



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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**DA'S OFFICE CHARGES MAN WITH THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF THREE
POLICE OFFICERS DURING CHASE FROM CORONA TO RIVERSIDE**

RIVERSIDE – Three counts of attempted murder of a peace officer are among the five felonies the DA's Office charged today, Oct. 14, 2016, against a man who led police on a chase from the Corona area to Riverside.

Leslie D. Berry Jr., DOB: 9-16-78, is scheduled to be arraigned in case RIF1605024 today, Oct. 14, at 1:30 p.m., in Dept. 34 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.

"This case, along with the recent murders of two Palm Springs police officers, continue to be stark reminders of the dangers that law enforcement officers face on a daily basis," District Attorney Mike Hestrin said. "Now, more than ever, law enforcement needs our support and encouragement."

Along with the attempted murders of two Riverside police officers and one Corona police sergeant, Berry is also charged with one count each of felony evading arrest and the unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. If convicted as currently charged, Berry could face a life sentence.

The chase started just before 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016, when a Corona police sergeant tried to pull over a van that matched the description of a vehicle involved in a drive-by shooting last month in Corona. According to the evidence in this case, the sergeant stopped the van in the Home Gardens area but the driver sped away, continuing to the area of Magnolia Avenue and Pierce Street in Riverside where the driver fired multiple shots at the sergeant, striking his patrol car.

Two Riverside police detectives were in the area at the time of that shooting, saw what was happening, and returned fire at the driver. The driver fired at all three police officers as he headed onto the 91 freeway, firing more shots as he headed east on the freeway. The van exited the freeway at Tyler Street and then north to Indiana Avenue where the driver stopped, got out, and again fired at the three pursuing officers, and then sped away. Ultimately, the van struck another vehicle and the driver fled on foot. Berry was taken into custody without further incident about 20 minutes later.

No one, including the three officers, were hit by any gunfire or injured during the incident.

A weapon found at the scene after Berry was arrested was a modified Colt AR-15 rifle.

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