



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



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For Immediate Release

July 21, 2011

Suspect Arrested After Release of Video to the Media

Arrested Suspect: Jousue Rodriguez, H/M, DOB 07/02/91 of 4635 Juanita Way South, St. Petersburg (photo attached)

On July 19, 2011, detectives released video to the media taken from a security camera mounted outside the Sunshine Food Convenience Store located at 2208 62 Avenue South in an effort to identify two suspects involved in an aggravated assault.

As the result of tips received from the airing of the video, detectives have arrested Jousue Rodriguez in connection with that case. Detectives believe that Rodriguez is suspect #1 as described in the original media release.

Rodriguez was arrested without incident at about 12:30 p.m. this afternoon in the area of 5th Avenue North and 34 Street by detectives from our CASE unit. At the time, Rodriguez was driving the white Ford Explorer believed to be the vehicle used during the assault. No firearms were recovered at the time of his arrest.

Detectives are still in the process of attempting to identify suspect #2 who remains at large.

Prior to his arrest today, detectives discovered that Rodriguez had been involved in second aggravated assault which took place a day earlier on 07/14/11 at around midnight.

The victim in that case was a passing 22 year old male motorist who had happened to see a white Ford Explorer pull off the road abruptly in the area of Roy Hanna Drive & 25th Way South.

Believing that the occupants of the Explorer might be in distress, the victim pulled over to see if he could assist. For reasons unknown, Rodriguez exited the vehicle armed with two handguns, one in each hand, and pointed them at the victim demanded to know what he4 wanted. The victim explained that he was just trying to help at which point Rodriguez placed the guns in his waistband and the victim drove off to call the police.

Two other male individuals where in the Explorer at the time, but neither were seen with guns. Once officers arrived in the area they discovered that the Explorer and its occupants had already left.

At this time Rodriguez is being charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a firearm and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Rodriguez does have prior arrests in both Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties for charges of Domestic Battery, Auto Theft, Burglary, Grand Theft, Fraud, Resisting Arrest, Violation of Probation, Driving on a Suspected License and Retail Theft.



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Original Media Release of 07/19/2011

Suspect's Description:

#1 W/M, 18-22, 5'5", 120 lbs, short dark hair, clean shaven, last seen wearing a black t-shirt with purple design on the front and white shorts

#2 B/M, 18-22, 5'9", 150 lbs, last seen wearing low hanging dark color pants and no shirt.

Suspect Vehicle: 1990's model Ford Explorer, white in color.

St. Petersburg Police detectives have released a video of two suspects in an aggravated assault which took place on July 15th, 2011 at about 11:30 a.m. outside the Sunshine Foods Convenience Store at 2208 62 Avenue South.

The video depicts the two suspects standing outside Sunshine Foods just prior to the assault taking place.

According to the 22 year old male victim, he was attempting to back out of parking space at the store when he nearly collided with the two suspects who were in the Ford Explorer. Words were exchanged at which point suspect #1, who was driving the Explorer, exited and produced a handgun which he pointed it at the victim.

The victim drove off, but was followed into the Pinellas Point Apartments at 2125 62nd Place South. After coming to a stop, the Explorer pulled up next to the victim's car and suspect #1 exited and now produced two handguns, both of which he began firing into the air. Suspect #2 also had a handgun and likewise was firing into the air as the victim fled the area uninjured.

At total of 18 shell casings were later recovered from the scene by investigators.

Detectives are asking anyone who might recognize the two suspects to contact Det. Brian Taylor at 727-893-4955. Callers may also utilize the St. Petersburg Police Department's Tip Line at 727-892-5000.

Information provided by Mike Puetz

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