



CITY OF CLEARWATER

POST OFFICE BOX 4748, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33758-4748
CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT, 645 PIERCE STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
TELEPHONE (727) 562-4242

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RELEASE 10-012

January 19, 2010

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Public Safety PIO

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TWO ORLANDO-AREA MEN ARRESTED FOR HOME INVASION ARMED ROBBERY

WHO: Edgardo Rivera (Arrested)

DOB: 8-14-78

Winter Park, FL

CHARGES: Home Invasion Robbery (Firearm)

Aggravated Battery

Felon in Possession of Firearm

Use of Firearm in Commission of Felony

Christopher R. Neff (Arrested)

DOB: 7-8-82

Orlando, FL

CHARGES: Home Invasion Robbery (Firearm)

Aggravated Battery

Felon in Possession of Firearm

Use of Firearm in Commission of Felony

Dayananda Punchihewa (Victim)

DOB: 11-2-42

Clearwater, Fla.

WHAT: Home Invasion/Armed Robbery

SEIZED: .357 caliber firearm

Stun gun

2002 Honda Accord, 4-Door, Red

WHEN: January 17, 2010

9:40 p.m.

WHERE: 2913 Eagle Estates Circle S.

Clearwater, Fla.





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WHY: After spending time at the Hard Rock Casino in Tampa, the victim cashed in his chips and headed home. When he parked his vehicle in his garage and got out, the two suspects attacked him. One suspect used a stun gun to deliver two contact shots, one to his face and one to his shoulder. The suspects then began to beat the victim.

One suspect displayed a handgun and demanded money from the victim. The suspects stole victim's wallet containing \$1,100.00 dollars cash and fled in a red older model Honda. The victim was transported to Mease Countryside Hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

Clearwater Police Robbery Detectives immediately began the follow-up investigation. While detectives were reviewing the casino's surveillance video with the assistance of Seminole Police Department, a Seminole Officer noticed a suspicious vehicle matching the matching the suspect vehicle description and conducted a stop in a casino parking lot. CPD detectives responded to the scene and worked in conjunction with the Seminole Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Tampa Police Department.

During a search of the vehicle, police found a firearm, stun gun and items belonging to the Clearwater victim. The two suspects also face charges for robbery offenses in Tampa and Polk County. The suspects are currently being held at the Hillsborough County Jail.

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