Shots Fired at Chandler Fashion Center

Written by Arizona Foothills Magazine
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Shots were fired January 5 at Chandler Fashion Center near Sears. According to Chandler Police, an armed robbery occurred off the premises, the robber then entered the Fashion Center at approximately 12 p.m, and was followed by and confronted by undercover police. The suspect fired shots at the undercover officers, not knowing they were policemen. It is unclear as to whether anybody was struck in the shooting.

The center is currently under lockdown-shoppers have been evacuated as the police searched for the gunman.

The robber was said to be a fugitive who was recently and mistakenly allowed to make a $320 bond and was released from jail.

Chandler Fashion Center is currently closed.

[Update 1:36 p.m.]

The gunman is said to be behind the register at Baja Fresh across the street from the center and is holding hostages.

Police have named Danial Munoz Perez as the suspect, who has been accused of shooting Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers December 10, outside of a home in Casa Grande. Since his mistaken release December 16, police have been looking for him.

[Update 1:51 p.m.]

Police are reportedly attempting to negotiate in a standoff with the gunman, and are surrounding Baja Fresh with guns drawn.

The Chandler exit of Loop 101 is now closed.

[Update 2:49 p.m.]

Per on-scene reports, one suspect has been taken into custody, though apparently the gunman was not Perez as suspected.

Local school Kyrene Del Sureno Elementary is in lock-down.

Hundreds of police officers are on the scene.

[Update 3:00 p.m.]

It has been confirmed that two hostages have been released from the Baja Fresh location and the restaurant has been cleared.

Kyrene Del Sureno Elementary students have been released, which indicates that the specific standoff has come to a close. There is question as to whether the suspect was Perez, after all.

More information to come.