



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: 1st Sergeant Kim D. Chinn
Phone: 703.792.7245
e-mail: kchinn@pwcgov.org
FAX: 703.792.7272

Officer Erika Hernandez
703.792.4159
ehernandez@pwcgov.org
703.792.4044

August 6, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . This press release is an update to the release dated July 29, 2009, concerning a loud party complaint resulting in two arrests. In view of some media requests concerning the matter, following are the facts as they are known now. The investigation is still open but, absent additional information, will be concluded in the near future.

On 07-26-09, at approximately 7:50 p.m., the police responded to the 9600 block of Lafayette Avenue in Manassas to investigate a complaint involving loud music, subjects drinking and detonating fireworks. Additionally, the caller advised the activity had been going on since 4 p.m. and seemed to be getting "out of hand." When the first responding officers arrived they contacted the homeowner, later identified as Edgar Rodriguez, who was highly intoxicated. The officers, one of whom is bilingual, explained the noise ordinance to Rodriguez in both English and Spanish. Rodriguez acted disorderly, cursed at the officers and refused several requests by officers and family to turn down the music and identify himself. Rodriguez was then told he was under arrest for being intoxicated in public and although he was in his yard, the arrest was lawful. Rodriguez physically resisted the officers' attempts to arrest him and force was necessary to subdue him.

Family members attempted to interfere with Rodriguez' arrest. At the same time, a large group of persons at the party approached the officers prompting the officers to call for additional assistance. During the incident, the homeowner and a woman identified as Leticia Elias were arrested. The arresting officers used the Taser to successfully arrest Rodriguez and Elias. The Taser was briefly utilized one time on each arrestee in the touch stun mode to produce compliance.

The Chief of Police ordered an internal investigation regarding the use of force as well as the allegations Mr. Rodriguez has made to the media. Mr. Rodriguez did not file a complaint with the police department nor has he cooperated with the investigation.

Ms. Elias was interviewed as part of the internal investigation. She also informed jail officials and police that she was not pregnant. The results of the internal investigation disputes claims made to the media by Mr. Rodriguez.

It should be noted that the Police Department documents and reviews all use of force incidents, including where no injuries are involved, as a matter of routine practice. In this case, an expanded internal investigation was conducted due to the claims reported in the media. Based on the facts that have been established to date, it appears that the arrests made on July 26, 2009, are lawful, within policy and appropriate.

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Lafayette Avenue arrests update
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Arrested

Edgar Amado Rodriguez (homeowner)
9628 Lafayette
54-years-old

*Charged with Intoxicated in Public and Resisting Arrest. He was released on \$2,500 bond and has a court date of 08-28-09.

Leticia Elias
9628 Lafayette
25-years-old

*Charged with Assault and Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, Obstruction of Justice, and Resisting Arrest. She was released on 07-29-09 and has a court date of 08-28-09.

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