1. July 2, 2013 Sergio Vasquez, 22, was critically injured in a shooting at West Walnut Avenue and North Lemon Street. An officer pulled up 2 minutes later. Suspects were still in the area however officer did not follow them. Officer instead ordered witnesses to the ground. Officer approached victim who was lying on his side, officer grabbed victim and turned him on his back. Witnesses, including friends, yelled to leave victim on his side or stomach as victim could choke on his blood. Officer yelled at witnesses to shut up.
2. July 4, 2013, OPD contacted victim’s mother and threatened to tear down shrine if it was not removed. OPD informed mother that she could be fined if shrine is not taken down as it poses a public safety risk. Shrine for Chapman students who was hit by a vehicle has remained up for over a month.
3. July 6, 2013 family and friends had carwash (to raise funds for funeral costs) at Tustin and Palmyra, OPD officers drove by several times.
4. July 7, 2013, family and friends arrived at Omega Dive-In Burgers to set up car wash before 8am at corner of Lemon & Chapman with permission from owner. Family and friends were confronted by three OPD officers Morton #1091, Amat #1293 and Christie #1490 who advised family and friends that they could not have car wash in parking lot as they claimed parking lot belonged to city and they did not have a permit to be there. Family and friends explained that the parking lot belonged to Omega Burgers and that they had permission from owner. Family and friends attempted to contact owner by telephone in order for owner to talk to officers directly, they could not get a hold of owner at the time. Officers forbid them from having car wash. With nowhere to go, a friend offered American Legion down the street and car wash was set up. During carwash officers drove by and parked near car wash to take pictures of people who were present. Officers including Detective Joel Nigro(head of gang unit) informed family and friends that they could not hold car wash signs. At approximately 2:39pm Officer Joel Nigro asked car wash volunteer Albert C. to walk over to police car, Albert C. refused and asked that Officer Nigro get out of vehicle if he wanted to converse. Albert C. asked him why OPD was taking pictures of people and not allowing car wash to take place at Omegas. Officer Nigro stated that (video recording is available).
5. July 7, 2013, I called OPD watch commander three times and left message with operator to have him contact me. Watch commander/Lieutenant Thayer #A35 finally answered, he informed me he had been with the dept for over 35 years. Lieutenant was cynical and made jokes about my concerns. He called me back after talking to his officers. He reported that his officers only informed the family and friends that it was city property and that they had to stay on Omega property. This information contradicts reports of family and friends who reported that officers forbid them from having car wash. When asked about taking pictures of people there Lieutenant responded with “it’s a free country anyone can take pictures”. Lieutenant confirmed his officers did nothing wrong.
6. July 7, 2013, that evening OPD raided homes and took mostly pictures of Sergio Vasquez. Community member reports “gang unit hit my pad like at 11pm but I wasn’t here, but they took pictures of Sergio and they were telling my jefa if something happens over in nalgas they are gonna come to my pad” Did they want to bust you? “I don’t know I wasn’t home my jefa said they were taking mad shit on us, stuff I need to tell you in person”. Other people whose homes were raided also reported pictures taken from their homes, mostly solo pictures of Sergio that were being gathered for his vigil collage. Items were not listed on search report.
7. July 8, 2013, City worker took down victim’s shrine. Mother told if any candles are put up at location they will be fined $1,000.
8. By the evening of July 8, 2013 OPD had arrested 6 individuals, all individuals were at car wash.
9. As of today September 23, 2013 witnesses and old town orange residents continue to be focused on police harassment. The attention was not on suspects but rather on family and friends of victim Sergio. As recent as September 16, 2013 OPD gang unit officers continue to conduct surveillance of Vasquez residence.
10. As of today September 23, 2013, a shrine for a Joanna Mace, 24, a woman from Huntington Beach who was killed after crashing her car into a concrete sign in Orange still remains up.