



# *Chowchilla Police Department*

David Riviere, Chief of Police  
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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Chowchilla, CA – March 17, 2016**

On March 17, 2016, Officers from the Chowchilla Police Department and the Special Investigations Unit, which consists of Detectives from the Chowchilla Police Department, Madera Police Department, Madera County Sheriff's Department and Madera County Probation Department, served multiple search warrants in the City of Chowchilla. This was in relation to an ongoing investigation of the recent gang related shootings that have occurred in the city.

Five adult males were arrested on various charges related to possession of a loaded concealed firearm in public, possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, participation in a criminal street gang, negligent discharge of a firearm, possession of ammunition by prohibited person, possession of methamphetamine and Madera County bench warrants. Three of the five subjects arrested are known criminal street gang members. One of the three was arrested after a short foot pursuit and he was found to be in possession of a loaded handgun concealed on his person.

A sixth juvenile, a known criminal street gang member was arrested for participation in a criminal street gang and was arrested in the 800 block of Humboldt Ave., which resulted in the schools in the area being locked down for a short time as a safety precaution while the arrest was being made.

Two firearms were located and all of the suspects arrested during today's operation are directly related to the recent shootings that have occurred.

Arrested was 22 year, Robert Valencia, 18 year old, Tyron Polk, 31 year old Daniel Allen, 56 year old Raul Ruiz and 44 year old Richard Benavide. All six arrested were Chowchilla residents.

Chief Riviere said “the investigation is ongoing and urged anyone who has any information related to the recent incidents, or has any information related to criminal activity, to please contact the Chowchilla Police Department (559) 665-8600. You can remain anonymous.”

Chief Riviere praised his staff and members of the Special Investigations Unit for the hours of work they have put into this investigation. “I am very appreciative that I have a very hard working a dedicated staff and great relationships with our allied agencies,” Riviere said.

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