



PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange Street • Riverside, CA 92501
Phone (951) 826-5900 • Fax (951) 826-2593

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2009
Contact: Lieutenant Leon Phillips
Phone: (951) 353-7900

Pursuit Ends in Arrest and Recovery of Stolen Vehicle

Riverside, CA – On Tuesday, August 25, 2009, at approximately 3:20 am, Riverside Police Officers attempted to stop a blue Chevrolet Blazer for traffic violations at La Sierra Avenue and Magnolia Avenue. The driver refused to stop and drove to the 91 Freeway where he entered the westbound lanes toward Orange County.

When the officers performed a records check on the license plate, they discovered the Blazer had license plates on it that belonged to another vehicle. The officers immediately recognized this as a common method to prevent law enforcement officials from discovering a vehicle is stolen.

The driver threw a gun to the side of the road from the Blazer as he drove on the freeway. The officers stayed behind the Blazer and followed it into Orange County where it ran out of gas and rolled to a stop in the car pool lanes East of Imperial Highway.

The driver initially refused to exit the vehicle. Officers from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department aviation unit, the Brea Police Department, the California Highway Patrol and the Riverside Police Department worked together to bring a quick conclusion to the stand-off. After 20-25 minutes the driver conceded his position was hopeless and surrendered to the officers without further incident. No one was injured during the pursuit or the stand-off.

The driver was arrested for evading the police, weapons charges and auto theft. His true identity is not known at this time. He is a white male in his forties. Speeds of the pursuit alternated between 20-80 MPH.

P09-128570