



# CITY OF LA PALMA POLICE DEPARTMENT **NEWSRELEASE**

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For Immediate Release  
May 1, 2009

## **La Palma Police Department Arrest Domestic Violence Homicide Suspect**

*LA PALMA, Calif.* – On May 1, 2009 at about 12:51 p.m. La Palma Police Officers responded to the 7100 block of Bon Villa Circle in regards to a 9-1-1 caller reporting a woman having just been killed. Officers arrived and found Lorena Villajin a 39-year old La Palma resident stabbed to death in her bedroom. Family and witnesses present in the home during the time of the homicide identified the murderer as the victim's ex-husband 41-year old Romeo Villajin who fled in his vehicle.

La Palma Detectives along with other assisting law enforcement agencies tracked the suspect to the City of West Covina. The suspect was eventually located in a mall parking lot at 2851 Eastland Center Drive in West Covina in his vehicle at 5:04 p.m. The suspect barricaded himself in his vehicle and after negotiations were unsuccessful West Covina PD deployed gas into the vehicle and La Palma and West Covina officers were able to take suspect into custody at 6:57 p.m.

Information related to investigators from family members advised that the couple were going through divorce proceedings which is believed to have been recently finalized. Their three children were not at home during the homicide, but were interviewed by Orange County Child Protective Services and are currently safe with other family members.

### ***About the City of La Palma***

The City of La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of 16,081 residents and 482 commercial and industrial businesses. The City was incorporated in 1955 under the name of Dairyland and has 65 full-time and 53 part-time employees.

**Contact Information**

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