



North Richland Hills Police Department

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www.nrhtx.com/police



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The North Richland Hills Police Department established a web page dedicated to a cold case investigation. A reward of up to \$13,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the suspect in this Attempted Capital Murder case. The web page is located at <http://www.nrhtx.com/garner>.

The offense occurred on March 3, 2003 in the 7100 block of Bursey Road. Traffic Officer Jeff Garner initiated a traffic stop on a red Jeep for an observed traffic violation. As Officer Garner stepped off his police motorcycle the driver of the Jeep sped away from the traffic stop. The Jeep drove south onto Smithfield Road and exited the roadway, driving into a field west of the location.

Officer Garner thought the vehicle was coming to a stop and he began to dismount his motorcycle. The driver of the Jeep accelerated, drove towards the officer, drew a handgun, and began to shoot at the officer. Officer Garner jumped from his motorcycle, pulled his service weapon, and despite suffering a gunshot wound to the leg, was able to return fire. Thankfully, Officer Garner recovered fully from his injuries and still works for NRHPD.

Investigators determined that the individual had just committed a bank robbery in Watauga moments before Officer Garner tried to pull him over. Despite an extensive investigation the identity of the suspect has never been determined. The investigation did reveal that the suspect is believed to have been involved in at least six other bank robberies across Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. The suspect in the other robberies is similar in physical description, method of operation and other evidence that cannot be disclosed at this time.

The web page highlights the newspaper articles discussing the case, the original police radio traffic of the traffic stop, suspect and vehicle descriptions, information of possible related cases, the reward flyer and information on the sponsors that are making the reward possible.

The police are reaching out to the community in the hopes that someone has the information that will allow this case to be closed and bring the suspect to justice. If you have any information that might assist in this investigation, we encourage you to contact the North Richland Hills Police at 817-427-7000.

The preceding information is authorized for immediate public release and dissemination. Authority of Investigator K. Bauman, Administrative Services Division, North Richland Hills Police Department.

INFORMATION WANTED

UP TO A \$13,000 REWARD

North Richland Hills Police Department



If you have information on this unsolved case, please call. There is a **\$13,000** reward for information that leads to the arrest and successful prosecution of the person responsible for this crime.

(817) 427-7017



Cold Case – Attempted Capital Murder

The Cowboy Hat Bandit



On 03/03/2003 at approximately 1:18PM the bank located at 6624 Watauga Road in Watauga, TX, was robbed by a heavysset white male with notable acne-like scarring on his face, a protruding belly, wearing a fake mustache and an eye patch over his left eye. The suspect fled in a red Jeep Wrangler or CJ7 with a likely fictitious Louisiana paper tag. A North Richland Hills police officer attempted to pull the suspect over and was subsequently shot.

POSSIBLY RELATED BANK ROBBERIES

10/24/1998: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

04/24/1999: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

09/03/1999: Wichita, Kansas

10/13/2001: Fort Worth, Texas

07/23/2002: Arlington, Texas

02/21/2003: Tulsa, Oklahoma

Detective Whitlock #742 is asking for assistance in identifying the suspect responsible for these crimes. If you know the suspect, or have any additional information related to possibly identifying the suspect, please contact phone number **817-427-7017**.



If you want to give information, but want to stay anonymous, please call **Crime Stoppers** at **817-469-8477**, or enter a **web tip** at **www.469TIPS.com**, or submit a **“text tip”**- text **“TIP117 plus your message”** to **CRIMES (274637)**. An anonymous tip that leads to the identification of a suspect is eligible for up to **\$1,000**.

Visit www.nrhtx.com/garner for additional information:

- More photographs and info of suspect and vehicle
- Photographs and info of suspect from other bank robberies
- Newspaper articles

Sponsor List



