



PRESS RELEASE

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Felony Hit & Run Suspect Arrested

Riverside, CA – On Monday, April 22, 2013, at about 1:55 PM, members of the Riverside Police and Fire Departments responded to reports of a hit and run collision at Magnolia Avenue and Nelson Street. According to witnesses, a black Ford Mustang had possibly racing an older orange or red two-door import sports car from the intersection at Arlington Avenue. Both vehicles were northbound Magnolia approaching Nelson at a high rate of speed when a Chevy Malibu pulled out into the path of the Mustang. The Mustang broadsided the Malibu.

A four-year-old girl in the left rear passenger seat was critically injured as a result of the collision and was taken by ambulance to Loma Linda University Hospital. The driver and front passenger, her father and mother, were not injured. The four-year-old child remains in critical condition.

The driver of the Mustang stopped and checked on the occupants of the Malibu. He then fled on foot, leaving his vehicle and the victims behind. The orange/red car did not stop, continuing northbound away from the scene. It was later learned that the Mustang was stolen from Madison Street and Evans Street just prior to the collision.

Since the collision, Traffic Bureau personnel have tenaciously pursued all investigative leads. As a result of their investigation, they have determined the black Mustang had been falsely reported stolen to conceal the identity of the driver responsible for the collision. Information was then developed that led to the arrest of 20-year-old Ricardo Gamez of Oceanside. With the assistance of the Oceanside Police Department, Gamez was taken into custody this afternoon. He was later booked into Robert Presley Detention Center on the charge of 20001 VC (Felony Hit and Run). Additional charges are pending against those involved in the false report.

Initial statements suggested that street racing was a related cause of the collision. However, at this point there are no further leads that would support the involvement of the described orange/red vehicle.

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