

NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: September 09, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Covina Police Detectives Arrest Shooter

On Sunday, August 26, 2012 at approximately 0035 hours, Covina Police Department Dispatch received a call regarding a subject being treated for a gunshot wound at an area hospital. Covina Police Detectives gathered information and initiated an attempted murder investigation. Detectives discovered a male and the victim were involved in a verbal argument inside Katie Jakes Bar located at 750 South Terrado Plaza in the city of Covina. Both parties were escorted out of the bar where the suspect fired a handgun which struck the victim in the upper torso.

Covina Detectives interviewed numerous witnesses and watched video that captured images within the bar. The male suspect believed to be the shooter was captured on the video and seen with a female while inside the bar. The Covina Police Department released images of these two persons, requesting help from the public.

After the images were released, Covina Detectives were provided information that identified both the female and male. Detectives quickly ruled-out the female as being involved in the crime; however continued focusing on the male. As the investigation gained momentum, Covina Detectives discovered the male was employed as a Senior Detention Services Officer with the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Covina Police Detectives authored arrest and search warrants for the suspect, identified as Michael Sanchez, a 53 year old male from Ontario, California. Immediate notification was made to LA County Probation Administrators as well as the Los Angeles County District Attorney Justice System Integrity Division. These agencies and the Covina Police Department worked together as the investigation progressed.

The Los Angeles Probation Department assisted Covina police in taking the suspect into custody in a controlled and safe environment. Chief Probation Officer, Jerry Powers states, "In this particular case, the allegations involve an off-duty probation officer. But let me be clear; when one of our employees is suspected of being involved in criminal activity we will take swift and appropriate action."

On September 9, 2012 Covina Police Detectives arrested Michael Sanchez for attempted murder when he showed-up to work at The Los Padrinos Detention Facility, located in the city of Downey. Covina Detectives also served a search warrant at Michael Sanchez' home located in the city of Ontario. Covina Police Detectives are not releasing any information (at this time) as to what items were seized in the home.

Los Angeles County Probation has placed the suspect on immediate administrative leave. His county-assigned equipment was taken away from him and the Los Angeles County Probation Department will continue to cooperate with Covina Police and the Los Angeles District Attorney in their investigation.

Michael Sanchez will be held at the Los Angeles County Men's Central Jail for Attempted Murder and his bail is set at \$1 million dollars. The victim in this case has been released from the hospital and is expected to recover from his injuries.

Booking Photograph available but not included with this release.