

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Case #12-076-0368G

Suspect: Antolin Garcia Torres

Victim: Sierra LaMar

On Friday, March 16, 2012, Sierra LaMar, age 15, was living with her mother and her mother's boyfriend in Morgan Hill, California. Sierra was a student at Sobrato High School. On a school day, Sierra would normally leave her home by 7:15 a.m. and walk several blocks to her unmarked school bus stop, where the bus was scheduled to pick her up by 7:24 a.m. Sierra was the only student who used that stop.

That morning, Sierra was up by 6 and getting ready for school. By that time her mother's boyfriend had already left for work, and her mother left shortly thereafter. At 7 a.m., Sierra posted a photograph of herself on a social media website. At 7:11 a.m., Sierra exchanged a text message with a classmate, and the two of them agreed to meet at school that day before class to compare homework and share makeup.

Sierra never got on her bus that morning, she never made it to school that day, and she was not home when her mother returned from work that day, which was unusual because Sierra was routinely home before her mother. Later that evening, Sierra's mother contacted the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and reported her daughter missing.

The following day, an extensive ground and air search was initiated to locate Sierra using Santa Clara County Search and Rescue personnel and equipment. A tracking canine traced Sierra's scent from her house to a point approximately mid-way down her street, where the dog appeared to lose the scent. Later that day, Sierra's mobile phone was located in a field less than a mile from her home.

On Sunday, March 18, 2012, Sierra's purse, school books and clothing were located near a shed in a field fewer than 2 miles from her home.

Sierra's discovered clothing was submitted to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office Crime Laboratory for analysis. Forensic examination of the clothing revealed the presence of DNA foreign to Sierra. The profile of the foreign DNA was entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), which is an FBI database that stores DNA profiles created by federal, state and local crime laboratories in the United States, and can be used by criminalists to assist in the identification of crime suspects. A search of the database identified a strong association between the foreign DNA from Sierra's clothing and the DNA profile of Antolin Garcia Torres. On March 28, 2012, investigators were notified of this potential suspect.

Antolin Garcia Torres lived approximately 7 miles from Sierra's home, and drove a 1998 VW Jetta. On April 7, 2012, investigators seized the Jetta and submitted it to the crime laboratory for processing and analysis. Criminalists located DNA foreign to Antolin Garcia Torres within the car, and found a strong association between that foreign DNA and the DNA profile of Sierra LaMar.


Since Wednesday, March 28, 2012, Antolin Garcia Torres has been under surveillance and he has not led investigators to Sierra's location.

Throughout the course of the investigation, the Sheriff's Office has monitored the various social media websites frequented by Sierra. The last known activity positively attributed to Sierra occurred during the morning of March 16, 2012. The last known date and time that anyone has seen, spoken with, or communicated in any fashion with Sierra was on Friday, March 16, 2012, at 7:11 a.m.

Sierra LaMar has no independent means of support. All of her known personal belongings, including her asthma inhaler, her money, her house keys, and the clothing she was wearing the morning of her disappearance, have been located.

There is no evidence that Antolin Garcia Torres and Sierra LaMar knew each other, or had friends in common. The evidence establishes probable cause to believe that Sierra LaMar was forcibly kidnapped and murdered by Antolin Garcia Torres.

Dated: May 24, 2012


Sergeant Herman Leon, #1685
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office