

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE
2016-0068

HONOR ◊ COURAGE ◊ INTEGRITY

Death / Arson Investigation

A little more than 48 hours ago, on Friday, February 19th at 4am Officers of the Harlingen police departments patrol bureau responded to the parking lot of the Best Western Hotel located at 4317 S. Expressway 77 in reference to possible shots fired. Witnesses described a newer model Ford pickup with more than one occupant in the vehicle. Witnesses heard arguing before what was described as a possible gunshot and a muzzle flash as the truck fled the area.

A few hours later at approximately 8am a late model Ford pickup matching the description of that suspect vehicle was found burning on a canal bank off of Wilson Road just West of FM800.

To ensure the safety of our City, and the safety of our neighboring Communities, beginning Friday morning, members of the Harlingen Police Department Major Crimes Unit, Organized Crimes Unit, and our Local, County, State, and Federal Law Enforcement partners have worked non-stop on this still ongoing investigation. As a result of the first 36 hours efforts and a number of search warrants in an investigation that has led us across Cameron County to include Primera, Los Fresnos, and Brownsville. Last night, Saturday, February 20th three adults were taken into custody.

Last night's investigation and into this morning evidence led investigators back to the irrigation canal location where just within the last few hours the body of an adult male was recovered from the water with what appears to be at least one gunshot wound.

Identity of the three suspects in custody along with all formal charges will be announced tomorrow but charges expected as of today include :

- One Adult Male and One Adult female to be charged with murder and arson
- And one additional adult male to be charged with tampering with evidence and engaging with organized crime.
- Two of these adults are **Primera** residents, and one is a resident of **Brownsville**.

This is still an ongoing and VERY active investigation. There may additional charges and or suspects related to this case as we continue forward and gain more information but this what we know today. The City of Harlingen and the Harlingen Police Department would like to thank our law enforcement partners and most importantly our Citizens in the Rio Grande Valley who stand with us against violence in any of our SAFE Communities.



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