



# *Chowchilla Police Department*

Jay A. Varney, Chief of Police  
122 Trinity Avenue, Chowchilla, California 93610



## Press Release

On Tuesday July 27, 2010 at approximately 5:00 p.m., Officer Sanders and Officer Burnett were dispatched to Veterans Memorial Park for a report of a physical fight in progress. Officer Sanders arrived and after further investigation determined that an actual robbery had occurred. The victim had been physically assaulted by three alleged self proclaimed gang members and property was stolen from them. The victim was not seriously injured. Witnesses at the scene were able to give a good description of the suspects and the vehicle they fled in.

Officer Hunter located the vehicle a short time later in the 800 block of Humboldt Avenue. After further investigation, nineteen-year-old Fernando Leon, eighteen-year-old Christopher Rivera, both from Hollister, along with a sixteen-year-old from Chowchilla were arrested and booked at the Madera County Department of Corrections and Juvenile Hall for strong arm robbery and a gang enhancement.

The following day, Wednesday July 28, 2010, at approximately 2:45 a.m. Officers responded to Rite Aid Drug Store, 1780 W. Robertson Blvd., regarding a burglary that had just occurred. At that time the suspect gained entry into the closed business by shattering a window and stole various items before leaving. Officers took a burglary report and continued to investigate the crime.

Three days later, Saturday July 31, 2010, at approximately 5:00 a.m. officers were sent back to the Rite Aid for another burglary report. This report was similar to the first one. Officer Carrillo had been patrolling the Rite Aid area earlier in his shift and made contact with the suspect prior to the crime occurring. Based on this and other leads, officers determined who the suspect was.

At approximately 4:00 p.m., Officer Hormel was able to locate the suspect, nineteen-year-old Lorenzo Torres from Chowchilla. Torres was arrested and booked into the Madera County Department of Corrections for two counts of commercial burglary.

Sgt. Riviere commended the officers of the Chowchilla Police Department for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of the community. These two cases are just two of many where the officers are called upon to "protect and serve" their community. He also wanted to thank the community for their willingness to get involved. Please continue to report crimes by calling (559) 665-8600.

*Service & Safety*

Office (559) 665-8600 Fax (559) 665-7416  
[www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/police/police\\_main.htm](http://www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/police/police_main.htm)