurred.

Lancaster City Police investigators, assisted by the Lancaster County Drug Task Force, were able to develop Juan Carlos GONZALEZ as the suspect in all three robberies.

Suspect: Juan C. Gonzalez 45 years old  
300 blk. E. King St., Lancaster PA

Gonzalez was arrested at the PA State Parole office without incident on Jan. 9th, 2012. He was charged with (3) Counts Robbery and (1) count of Criminal Conspiracy by Det. Nate Nickel before MDJ Janice Jimenez. He was committed to Lancaster County Prison on an unrelated parole violation.

This investigation is ongoing. Investigators have determined that a second subject acted as an accomplice in at least one of these robberies, and are continuing to search for this individual.

Anyone with information regarding these crimes should contact the Lancaster City Police at (717) 735-3300.

**\*\*THE BUREAU OF POLICE IS RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THAT THE MEDIA LIMIT WHAT IS PUBLISHED TO THAT WHICH IS ON THIS NEWS RELEASE AND SHOULD THE MEDIA BECOME AWARE OF ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY THE NAMES OF ANY WITNESSES OR LANCASTER RESIDENTS IN THIS CASE, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THEY REFRAIN FROM**



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PUBLISHING THAT INFORMATION SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE THE SAFETY OF ANYONE NOR THIS ON GOING INVESTIGATION\*\*

*(end of release)*