



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

TODD SPITZER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 27, 2024
Case #: 24CF3020

Kimberly Edds
Director of Public Affairs
Office: 714-347-8405, Cell: 714-504-1917
media@ocdapa.org

Third-striker Charged with Two Counts of Attempted Murder for Opening Fire on Undercover Gang Officers in City of Orange

SANTA ANA, Calif. – A 28-year-old third-striker has been charged with two felony counts of attempted murder for opening fire on two undercover gang officers in the city of Orange who were driving through a gang neighborhood in an unmarked police car. The two officers returned fire, but no one was injured.

On the evening of Thursday, November 21, 2024, two undercover gang officers from the Orange Police Department were in an unmarked police vehicle when Victor Manuel Trinidad, whom they recognized from prior police contacts, shouted “what’s up, homie, where you from?” and grabbed something from his waistband.

Twenty minutes later, officers returned to the area with an Orange County probation officer to search for the man they believed had a gun.

The officers quickly located Trinidad, who began aggressively walking toward the unmarked police vehicle and throwing up his hands. As the two undercover Orange officers got out of their vehicle, Trinidad opened fire on the officers. Both officers returned fire. A round was later found in the door of the officers’ unmarked vehicle.

Trinidad was later arrested after he was found hiding in a cabinet in a nearby home. Trinidad was on Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) at the time of the shooting.

It is unclear whether Trinidad knew that the three people in the undercover vehicle were law enforcement officers.

In addition to the two felony counts of attempted murder, Trinidad, 28, of Orange, has been charged with one felony count of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, one felony count of discharging a firearm at a vehicle, one felony count of possession of a firearm by a felon. He has also been charged with two felony enhancements of attempted premeditated murder, two felony enhancements of discharge of a firearm, and one felony enhancement of personally using a firearm.

He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted on all counts. He is currently being held without bail.

“This dangerous criminal didn’t care who was in that car; he opened fire to send a message that they didn’t belong in his neighborhood,” said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. “Thankfully, the officers were not injured and they will continue to do the work to protect our communities from the scourge of gangs.”

Senior Deputy District Attorney Shane Melzer of the Gangs/TARGET Unit is prosecuting this case.

###