



CITY OF  
**FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
PRESS RELEASE

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**VIOLENT ARMED ROBBERY**  
**SUSPECT ARRESTED**

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating an armed robbery that occurred on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at approximately 3:14 A.M. The incident occurred in the 3100 block of Windamar Street in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

A group of visitors in town for a wedding were leaving the Tropic Cay Sports Bar located at 529 North Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard when the group dispersed, leaving one of the males walking alone. An unknown suspect approached the male victim and began to strike him multiple times in the face and head with a firearm. The suspect then rifled through the severely injured victim's pockets, taking all of his belongings. The victim's fiancé became concerned when he did not return to their hotel. She and her mother left their hotel and went looking for him.

When they arrived in the area of where the incident occurred, they observed the victim lying in the roadway and an unknown white male suspect approaching them armed with a firearm. The suspect pointed the handgun at the two women and then struck the fiancé's mother in the face and head with the weapon. The suspect ordered the women to lie down on the ground, struck both of them multiple times with the handgun and forcefully took their belongings.

When the suspect walked away from the injured women, he return to the male lying on the ground and struck him again before fleeing from the area.

The victims have been identified as Nathan Brooks, W/M, 11/20/87, Julia Martinez, W/F, 07/27/81 and Sherrie Geisler, W/F, 10/27/62. Brooks was transported to Broward Health Medical Center to be treated for his injuries.

Information developed during this investigation led detectives to identify the suspect as Mario J. Lopez, W/M, 04/15/88, a resident of the City of Ocklawaha, Florida.

Detectives from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Special Investigations Division and Criminal Investigations Division conducted surveillance of Lopez and located him in the area of University Drive and Interstate 595 in the Town of Davie.

Upon sight of the detectives Lopez fled on foot into a nearby field. When detectives caught up to Lopez, he violently resisted their efforts to take him into custody. A Fort Lauderdale Police Department Apprehension K-9 Unit was utilized to assist and the suspect began to strike, kick and choke the K-9.

Lopez was ultimately taken into custody and charged with the following;

- (3) Counts of Armed Robbery with a Firearm
- (1) Count of Aggravated Battery with a Deadly weapon
- (1) Count of Possession of a Firearm by Convicted Felon
- (1) Count of Resisting without Violence
- (1) Count of Resisting with Violence
- (1) Count of Battery of a Police Dog

This is an active and on-going investigation.

Anyone with further information regarding these or similar robberies should contact Detective Todd Hill at 954-828-5567 or the Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-8477(TIPS).

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