



# PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange ST • Riverside CA 92501

Phone 951.826.5902 • FAX 951.826.5939

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2012

Contact: **Sergeant David Amador**  
**Robbery / Homicide Supervisor**  
**951.353.7107**  
[damador@riversideca.gov](mailto:damador@riversideca.gov)

### Officer Involved Shooting

**Riverside, CA** - On Friday, March 23, 2012, at about 0410 hours, a Riverside police officer driving a marked police unit attempted to make a traffic stop on a 2004 Toyota pickup truck for expired registration. The officer attempted to stop the truck near Garfield and Canterbury in the Central Neighborhood of the city. The truck was occupied by two adult males. The driver refused to pull over and led officers on a high speed pursuit lasting about 5 minutes.

Additional marked units joined the pursuit which reached speeds up to 80 MPH. During the chase of the truck, the driver on at least two occasions drove on the wrong side of the roadway and made U-turns in an attempt to get away from the pursuing officers. As the truck drove south on Van Buren Blvd. from California Ave., it was in the northbound lanes. The truck then turned east on Magnolia Ave. in the westbound lanes. The truck turned south onto Donald at a high rate of speed and spun around facing the two units that were right behind it at the time. The truck then quickly accelerated toward one of the units just as two other police units arrived. The truck slammed into the front end of one of the police units and continued to accelerate and ram the police unit. Four officers discharged their duty weapons multiple times at the truck.

The passenger fled the vehicle and began running away. He was quickly apprehended. The driver then put the truck into reverse and accelerated at a high rate of speed backwards, striking the side of the Bank of America and coming to a stop after another collision with a power pole, disabling the truck. The driver then fled on foot south into the neighborhood and disappeared. An extensive yard to yard search was conducted and about an hour and half later, the driver was apprehended by a police K-9 in the backyard of a residence in the 3700 block of Everest. He had sustained a gunshot wound from the initial shooting and a dog bite from the K-9. He was treated by personnel from the Riverside Fire Department and American Medical Response (AMR). AMR transported him to a local hospital for treatment. One of the police officers sustained a dog bite resulting in a minor injury during this incident. There were no other injuries.

Detectives from the Robbery/Homicide Unit and technicians from the Forensic Unit along with the Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) responded and are currently investigating this incident. During a search by detectives, a handgun was located inside the truck.

The passenger, John Eddie Walton, Jr., 36, of Hemet, is currently on felony probation for a weapons violation and had two felony warrants for his arrest. Both warrants were for weapons violations. He is a convicted felon and is not permitted to possess a firearm. He was booked into Riverside County Jail for the two warrants and felon in possession of a firearm.

The driver, James Chad Horton, 33, of Hemet, is currently on parole for vehicle theft. He is a convicted felon and is not permitted to possess a firearm. He was arrested for felony evading, assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer, a parole violation and felon in possession of a firearm. He is currently being treated for non-life threatening injuries and remains hospitalized. He will be booked into Riverside County Jail after he is medically cleared.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Detective Jim Simons at 951.353.7138 or Detective Jim Brandt at 951.353.7137.

### P12-041750###