

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOTOS AVAILABLE: ID# 1878386 (Jenkins), ID# 1976846 (Pearce)

Shortly after midnight on the morning of February 26th, 2007 Metro officers responded to the area of U.S. 95 and Alexander Road to investigate the report of a shooting. Responding officers discovered two males had been shot as a result of a confrontation between two rival graffiti “tagger crews.”

The L.V.M.P.D. Gang Crimes Section responded and assumed responsibility for the investigation. It was learned the shootings following a confrontation between rival “tagger crews”. These two groups had been crossing out the “tags” of their rivals – a common sign of disrespect among taggers and gang members that often leads to violence.

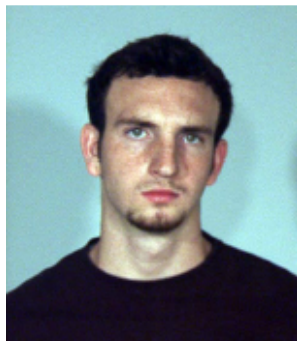
The confrontation began as a fight but quickly escalated into a vehicle chase when four taggers fled and were chased by a vehicle occupied by the two rival taggers. Shots were fired from the pursuing vehicle striking two occupants of the fleeing vehicle.

As a result of the investigation Chaz Jenkins, 18, and Justin Pearce, 19, both of Las Vegas were arrested and booked into the Clark County Detention Center for multiple charges including Attempted Murder, Discharging Firearm from a Motor Vehicle and Possession of Firearm with an Altered Serial Number. The victims were transported to University Medical Center for treatment of their gunshot wounds.

Both of the suspects arrested are admitted taggers, and members of a local tagger crew which is under investigation by the Metro’s Gang Crimes Section.

Metro has observed that violence among graffiti vandals and tagger crews is increasing in the Las Vegas area, with shootings as a result of the competition among these rival groups becoming more common.

For further comment, please contact Sergeant Don Sutton or Detective Carl Lutjens of the L.V.M.P.D. Gang Unit at 702-828-3309. Photos are available through the L.V.M.P.D. Public Information Office.



Chaz Jenkins



Justin Pearce