



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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HPD DR #11-15

Suitable For Public Dissemination

Assault Suspect Shoots Own Leg

On Saturday, January 1, 2011, at 11:30 AM, Hawthorne Police patrol officers were flagged down by a motorist regarding a gunshot victim near the intersection of Prairie Avenue and El Segundo Blvd. Officers located a 21 year old male resident of Los Angeles laying on the sidewalk, with a single bullet wound to his upper thigh. Officers also saw a handgun on the sidewalk a few feet away from the 21 year old. The 21 year old attempted to stand and walk away from the officers, but collapsed due to his injuries. He was treated on scene by Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel, and immediately transported to an area hospital for further medical attention. He remains hospitalized at this time, in serious but stable condition.

Further investigation revealed that the 21 year old was a pedestrian who had been in a verbal altercation with a passing motorist, over "right of way" issues. The pedestrian (suspect) pulled a handgun on the motorist, brandishing it so that the passing driver could see the gun. It is believed that when the pedestrian attempted to conceal the gun on his person again (either placing it in his pants pocket or in his waistband), he accidentally fired the gun, shooting himself in the leg.

The handgun was recovered at the scene, and found to be loaded with more live rounds. The suspect also had additional live rounds in his clothing

Anyone with additional information on the incident is asked to contact Hawthorne Police detectives.

Hospitalized: Dennis Vilchis, 21 year old Los Angeles resident

Lieutenant Gary Tomatani / Public Information Officer
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