



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### \*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPT\*\*\*\*

#### Drive-By Shooting Leads to Arrest of 4 Gang Members

October 1, 2015

Walla Walla Police have arrested four known gang members after a drive-by shooting in the 200 block of East Cherry Street last night at 11:07 p.m. Numerous 9-1-1 calls were received of shots being fired and Patrol Officers also heard the sound of gunfire coming from the area. Within 3 minutes of the report, officers located the suspect vehicle leaving the area. A “high-risk felony stop” was conducted on the vehicle in the 300 block of N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The four suspects were taken into custody without incident.

They were identified as Jose Manuel Quintero, 21; Diego Bante Rivera, 20; Alejandro J. Lomeli, 18; and a 17-year-old male family member of one of the suspects. His name is not being released at this time. All four live in the area, but exact addresses could not be confirmed at this time.

The driver of the vehicle, Quintero, was the first suspect ordered out of the vehicle. He smelled of intoxicants and was taken into custody initially for DUI. The other three also smelled of intoxicants and were all taken into custody for Minor In Possession by Consumption.

All four were brought to the police station for interviews and refused to answer questions. The vehicle they were in, a silver Honda Civic, was towed to evidence storage until a search warrant affidavit could be prepared. A judge granted a search warrant for the vehicle a few hours later and Detectives searched the vehicle at about 4:00 a.m. A .45 caliber handgun was found during the search and seized as evidence.

All four suspects were held on Probable Cause for Complicity to Commit Drive-By Shooting (class B Felony). Quintero is also being held on 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm—Felon in Possession (class B Felony), and the DUI charge. The 3 minors were also held on the MIC charge.

Alejandro Lomeli had just been released from jail on September 14<sup>th</sup> after serving his sentence related to a previous drive-by shooting in May of this year.

Police Chief Scott Bieber stated, “Our officers are working as hard as they can to bring violent criminals to justice. We need the full support of the criminal justice system to have a sustainable impact on violent crime in the Walla Walla Valley.”

Officials are attempting to locate any victims and/or damage done during this latest shooting. An exact target hasn’t been identified and Detectives are requesting anyone with information about the incident to contact them at 509-527-1960.

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