

United States Marshals Service



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One of Northwest's Most Wanted Surrenders

United States Marshal Eric E. Robertson of the Western District of Washington announced today that Juan Zavala-Rodriguez, aka Johnny, one of the most wanted fugitives in the northwest, self-surrendered last night in Pierce County. He was subsequently transported and booked into the King County Jail by members of the Pacific Northwest Fugitive Apprehension Task Force (PNWFAT).

Johnny Rodriguez, age 23, of Pacific, has been on the run since March 12, 2005, after being involved in a homicide in Auburn. After getting into a physical altercation with Rodriguez, the victim, Dee Anthony Davis, and two other individuals drove away from an apartment complex in Pacific, Washington. Johnny Rodriguez and two other men got into Rodriguez's vehicle and pursued the victim and his passengers northbound on highway 167.

Near the 15th St. N.W. on ramp to highway 167 in Auburn, multiple shots were fired from a high powered assault rifle from Rodriguez's vehicle, striking Davis, and both his passengers. Davis was pronounced dead at the scene, and both his passengers suffered gunshot wounds.

The investigation by the Auburn Police Department resulted in the arrest of Michael Rideaux, age 24, also of Pacific and on March 23, 2005; the King County Superior Court issued an arrest warrant for Johnny Rodriguez charging him with Murder in the 1st Degree and Attempted Murder in the 1st Degree.

The investigation revealed that Rodriguez fled immediately following the shooting, and the Auburn Police Department requested the assistance of the PNWFAT in locating and apprehending Rodriguez. According to Marshal Robertson, the PNWFAT spent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars tracking Rodriguez down and had recently developed information that was going to lead to his imminent arrest. Family members finally convinced Rodriguez that he was going to eventually be caught and that he should stop running and surrender due to the constant pressure being applied by the persistent PNWFAT investigators.

The PNWFAT is a U.S. Marshals-sponsored partnership comprised of investigators from the King County Sheriffs Office, Seattle Police Department, Washington State Department of Corrections, and the U.S. Marshals Service. The Task Force is supported by the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative and was formed to concentrate apprehension efforts to remove federal, state and local fugitives from the streets. The Task Force objective is to disrupt illegal gun and drug traffickers in the Pacific Northwest and to reduce the amount of violence in the region.

For additional information on other major case fugitives, go to the U.S. Marshals Service's website at www.usmarshals.gov. For additional information on the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative, go to the PSN website at www.psn.gov.

For information on the apprehension, call Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal David Miller at 206-370-8602, or for information on the criminal case; call the King County Prosecutor's Office at 206-296-9000.