



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES SEEK PUBLIC'S HELP REGARDING RECENT ATTACKS ON GANG TASK FORCE

Reward money now totaling \$200,000 is being offered for information leading to conviction

RIVERSIDE – Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco was joined today, March 18, 2010, by California Attorney General Jerry Brown and others asking for the public's help identifying those responsible for recent attacks on members of the Riverside County Gang Task Force.

"These obvious attempts to murder law enforcement officers - who each day put their lives on the line to rid our communities of violent gang members - are indicators of the callousness of these domestic terrorists," said District Attorney Rod Pacheco. "These criminals are willing to put the lives of the residents of this county in extreme jeopardy while targeting those who have chosen to protect those same residents."

"These brazen attempts to kill police officers in the line of duty are an outrage, and even a form of urban terrorism. Our brave men and women in uniform put their lives on the line every day to keep our streets safe," California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. said. "We urge anyone with information on the attacks to come forward immediately."

On Dec. 31, 2009, a domestic terrorist or terrorists targeted an unmarked Gang Task Force headquarters in a Hemet neighborhood not far from the Hemet Police Station. The natural gas line on the roof was intentionally redirected into the building which filled it with deadly gas. The simple turning on of a light switch or computer could have ignited the gas, causing it to explode. Such an explosion would have killed the two law enforcement officers and likely leveled an entire city block, killing or severely injuring many more people. However, the two task force members smelled the gas when they opened the door and quickly backed out.

Then on Feb. 23, 2010, a homemade zip gun was carefully hidden and attached to a security gate outside the same Hemet task force headquarters. As a task force member opened the gate, the weapon fired, narrowly missing its intended target.

Just two weeks ago, on March 5, a task force member drove his unmarked police car to a convenience store in Hemet. When he returned to the car he found a deadly device had been attached to the vehicle. Had the device detonated, it had the potential to kill not only that officer but also any innocent people nearby.

The threat to law enforcement officers and the public is so substantial that the Riverside County Board of Supervisors recently voted to approve a \$100,000 reward for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for these attacks.

Just yesterday, March 17, 2010, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger approved a \$50,000 reward.

Additionally, the FBI has authorized an additional \$20,000 reward, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has approved a \$10,000 reward and the City of Hemet has authorized a \$10,000 reward as well. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office is also contributing a \$10,000 reward.

The total reward amount available to someone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for these attacks now stands at \$200,000.

Anyone with information about the attacks on Gang Task Force members is asked to call **(951) 765-3897**.

The Riverside County Gang Task Force was formed in early 2006 in response to the continuing growth of criminal street gangs and outlaw motorcycle gangs countywide. The task force is comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and divided into eight regions covering every inch of the county.

Along with gang suppression through enforcement methods, the task force also collaborates with school districts, community groups and the District Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhoods program to provide education, intervention and prevention support.

The agencies participating in the task force are: Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Riverside County Probation Department, Banning Police Department, Beaumont Police Department, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Department of Justice, California Highway Patrol, Cathedral City Police Department, Coachella Police Department, Corona Police Department, Desert Hot Springs Police Department, Hemet Police Department, Indio Police Department, La Quinta Police Department, Murrieta Police Department, Palm Springs Police Department, Riverside Police Department, Immigration and Border Protection, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

For more information about the Riverside County Gang Task Force, go to www.RiversideCountyGTF.org

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