

THE PRESS ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO: Off-duty probation officer shoots suspected carjacker (UPDATE 2)

An off-duty Los Angeles County Probation Department officer on Friday, May 29, shot an Ontario man who officials say was attempting to carjack him in Ontario.

BY ALI TADAYON AND SUZANNE HURT / STAFF WRITERS

Published: May 30, 2015 Updated: May 31, 2015 12:01 p.m.

An off-duty Los Angeles County probation officer shot an Ontario man who officials say was attempting to carjack him at knifepoint in an Ontario store parking lot on Friday, May 29.

Adrian Leatherman, 26, remained in critical condition under San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department custody at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Saturday evening, May 30. He underwent surgery after a 54-year-old probation officer shot him in the upper torso and arm with a single bullet, Ontario Police Sgt. Jeff Higbee said via email.

Both men are Hispanic, Higbee added.

Leatherman approached the probation officer and his wife as they loaded groceries into their car outside a Smart & Final – Extra grocery store at 1337 East Fourth St. in Ontario and “demanded a ride” about 9:40 p.m. Friday, according to an Ontario Police news release.

After the couple refused, Leatherman drew a knife “in a threatening manner” and again demanded a ride, the news release said. In response, the officer, who was wearing civilian clothes, drew a gun and told Leatherman to get on the ground.

Initially, Leatherman complied. But he became “uncooperative” and struggled with the officer, who shot the man once “in fear for his and his family’s safety,” the news release said.

The officer was not injured, the news release said.

Ontario police who responded to the scene found Leatherman on the ground and a knife on the ground nearby, according to the news release.

Leatherman was initially treated on-scene after the probation officer flagged down paramedics who were on their way to another call and was then transported to the Colton hospital, Higbee said.

Saturday afternoon, an Arrowhead Regional Medical Center house supervisor said there was no one by that name at the hospital.

Leatherman will be booked into jail on suspicion of attempted carjacking after being released from the hospital, according to the news release.