



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603
www.lancasterpolice.com

Author: Det. Lt. Kent Switzer

Contact Number: (717) 735-3300

Date: December 31, 2009

Shots Fired at Subjects Near Bar

Shortly after 2:00 am, Thursday 31 Dec 09, Officers of the Lancaster City Bureau of Police were dispatched to the 700 Blk S. Prince St for a report of shots being fired at Vickie's Place Bar, located at 701 S. Prince St. It was reported that the shots were fired from a vehicle, which was described as a maroon Ford Ranger Pick Up Truck, which had subsequently fled the scene.

Chief Sadler, who was working with patrol officers from Platoon B on the night shift, responded to the scene along with Officer Justin Waynick, where they spoke to 27 year old and 32 year old Lancaster City men (the intended victims), as well as other witnesses and checked the area for evidence.

It was determined that the truck, occupied by two suspects had made several passes by the bar during which time, on two separate occasions, shots were fired from the truck towards the bar and the two men standing in front of it. It was further determined that both the passenger and driver fired shots from the truck during this time, that the occupant(s) of the truck were acquainted with the intended victims and that there had been a past dispute involved.

A description of the truck, along with a partial registration plate, was broadcast to patrol units and as a result, Officer JD Williams and Jessica Higgins observed a maroon Ford Ranger Pick Up Truck, fitting the description of the suspect vehicle, traveling east on Conestoga St, crossing Queen St. The vehicle then turned south on Christian St and as the Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, it initially failed to yield, but they were able to get the vehicle stopped in 300 Blk S. Queen St. The occupants were identified as....

Luis Manuel Velez-Mercado, 39(Driver)
300 Blk S. Queen St.
Lancaster, Pa.

Francis Alex Cruz-Rivera, 39(Passenger)
1100 Blk Wabank Rd
Lancaster, Pa.



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Both of the above individuals were identified as being the suspects involved, as was the vehicle. Both of the suspects were then arrested and conveyed to the Police Station, as was the vehicle, where the suspects were interviewed by Detectives and the vehicle was searched, which yielded in the discovery of ballistic evidence consistent with shots being fired from the truck.

As a result of the investigation, both suspects were charged with Aggravated Assault(F-1) and Criminal Conspiracy(to commit Aggravated Assault)—4 Counts of each—By Det. James Fatta before Magisterial District Judge Cheryl Hartman and were held for arraignment.

(end of release)