

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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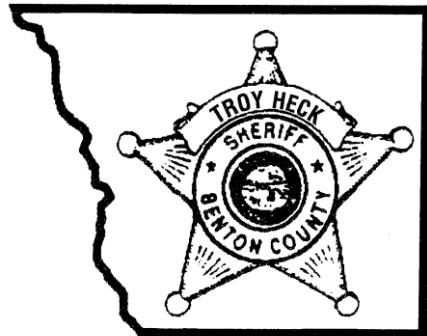
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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 10/15/2024

*******UPDATED*******

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is investigating an assault with a firearm that occurred in Gilmanton Township on October 13th.

On October 13th at about 4:45 pm, the Benton County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in the 9900 block of 95th Ave NE in Gilmanton Township. A resident at this location reported that two people had been shot and that the suspect was still in the area. Deputies responded to the area and located two adult male victims. One victim had a gunshot wound to his neck and the other had a gunshot wound to his abdomen. Soon after finding the victims, deputies located the adult male suspect and took him into custody without incident. Both victims were transported via ambulance to the St. Cloud Hospital and remain there in critical condition. The suspect was transported to the Benton County Jail, where he will remain until his initial court appearance.

UPDATED INFORMATION:

The victims in this incident have been identified as Gaudencio Martinez, age 32 of Foley, and Martin Ramirez Marcial, age 35 of Foley. The suspect was identified as Ismael Vasquez Santos, age 22 of Foley.

The investigation revealed Santos shot Martinez and Marcial with a handgun following an argument. Investigators learned that prior to the shooting, Marcial had invited Martinez to Marcial's residence in the 9300 block of 95th Ave NE that Marcial shared with Santos. Investigators learned Marcial, Martinez, and Santos all consumed alcoholic beverages together at this residence. Investigators learned Santos became belligerent with Martinez and Marcial after consuming these alcoholic beverages, threatening to kill them. Santos reportedly produced a handgun and shot Marcial in the neck and Martinez in the abdomen. Investigators learned Marcial ran from the scene of the shooting and sought help from a resident in the 9900 block of 95th Ave NE. Marcial and Martinez both stated Santos' assault was a surprise to them, commenting that Santos "went crazy."

Martinez and Santos were both located at the scene of the shooting. Martinez was provided with first aid and transported to the hospital. Santos was placed under arrest and transported to the Benton County Jail. Marical was located at a residence in the 9900 block of

95th Ave NE, provided with first aid, and transported to the hospital. Subsequent searches of the property in the 9300 block of 95th Ave NE yielded a handgun suspected of being used in the shooting. Both Marcial and Martinez remain in the St. Cloud Hospital in satisfactory condition. Santos remains in jail awaiting his initial appearance.

The investigation into this incident remains active and on-going. The Benton County Sheriff's Office was assisted in this investigation by the Minnesota State Patrol, Foley Police Department, Foley Fire Department, and Mayo Ambulance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Heck".

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff