

# CITY OF GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

304 N. 9<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
GARDEN CITY, KANSAS 67846

JAMES R. HAWKINS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

620-276-1300  
FAX: 620-276-1313  
OR 620-276-1314

## MEDIA RELEASE

By Sgt. Michael Reagle  
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### UPDATE

#### Release #1:

On Sunday, November 1, 2009 at approximately 1:49 a.m. officers of the Garden City Police Department were dispatched to Salon Primavera (3225 Prairie Avenue, Garden City, KS) for a disturbance with shots fired. When officers arrived, they were initially told two individuals began shooting into the crowd that was exiting the business. As officers were still at the scene, they were notified that two individuals had been shot and responded to St. Catherine Hospital. Laureal Richardson (19-years-old, of 611 Campus Drive #302, Garden City, KS) was shot in his left shoulder. Vincent Segura (23-years-old, of 903 Safford Avenue, Garden City, KS) was shot in the left leg after the bullet grazed his right hand and right thigh.

Through further investigation, officers determined the two shooters confronted a group of five individuals as they exited the business. After a brief exchange of words, the two suspects began shooting at the five individuals. Four of the individuals were able to get into vehicle and leave after the vehicle was shot into several times. Danny Beltran (21-years-old, of 1907 Chesterfield Drive, Garden City, KS) was not able to get in the vehicle and was hit in his foot by a ricochet bullet. He left the scene before officers arrived. Officers were able to identify two potential suspects and believe Richardson and Segura were hit by stray bullets.

At approximately 4:48 p.m. officers were dispatched to 200 Washington Street for a disturbance with possible gang activity. Officers encountered several individuals and learned one of the suspected shooters was inside the mobile home at 212 Washington #2. Members of the Garden City Police Department S.W.A.T. team responded to secure the area. While doing so, officers arrested Carlos Cruz (20-years-old, of 1312 Conkling Avenue, Garden City, KS) on allegations of obstruction of official duty and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

Detectives obtained a search warrant for the residence and at about 8:55 p.m. S.W.A.T. officers located and arrested Eric Rojas (22-years-old, of Amarillo, TX) and Marcus Rojas (24-years-old, of 801 West Campbell Street, Garden City, KS) hiding under the mobile home. Marcus Rojas was lodged in the Finney County Jail on an allegation of felony obstruction of official duty. Eric Rojas was lodged in the Finney County Jail on allegations of four counts of attempted 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, three counts of aggravated battery, five counts of aggravated assault, criminal discharge of a weapon, criminal damage to property, and criminal possession of a firearm. Officers are still looking for the second shooter.

### Update:

On Wednesday, November 4, 2009 the Garden City Police Department received a Crime Stoppers tip indicating the location of the second shooter involved in this incident. At approximately 3:00 p.m. members of the Garden City Police Department S.W.A.T. team served

a search warrant at 305 Evans Street, Garden City, KS and arrested Brian Olivares (21-years-old, of 305 Evans Street, Garden City, KS). He was lodged in the Finney County Jail on allegations of four counts of attempted 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, three counts of aggravated battery, five counts of aggravated assault, criminal discharge of a weapon, criminal damage to property, and felony obstruction of official duty.

**Release #2:**

On Sunday, August 9, 2009 at approximately 10:14 p.m. officers of the Garden City Police Department were dispatched to Alta Brown Elementary School (1110 East Pine Street, Garden City, KS) for a reported aggravated battery.

When officers arrived, they found Michael Blanks (23-year-old, of 1406 East Laurel Street, Garden City, KS) with a stab wound to his right lower leg. Blanks advised he was inside the school working on his classroom when he heard someone knocking on the southeast doors of the school. Blanks went to the doors and two Hispanic males motioned for him to let them in the school. Blanks opened the door and the suspects pushed their way into the school. The suspects were talking to Blanks in Spanish when they began hitting him in the face and threatened him with a knife. Blanks was able to get away briefly before he fell to the ground and was stabbed in the leg. The suspects then ran from the school.

Both suspects are described as being 5'6" to 5'8" tall, stocky build and were wearing dark clothing. Blanks went to St. Catherine Hospital where he received four staples to close the wound to his leg.

**Update:**

The Garden City Police Department continued the investigation into this incident and on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, Michael Blanks was cited and released for falsely reporting a crime. Blanks' motive behind making the alleged false report is still unclear and the investigation is ongoing.

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