



Contact: Lieutenant Sandra Brown
Phone: (650) 704-2930

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 28, 2010

Palo Alto, Ca: On May 28, 2010 at approximately 5:15 pm, Palo Alto Police Dispatch was advised that a plane had crashed somewhere south of the runway at the Palo Alto Airport. Police and Fire responded and located the plane just south of the airport near the shoreline of the Duck Pond at the Palo Alto Bay Lands. The plane's sole occupant, the fifty year-old pilot who resides in San Jose, was found outside of the plane and uninjured.

An interview with the pilot revealed that the plane sputtered as if it was out of fuel and efforts by the pilot to rectify the situation were unsuccessful. The plane suffered moderate damage to the front wheel assembly and undercarriage.

The Federal Aviation Administration was notified and will conduct an investigation.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 27, 2010, 1800 Hours

Contact: Ofc. Marianna Villaescusa
Phone: 650.269.1098

Gunn High School “Locked Down” After Report of Armed Men

At approximately 2:00 pm on today's date, a city worker called the Palo Alto Police Department to reported two armed men had driven onto campus. One of the men appeared to be armed with an assault rifle.

Police Officers immediately responded to the area, locating the suspect's unoccupied vehicle in the school parking lot. Police called for a “Code Red”, initiating the school's lock-down procedures.

School Administrators and Police teamed up and eventually located the two suspects inside a classroom. Both were Gunn students who admitted to possessing an airsoft rifle. Officer's recovered the rifle inside the student's vehicle. Also located in the vehicle were two face masks, one spade shovel with a 4” pick, a hatchet with a removable saw, and military style knife with a 7” blade.

During the incident, Police received a separate report of possible gunshots in the area of Los Robles Avenue (near Gunn High School) and a report of a student being held hostage by a gunman at Gunn High School. The gunshots were unsubstantiated and the hostage claim turned out to be a misunderstanding between a student and parent.

Students at Gunn High School were on “lock-down” for less then 45 minutes. Parents were diverted to Alta Mesa Cemetery to await the release of their children.

Police ultimately arrested Weston Healy, 18 years old, student at Gunn High School for 626.10 PC, possession of weapon on school campus. He was booked into the Santa Clara Main Jail.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: May 27, 2010, 10:20 Hours

Contact: Lt. Sandra Brown
Phone: 650.269.1098

Suspect Arrested for Kidnap, Sexual Assault, Attempted Murder

Early in the morning of 22 May, 2010 a woman was brutally attacked in her vehicle, in the 1600 block of El Camino Real, in Palo Alto. She was beaten, abducted, and taken to the City of Santa Clara, where she was sexually assaulted. After the crime was reported to Santa Clara police, they investigated and then contacted the Palo Alto Police, who located the original crime scene.

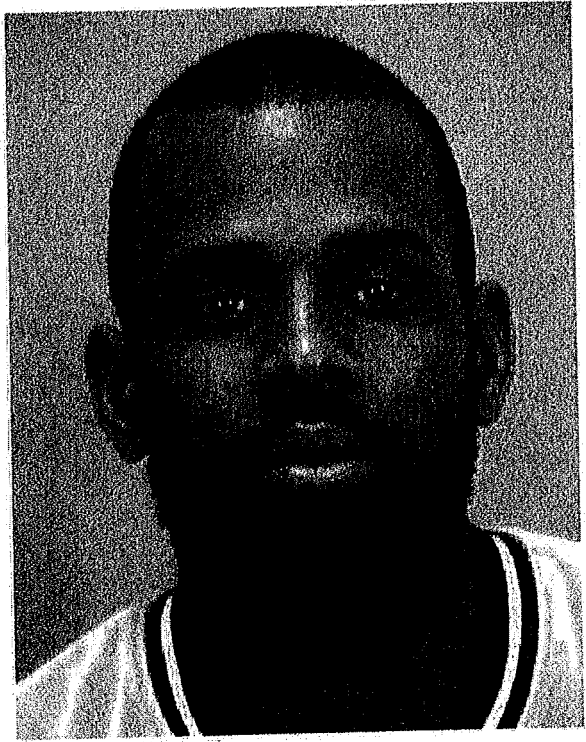
Palo Alto police conducted a joint investigation with the Santa Clara police and the Stanford University Department of Public Safety, assisted by other regional law enforcement partners. Investigators have worked around the clock for the past five days to process separate crime scenes and to run down multiple leads. The Santa Clara County Crime Lab provided tremendous assistance to the investigation, and the suspect was successfully identified.

Lionel BLANKS was arrested yesterday at approximately 5:00 p.m. near his residence, by Santa Clara detectives. He has been booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail. He is 36 years old and a resident of Santa Clara.

