



Roxana Kennedy
Chief of Police

CHULA VISTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chula Vista, California 91910-3801

POLICE MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: October 28th, 2023 – **UPDATED NOV 4th, 2023**
To: San Diego Media
From: Chula Vista Police Department
Contact: Sergeant Anthony Molina
Phone: (619) 691-5111
Email: pio@chulavistapd.org
Subject: **SHOOTING – NOVO BRAZIL, OTAY RANCH TOWN CENTER, CHULA VISTA**

Message: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE ON NOV. 4th 2023:

A 15-year-old male is in custody for the shooting that occurred at the Otay Ranch Town Center on Saturday, October 28th. On Friday evening, November 3rd, authorities arrested the juvenile in San Diego without incident. Due to his age, no additional suspect information is being released at this time. Police are still asking that those with additional information about this case to contact San Diego Crime Stoppers using the information at the bottom of this media advisory. There is no other information available for public release at this time.

UPDATE ON OCT. 30TH 2023:

As of this time, the Chula Vista Police Department, has been in contact with four victims of the shooting. One was identified as a 16-year-old male with non-life threatening gunshot wounds to his legs. The juvenile victim is believed to have been involved in the initial dispute. An uninvolved 58-year-old man and 60-year-old woman were also shot in the leg and transported to a hospital for treatment of non-life threatening wounds. In addition, an uninvolved 21-year-old woman received treatment at a hospital for a non-life threatening injury believed to have been caused by a bullet grazing her leg.

Several customers were at Novo Brazil and the Otay Ranch Town Center when the shooting occurred. The Chula Vista Police Department would like to thank the several patrons and community members who remained on scene to provide witness statements. Officers spoke with several witnesses and collected video at the scene, including video which captured much of the incident. The video is being reviewed by investigators but will not be available for the public at this time.

There is believed to be only one suspect who discharged a firearm during the incident and that person is still being sought by officers. No other information about the suspect is available at this time.

Anyone with additional video or information about the incident is urged to contact investigators via San Diego County Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 or submit a tip via P3tips (online or mobile application) <http://p3tips.com/409> if they wish to remain anonymous.

The Chula Vista Police Department recognizes the community's concerns regarding safety throughout the City and especially at the Otay Ranch Town Center following this incident. Officers will be conducting extra patrols around the mall and working closely with security staff to monitor and address safety concerns appropriately.

While this was not an "active shooter" incident, the Chula Vista Police Department is grateful for its regional law enforcement partners and wants to thank the San Diego Police Department, National City Police Department, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol for their immediate and unhesitant response in sending their officers and deputies to help ensure the safety of our community members.

PREVIOUS INFORMATION RELEASED ON OCT. 28TH, 2023:

On Saturday, October 28th, 2023, at approximately 7:16 p.m., the Chula Vista Police Department received several calls of shots fired at Novo Brazil, located in the Otay Ranch Town Center in Chula Vista. Some of the callers stated there were victims who had been shot but it was unclear how many. Due to concerns there was an active shooter, several Chula Vista Police officers responded to the scene along with officers from the San Diego and National City Police Departments. The mall was immediately locked down while officers secured the scene and searched for victims.

Based on their initial findings, officers determined it was not an active shooter incident. Three gunshot victims were eventually located, and all were transported to hospitals with non-life threatening injuries. The preliminary investigation suggests the shooting started after a confrontation between two opposing groups of individuals. There is believed to be one shooting suspect who fled with a small group prior to officers arriving. The shooter is still being sought but there is no indication the suspect had any other intended targets or that there was any continued threat in the area of the Otay Ranch Town Center. The lockdown was lifted after officers determined there was not an active shooter.

This remains an active investigation. As of late Saturday evening, officers were still on scene speaking with witnesses and gathering evidence. Detectives were also called out to assist. As of this time, there does not appear to be evidence of a hate crime or any nexus to terrorism.

We ask for your patience while we continue to gather information and speak with witnesses. Anyone with information on this case, or who can provide additional evidence, is asked to contact **San Diego County Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 or submit a tip via P3tips** (online or mobile application) <http://p3tips.com/409> if they wish to remain anonymous.

****Weekend and after-hour inquiries should be directed to the Watch Commander at (619)476-5374, however no other information is available for release at the time of this media advisory distribution.***

Prepared By: Sergeant Anthony Molina
Copies Sent To: San Diego Media

Approved By: Assistant Chief Phil Collum
Date/Time: 11-04-2023 / 1300