



Bureau of Police  
City of Lancaster  
39 West Chestnut Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602



## Press Release

### Sentencing Garden Court Shooting

Author: Captain Brian Wiczkowski

Contact Number: 717-735-3300

Date: August 1, 2008

### Sentencing Garden Court Shooting

DEFENDANT: Jose RIVERA-QUINONES

On 22 March 2007 Offices Weaver & Bernot were working an undercover detail in the area of Stevens & East End Ave, when they heard shots being fired and saw a vehicle speeding away. They followed the vehicle and the occupants parked and exited the vehicle in the area of Ann & East End Ave. The Officers attempted to stop the occupants who fled in the Garden Court Apartments. While chasing these subjects they observed that the defendant (Jose Rivera-Quinones) was armed with a large handgun and fired at both Officers. The defendant was able to run into building #23 of Garden Court Apartments, back up officers began arriving and a search of the complex was initiated. While searching apartments it was learned that the defendant was inside one of the apartments holding a couple and their two children hostage.

As a result, the Lancaster County Emergency Response Team was activated and after 7 hours, they were able to obtain the safe release of all four hostages and ultimately gassed the defendant out of the apartment.

All of this being done as Detectives and Officers interviewed the involved Officers, as well as the witnesses in an attempt to obtain as much information as possible, for both the SERT Activity and to build the case against the defendant. As a result of this, the .357 magnum handgun used by the defendant to shoot at the Officers as well as an AK-47 they had stashed in a neighboring apartment and a .45 caliber handgun (which was used at the shooting at Stevens & East End Ave) were all recovered and taken off the streets.

The defendant was charged with the following:

- Criminal Attempt to Commit Homicide (2 counts)
- Aggravated Assault (2 counts)
- Recklessly Endangering Another Person
- Burglary
- Criminal Trespass
- Unlawful Restraint (4 counts)
- Terroristic Threats



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On 30 July 2008 – Jose Rivera-Quinones, age 29, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Madenspacher to a total of 36-72 years in State Prison for his crimes.

Attempted Murder of Off Bernot (10-20 years)  
Attempted Murder of Off Weaver (10-20 years)  
2 Counts of Agg. Assault merged by law  
Recklessly Endangering Another Person (1-2 years)  
Burglary (10-20 years)  
Criminal Trespass (5-10 years)  
4 Counts of Unlawful Restraint merged by law

All the above counts being made consecutive with one another

When the defendant committed these violent crimes, he was out on bail on another gun charge from August of 2006 and was also involved in another shots fired incident in the Fall of 2006

Everyone involved in this case did an outstanding job, from the patrol officers to Detectives involved in many man hours of investigation to the Assistant District Attorney who prosecuted the case (ADA Ed Pfursich)

*(end of release)*