BLANKS is being charged with kidnapping, sexual assault, robbery, and attempted murder. Final charges will be determined by the Santa Clara County District Attorneys' office, after the investigation is complete. BLANKS' bail will be set by a magistrate; his arraignment date has not yet been set.

We are pleased to note that the streets of this County are safer today because of the excellent teamwork by the dedicated officers and employees from this Department, the Santa Clara Police Department, the Stanford Department of Public Safety, the Santa Clara County Crime Lab, and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office. We also want to particularly note the cooperation of the news media and to thank the citizens who have called in with information about this case.

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Johnson, Amy

From: abjpd1@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 7:17 PM
To: timothygray@sbcglobal.net; Keene, James; public.records.request.tracking@gmail.com
Cc: HRC; claude@ezran.com; Council, City; bhuang1103@gmail.com
Subject: From the archives--to former city council person Hillary Freeman

1/27/2005

Dear Council Person Hillary Freeman:

I know you are trying and in fact delivering on the promise of bringing out the truth out on many of the critical issues in our city and, as has been said before, it is deeply appreciated by many in the community.

I also understand (or am at least attempting to develop an appreciation for) how many different interests you must attempt to balance in order to remain effective.

Having spent my career as an advocate for my clients, I was rarely called on to balance a set of interests from divergent view points. My job was simply advocating for my clients best interests against the awesome power and resources of the state. Frequently, this meant attempting to work through and expose the lies, racism, corruption etc., perpetrated by the police and district attorneys in this county.

Now I see my mission as slightly different: working as an advocate for change for all of the citizens in this community vis-à-vis police practices issues, and bringing to the attention of the public ways in which our police department could be a model of justice, rather than an agency of that is often viewed with fear and sometimes outright hatred.

My new work has much of the same sense of advocacy but I realize, to be even minimally effective, in this community, one must learn to listen and respect the views of those who may see the police as shinning stars, no matter how misguided I believe their views.

I hope, with your help, to continue, one issue at a time, to expose the PAPD where bad police practices exist and at the same time offer my hand in implementing alternative policies that will lead to, what I envision, is a model police department that we can all be proud of.

I thought Linda Mabry was great at Monday's council meeting and a much needed voice. I have known Linda and her husband for a little more than a year and know both to be very concerned re the PAPD.

Linda Mabry is most often both passionate and eloquent in expressing her views on issues of race, police, the law etc. I so much appreciated your comments towards the end of Monday's meeting acknowledging Linda's fear that much of the concerns expressed by the community re the PAPD are falling upon deaf ears.

I was saddened by Mayor Burch's comments that those in the community seeking change are doing so in a vociferous manner without regards for due process and the presumption of innocence for the police. If he has followed the PAPD controversy over the last few years even half-heartedly he would understand that it is the PAPD that has no regard for constitutional principals not the other way around.

6/7/2010

Nothing, in my mind, could be further from the truth than the mayor's accusations re the use of vociferous tactics. I like to think I know what vociferous looks and sounds like, and what we have been doing is far from vociferous. And, when need be, I think I am more than capable, with my colleagues in struggle, of being vociferous. The Mayor has not seen vociferous, yet!

The work being done by the community re police practices issues has been principled: much letter writing, by many, attending and speaking our concerns at the council meetings, the HRC etc. To be dismissed time and again by the current Mayor/former council member is frustrating, but will not stop our efforts.

The list of issues left unresolved by Lynne Johnson seems to grow daily. Each time one issue is up for discussion another seems to take center stage. In any event, sorry for the long rant. I am still hoping to find the time to make my next public record requests re the reason for your meeting with Frank Benest on Tuesday Jan 11. As I said before, I believe the public should be entitled to know. If Mr. Benest was, in any way, attempting to put a lid on criticism of the PAPD, successful or not, he should be exposed.

Finally, I am told Frank Benest will be addressing the HRC on the racial profiling data issue and the cameras in patrol vehicles issue at February 10 HRC meeting. Given what I have seen of Mr. Benest's performance in the past, on police issues, I am not hopeful he will deal with these issues in a forthright manner.

If Mr. Benest thinks he can come in with more of the same PR and deception that Lynne Johnson has engaged in, but just more smoothly packaged, and sell it to this community I think he will be sadly disappointed.

I only hope I am wrong and that he sees that the current direction of the PAPD is intolerable. I'm afraid, in the end, Mr. Benest will be shown to be more the problem than a voice for solutions. I hope he proves me wrong.

I certainly hope you can attend the HRC meeting in person and judge for yourself his performance on the merits. Thanks for listening.

Best,

Aram

6/7/2010