



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



Media Relations Information for 10/26/2017

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LPPD makes arrest in 2014 Aggravated Robbery Case



Joel Anthony Garcia 01/15/1994 Holly Annette Cantu 06/19/1962

On Tuesday July 29th, 2014 at about 11:00pm, La Porte Police Department 911 received an alarm call at 717 W. Main, New Angels Food Mart, La Porte Texas. Upon arrival, the clerk advised that while closing up and locking the front door two male subjects approached him wearing masks. One of the suspects was wearing a black mask and was holding a handgun. The other suspect had a bandana over his face. The suspects took approximately \$400-\$500 from the victim and then fled the area. Officers searched the area and located a black mask matching the description given by the victim. That mask was sent to the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (IFS) for DNA analysis.

In May of this year detectives received a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) match on a known offender named, Joel Anthony Garcia of La Porte Texas. In order to make and arrest the match must be confirmed with a known DNA specimen from Garcia. Using the LPPD Facebook page, detectives posted a photo of Garcia, seeking his whereabouts. Tips from the community led detectives to Garcia and they were able to get a DNA specimen from him. That specimen was sent to IFS to confirm the match from the mask located near the crime scene.

On October 24th, 2017 Detectives received confirmation that the DNA specimen taken from Garcia was a match. Detectives contacted the Harris County District Attorney's Office (HCDAO) who reviewed the details of the case and accepted the charge of Aggravated Robbery on Joel Garcia.



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While detectives were working on getting a warrant for Garcia, LPPD Street Crimes Detectives with the assistance of LPPD Patrol Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 900 block of W B St. La Porte, Texas. The driver, Holly Annette Cantu of Bacliff, Texas attempted to evade officers but was captured a short distance later. Upon contact with the occupants of the evading vehicle, officers identified Garcia as a passenger.

As a result of the traffic stop and subsequent investigation, the HCDAO accepted the charge of Felony Evading and Possession of a Controlled substance for a crack pipe found in Cantu's possession. Garcia was arrested for an outstanding Chambers CO warrant for Possession of a Controlled Substance. He was also found to be in possession of 3.7 grams "*Kush*." The charge for the possession of "*Kush*" is pending lab analysis. Detectives were able to file the Aggravated Robbery with a Deadly Weapon charge on Garcia while he was still in custody.

Garcia was later transferred to the Harris County Jail on a "No Bond" while he awaits his court date for the charges against him. Cantu received a Personal Recognizant (PR) Bond from the Harris County Criminal Courts and was released from the La Porte Jail.