

HAYWARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

Date of Release: 9/15/09	Day: Tuesday	Original: <u> X </u> Update: <u> </u>
Type of Incident: Search Warrant Service		Case: 88-11-2127
Date Occurred 9/15/09	Day: Tuesday	Time:
Location of Occurrence: 1540 and 1544 Walnut Avenue, unincorporated Antioch, California		
Location of Arrest: N/A		
ARRESTING OFFICER(S): N/A		
INVESTIGATING OFFICER(S): Inspector Rob Lampkin		

The Hayward Police Department has been monitoring the investigation and arrest of Phillip and Nancy Garrido in relation to the Jaycee Dugard abduction to determine if the Garridos had any connection to the November 19, 1988 abduction of then-9-year-old Michaela Joy Garecht in Hayward, California.

Hayward Police Department investigators have obtained a search warrant for the property at 1554 Walnut Avenue in unincorporated Antioch, California, where Phillip and Nancy Garrido lived, as well as 1540 Walnut Avenue, where Phillip Garrido once had access. Our search seeks to find any physical evidence related to the Garecht abduction. The resident at the adjacent property is *not* a suspect in this investigation, nor is he a subject of the search warrant.

Circumstances contributing to our seeking this search warrant include:

- The similar methods of abduction, including broad daylight, brazenly grabbing a girl from a public place, and fleeing in an older model domestic sedan that is in poor condition
- Similar ages and physical appearances of Michaela Garecht and Jaycee Dugard at their respective times of abduction
- Similarities between photos of Phillip Garrido in the late 1970's and early 1980's and the 1988 police artist's sketch of Michaela Garecht's abductor
- Garrido's release from prison just months before Michaela was abducted

While nobody, including Phillip Garrido, has yet been connected to Michaela's abduction, our investigation to this point has not been able to eliminate Phillip Garrido as a suspect in this case.

The Dublin Police Department has also obtained a search warrant for Garrido's property in relation to the 1991 disappearance of then-11-year-old Ilene Misheloff.

The Hayward Police Department would like to acknowledge and thank the following law enforcement agencies who will be assisting the Hayward Police Department in the search of the two properties:

Dublin, California Police Department
Alameda County Sheriff's Office
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation

For those not familiar with the 1988 abduction of Michaela Garecht, a brief summary follows. On November 19, 1988 about 10:15 AM, then-9-year-old Michaela Garecht and her childhood friend rode their scooters to a local market at 32575 Mission Boulevard. The market was called the Rainbow Market in 1988. The two children parked their scooters outside the market, and then went inside to buy some candy. Upon their return, they saw that Michaela's scooter had been moved. When she went to retrieve her scooter, she was grabbed and put into a car. The suspect fled with Michaela, who has not been located. Michaela's childhood friend described the suspect as a white male between 18 and 24 years old (in 1988) with a pockmarked or pimpled face, longish dirty blonde hair and a slender build. The suspect's car was described as a boxy, "ratty", tan or brown large model 4 door sedan.

Michaela Garecht's mother, Sharon Murch, will be available to address the media at this afternoon's briefing.

Anybody with information about the abduction of Michaela Garecht should call the Hayward Police Department Criminal Investigations Bureau at 510-293-7034 or Hayward PD dispatch at 510-293-7000.

There remains \$60,000 in a reward fund for assistance in locating Michaela Garecht and arresting her abductor(s).

Media inquiries about the overall search warrant operation and Michaela Garecht abduction investigation will be handled by Hayward PD PIO Lt. Chris Orrey. Media inquiries about the Ilene Misheloff disappearance investigation will be handled by Dublin PD PIO Lt. Kurt Von Savoye. Contra Costa County PIO Jimmy Lee will be assisting both agencies with the distribution of press releases and coordination of the media. Media briefings will occur approximately 4:30 PM each day of the search warrant service. Due to the expected media coverage, individual media interview requests will not be granted for the duration of the search warrant operation. Press releases will be disseminated daily for media who cannot be present at the daily briefings.

MEDIA POINT OF CONTACT: LT. CHRIS ORREY (510) 293-7034