

NEWS RELEASE



City of Rancho Cucamonga Police Department



Date of Press Release: August 12, 2009

Crime: PC 211 Robbery and PC 664/187 Attempted Murder

Location: Circle "K" 12586 Foothill Boulevard, Rancho Cucamonga

Suspects: #1 Eric Morales, 27 year old male

#2 Unknown male

Victims: Names are Confidential

SUMMARY:

Detectives assigned to the Rancho Cucamonga Police Station received new information on an old case involving a robbery and attempted murder which resulted in the identification of one of the suspects in a June 7, 2000 crime.

On June 7, 2000 at approximately 9:49 p.m., two unknown males entered the Circle "K" Store on Foothill Boulevard. One of the suspects bought a candy bar and exited the store towards a white colored Ford Thunderbird. A second suspect placed a bag of Doritos, 12 pack of Coca-Cola, Alka Seltzer and a hotdog on the sales counter and ordered the female cashier to "Give me the money before I shoot you." Fearing for her life, she handed over money from two cash registers. When the suspect appeared distracted, the clerk ran out of the store through the parking lot into an empty field. As she was running away, she heard a gunshot and saw the suspect get into the passenger's side of the vehicle with the other suspect.

A customer driving into the parking lot saw the clerk run out of the store and a man running behind her firing a gun. The customer attempted to follow the suspects' vehicle, while he too was being shot at. The customer unfortunately lost sight of the suspects' vehicle.

A forensic examiner was able to lift prints from the Doritos bag left at Circle "K" by the suspect.

On August 3, 2008, eight years after the crime was committed, Eric Morales was arrested, booked, and fingerprinted at West Valley Detention Center for Possession of Burglary Tools and Receiving Known Stolen Property. It was at this time that the robbery and attempted murder suspect from June 2000 was identified as Eric Morales.

On April 16th, 2009, criminal charges were filed against Eric Morales. On August 6, 2009, Eric Morales plead guilty and is scheduled for sentencing September 21, 2009.

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Rancho Cucamonga Police Department
Case Agent: Detective Pleasant

ROD HOOPS, Sheriff/Coroner
San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dept