

# PRESSRELEASE

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**Calvin D. Minor**

Chief of Police



**For Immediate Release:**

Date: March 9, 2014

Prepared By/Contact Person: Sgt. Manny Boudreau

**"Coalinga Shooting Suspects Apprehended"**

On March 7, 2014, at approximately 5:14 pm, Coalinga Police Communications began receiving emergency 9-1-1 telephone calls regarding gun shots heard coming from the 100 block of Walnut Avenue in Coalinga. Information from callers indicated that a black Honda was involved in the shooting with witnesses hearing between four and seven shots being fired at a residence in that block.

Upon arrival, Coalinga Police Officers were able to quickly determine that no one was injured during the incident. Patrol personnel secured the crime scene, and began interviewing multiple witnesses.

Officers determined that the intended target of the shooting was a member of the Norteno criminal street gang, who lived in the 100 block of Walnut Avenue. He was interviewed and found to be unharmed.

In all, over thirty witnesses were interviewed during the initial part of the investigation leading Detectives to determine that four male occupant's of a black Honda were responsible for the shooting. The shooting was as a result of a verbal altercation between the victim and rival Bulldog gang members.

At the time of this incident, the victim had been walking in a dirt field across the street from his home in the 100 block of Walnut Avenue when the black Honda and its occupants approached from the east. Between four and six shots from a handgun were fired at the victim initially. Witness accounts revealed that the Honda drove east on Walnut Avenue and made a U Turn, and two additional shots from a shotgun were discharged at the victim as he ran into his home.

After the initial investigation, Coalinga Police Officers canvassed the area and stepped up patrols. Within hours, Coalinga Police Officers stopped a matching vehicle in the area of Fresno and Madison Streets in Coalinga.

The black Honda was stopped and found to be occupied by Bulldog criminal street gang members, 19 year old Adolfo Zermeno, and 18 year old Antonio Pulido, both from Coalinga. A search of the Honda led to the recovery of a loaded shotgun in the trunk of the vehicle as well as a loaded .38 caliber revolver which was found under the vehicle's passenger seat. Zermeno

and Pulido were taken into custody without incident on weapons charges.

As the investigation developed, Detectives were able to identify three additional suspects who were involved in the shooting, two of which are 17 year old Bulldog criminal street gang members from Huron. On March 8, 2014, at about 5:40 pm, Coalinga Police Officers located and arrested one of the 17 year olds at Keck Park in Coalinga.

Further investigation by Coalinga Police Detectives led to the execution of search warrants in the 17000 block of Apple Avenue and 17200 block of Crocker Lane in Huron. The search warrants led to the recovery of a .380 caliber semi-automatic firearm, a .22 caliber revolver, ammunition and marijuana. Police also arrested 18 year old Huron resident Luis Contreras, who was identified as participating in the shooting. Contreras was taken into custody at his Huron home without incident.

During the execution of the search warrants in Huron, 25 year old Christina Torres, 30 year old Juan Ramirez and 21 year old Manuel Aguilar were taken into custody on various unrelated charges including resisting arrest and marijuana cultivation.

Contreras, Zermeno, Pulido and the minor were booked into the Fresno County Jail and Juvenile hall on various charges including, illegal possession of a firearm, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, possession of a firearm with an altered serial number, assault with a deadly weapon, child endangerment, and conspiracy to further a gang.

The Coalinga Police Department anticipates additional arrests related to this incident are forthcoming.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to call the Coalinga Police Department's Investigation's Unit at (559) 935-1525.

The minor (s) involved in this case will remain confidential due to their age.

"All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law"









