



PRESS RELEASE

City of Pueblo Police Department



SWAT Callout

March 16, 2022 [FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]



**CHRISTOPHER
ESQUIVEL**



VINCENT BALLEJOS

On March 16, 2022, at approximately 11:50 am, officers responded to the 1500 block of E 4th St on the report of a burglary. Residents returned to their home to find it had been burglarized. A short time later, two males came to the residence, who were suspected to be involved in the burglary. The residents confronted the two males who brandished a handgun before fleeing the scene in a silver sedan.

Detectives with the Pueblo Police Department were in the area at the time and observed the vehicle matching the description from the burglary and menacing incident. The occupants of the vehicle matched the suspect descriptions. They were observed entering a residence at the corner of the 100 block of Joplin Ave. Officers surrounded the residence and based on the information of a handgun being involved, the Pueblo Police Department SWAT team was activated.

Once on scene, the SWAT team attempted to talk to the two male suspects in the residence. After several hours with no resolution, the SWAT team initiated a tactical plan and both males eventually exited the residence and were taken into custody.

The males were identified as 28-year-old, Christopher Esquivel and 36-year-old, Vincent Ballejos. Esquivel was injured when he attempted to jump through a window to escape. He was treated for his injuries and later transported to the Pueblo County Detention Center. Ballejos was not injured and was also transported to the Pueblo County Detention Center.

Both Esquivel and Ballejos had warrants for their arrest. Esquivel was identified as the person who brandished the handgun. Esquivel has prior felony convictions but was not able to be charged with Possession of a Weapon by a Previous Offender due to none of the convictions qualifying under the current legislature changes as of March 01, 2022.

There are no further persons suspected to be involved in this incident.

The information contained in this press release is based on preliminary information available at the time of its drafting. The Pueblo Police Department's understanding of this incident may change as additional evidence is collected, analyzed and reviewed. The purpose of this press release is to provide timely information to the public. In consideration of the foregoing, please be advised that any statements expressed herein are subject to change at any time.

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