



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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Suitable For Public Dissemination

ATTEMPTED MURDER – ARREST

On Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at about 6:30 PM, Hawthorne Police officers responded to the 4000 block of 139th Street on a report of a shooting victim at the location. Upon arrival, patrol officers located a 24 year-old male shooting victim, who had been shot once in the back. Officers also located Carlos Amezola (21 years-old) at the scene. Amezola was unconscious as a result of a physical fight.

Preliminary investigation yielded that two suspects and the gunshot victim engaged each other in a verbal argument. This escalated into a physical fight between the victim and Amezola. During the fight, Amezola was knocked unconscious. At that time, Augustin Cortez (20 years-old) allegedly produced a handgun and shot the victim. Cortez fled the scene on foot prior to the arrival of officers. A large area search, involving K-9 units and Aero support, was conducted, but without success.

The gunshot victim was transported to an area hospital and is in "serious but stable" condition. Amezola was medically cleared, and placed under arrest at the scene.

Hawthorne Police Department Gang Unit Detectives were able to identify Cortez within a couple of hours of the incident. They also were able to identify known locations for Cortez. On Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at about 2:00 PM, Cortez was located by Hawthorne Police Detectives via surveillance. Cortez was taken into custody without incident.

Hawthorne Police Department Gang Unit Detectives are handling this on-going investigation. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact our Gang Investigations Unit at (310) 349-2820.