

Westminster Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 22, 2021

Use of Force Incident

Arrestee: Ciomara Garcia, 34, Westminster

Charges: Bench Warrant, Felony Vandalism

Location: 14100 blk. Locust Street, Westminster

Westminster, CA- On April 21, 2021, at around 4:00 PM, Westminster Police Officers were dispatched to the 14100 block of Locust Street in the City of Westminster for a call of an assault and battery. The caller reported a female Hispanic Adult had assaulted an adult Asian woman who had tried to rescue a dog running in the street.

Upon arrival, WPD officers identified the female suspect, Ciomara Garcia, 34, of Westminster. During the investigation, WPD Officers learned Garcia had an outstanding felony bench warrant for Vandalism. WPD Officers detained and handcuffed Garcia. Garcia exhibited signs of being under the influence and WPD Officers summoned paramedics. While waiting for paramedics, Garcia was not compliant and she became combative with the officers.

While trying to control Garcia, a WPD Officer used force and struck Garcia two times in the face with his fist. Two WPD Officers immediately intervened and deescalated the situation. Garcia was taken to a nearby hospital for evaluation. No injuries were reported and she has since been booked into Orange County Jail on the warrant.

During the investigation of the use of force, a citizen provided WPD supervisors a copy of a cellphone video that contained footage of part of the incident. After careful review of the video and based on the totality of the circumstances, a Westminster Police Officer was immediately placed on paid administrative leave pending an internal affairs investigation. The Westminster Police Department Internal Affairs Division is in communication with the Orange County District Attorney's Office which will evaluate the officer's use of

force and determine if criminal charges are warranted. Regarding Ciomara Garcia, criminal charges of assault and battery upon the Asian female victim, along with charges of under the influence of a controlled substance, resisting arrest and assault on a police officer will also be submitted to the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

The Westminster Police Department is well aware of portions of the video circulating on social media. The Westminster Police Department considers this a serious event and will ensure that this investigation will be guided by the law and the truth.

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WESTMINSER POLICE DEPARTMENT
(714) 898-3315 - General line

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<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/>