



## 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: Sgt. Todd Umstead

Contact Number: 735-3313

Date: March 24, 2009

### Robbery, Retail Theft Arrest

At approximately 12:00 PM Monday, 23 March 2009 an alert customer spotted a man attempting to steal items from the Rite Aid store at 59 N. Queen St. The 19 year-old female alerted a female store employee and together they approached the suspect, who removed two containers of baby formula from the sleeve of a coat he was carrying and handed them to the employee. The employee noticed additional cans of baby formula in the coat sleeve and told the suspect to come with her to the front of the store. The suspect refused and the employee grabbed the suspect to guide him to the front of the store. The suspect pushed and shoved the employee. The customer attempted to assist the employee, and the suspect punched the customer twice on the left side of her face, causing minor injuries. The employee screamed for help, and a male store manager rushed to her aid. The three citizens were able to restrain the suspect by taking him to the ground. All three remained on top of the suspect until James Street Improvement District Security and Lancaster City Police Officers arrived and took the suspect into custody.

It was determined that the suspect had concealed a total of four cans of baby formula, total value \$58.16. The suspect originally provided police with a false name. A bank receipt in the suspect's pocket had a different name than the name he provided. He was taken to the police station where his true identity was determined. A criminal history check revealed that this individual has five prior convictions for retail theft, the first being in 1976. Under PA State Law, a third or subsequent retail theft charge is automatically a felony. Since the suspect assaulted an individual in the course of the theft, he was also charged with felony robbery.

The below individual was charged by Off. Jose De La Torre with Robbery (F-2), Retail Theft (F-3), Simple Assault (M-2) and False Identification to Law Enforcement (M-3) before MDJ Janice Jimenez:

David VASQUEZ H/M/53  
765 Manor St.  
Lancaster, PA

VASQUEZ was arraigned and committed to Lancaster County Prison in lieu of \$75,000.00 bail.

*(end of release)*