Press Release

Outstanding suspect in homicide arrested.

Suspect from November 2012 homicide arrested after stolen car pursuit.

Lakewood, WA. November 25, 2013:

On 11-24-13, at 1:21AM, a Lakewood patrol officer spotted an occupied stolen vehicle travelling northbound at the 11100 block of Pacific Highway SW in Lakewood. When the officer tried to stop the vehicle, the driver took off at a high rate of speed. The vehicle fled at speeds in excess of 100 miles an hour and an attempt was made to stop the vehicle using stop sticks. The on-duty sergeant eventually terminated the pursuit for safety reasons.

After terminating the pursuit, the officers could see that the vehicle was smoking badly and appeared to not be running anymore. When the officers got up to the vehicle, it was in the middle of the road at the 5000 block of South Tacoma Way. The driver was seen bailing on foot and officers gave chase. The suspect was taken into custody after resisting and fighting with officers.

The vehicle was indeed a confirmed stolen car and the driver was identified as 29 year old Jiffary Mendez. Mendez had an outstanding warrant for his arrest for murder in connection with a November 2012 Lakewood Homicide Investigation. Mendez was interviewed by Lakewood Detectives and eventually booked into the Pierce County Jail on his Murder warrant and Felony Eluding, Resisting Arrest and Possession of Stolen Property.

The warrant was connected to a homicide that occurred on November 12, 2012 at an apartment located at the 5300 block of San Francisco Ave. S.W. in Lakewood. Homicide Detectives arrested three suspects for the murder of Haime Solis-Diaz in June 2013 after receiving information on the case in February 2013. The Pierce
County Prosecutor did a press release on the arrests. Press releases previously released by LPD on the homicide are attached.

Please contact Lt. Chris Lawler for additional information.

Lt. Lawler can be contacted at the numbers listed below for more information;

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