

On Saturday, August 29, 2015, at approximately 1103 hours, a shots fired call was broadcast in the area of eastbound I-10 milepost 143 (19th Avenue). The victim vehicle was traveling in the #1 traffic lane when the front windshield was struck by a bullet, which traveled through the vehicle and exited through the front passenger side window.

The front seat passenger, a 13 year old female, sustained a cut to her right ear, and was treated on-scene by the Phoenix Fire Department, she was not transported. Two bullet fragments were collected from the vehicle. The fragments were submitted to the DPS Central Regional Crime Lab (CRCL).

On Saturday, August 29, 2015, at approximately 1105 hours, a second shooting call was received, which occurred on westbound I-10 at in the area of 43rd Avenue. The second call was delayed when reported and originally occurred at approximately 1109 hours per the victim. The second shooting involved a passenger bus that only contained the driver. No injuries were sustained by the bus driver. The bus sustained a bullet hole on the passenger side.

The bus was transported to DPS property, where DPS GIU Detectives were able to retrieve one bullet which had penetrated three seats on the bus and lodged in the fourth seat. The bullet was submitted to the DPS Central Regional Crime Lab (CRCL).

On Saturday, August 29, 2015, at approximately 2215 hours, victim one (the driver) and victim two (the passenger), were traveling eastbound on interstate 10 in the area of milepost 147.5. Victim one said she was traveling in the number two lane passing the exit for the northbound State Route 51 and the eastbound State Route 202. Victim one said prior to the freeway curving to the right she heard a loud banging sound. Victim one described the sound as if someone was hitting a baseball bat against corrugated tin. Victim one said she only heard one sound.

The passenger said they were eastbound on Interstate 10 in the area for the exit to the State Route 202 in the number four lane. The passenger said at approximately 2200 hours, he heard three loud bangs.

On Monday, August 31, 2015, Detectives met with registered owner of the vehicle at Peoria KIA to have the door panels removed to obtain any pieces of evidence.



Bk#: **T213901**

MERRITT, LESLIE ALLEN J

Bk Dt: **9/19/2015**

DOB: **6/20/1994**

Sex: **Male**

After service mechanics removed the door panels from the front and rear passenger doors, Detectives were able to observe and collect the bullets fired into the vehicle.

Detectives retrieved one bullet from the front passenger door and retrieved one bullet and a metal shard from the rear passenger door. The bullet and the metal were submitted to the DPS Central Regional Crime Lab (CRCL).

On September 3, 2015, DPS Detectives contacted a male victim. The victim stated he had sustained a flat tire on August 30, 2015, while driving on Interstate 10 from the airport to State Route 51 between 2145 and 2215 hours. When the tire was being replaced at the dealership, a bullet projectile was located inside of the tire. The bullet was submitted to the DPS Central Regional Crime Lab (CRCL).

On August 31, 2015, at approximately 1048 hours, AZ DPS Detective requested bullets and bullet fragments submitted to the DPS Central Regional Crime Lab (CRCL) to be analyzed and compared. The DPS CRCL determined the bullets and bullet fragments from all four cases came from the same source.

On September 3, 2015, at approximately 1358 hours, DPS CRCL personnel identified the bullets and fragments were fired from a weapon with a specific lot of serial numbers.

DPS Detectives reviewed a list of Pawn Shops that purchased or loaned money for any firearms matching the make and caliber that were identified by the DPS CRCL. DPS Detectives collected the firearms that matched the search.

Investigative research conducted on the identified Leslie Merritt Jr., date of birth 06/20/1994, as the individual, who pawned one of the firearms collected.

Investigative research on Merritt's social media pages identified several references to the "I-10 Shooter" case.

The DPS CRCL test fired the firearm pawned by Merritt. The test fired bullets were matched to the bullets and bullet fragments from the four cases listed above.

A records check was completed for Merritt. Merritt's driver's license shows he currently resides at 6645 West Myrtle Avenue, Apartment #1, in Glendale, Arizona. Surveillance was conducted at 6645 West Myrtle Avenue, Apartment #1 in Glendale, Arizona. Merritt was positively identified by surveillance units. Surveillance units watch Merritt pull up to 6645 West Myrtle Avenue, Apartment #1, exit a Saturn, entered the residence by himself, stayed for approximately three minutes and leave in the Saturn.

DPS Detectives interviewed Merritt after his arrest. During the interviews Merritt revealed he has been in possession of the firearm since he purchased it new. Merritt said he always carries the firearm with him. Merritt also said the only time he was not in possession of the firearm were the times he pawned it for extra money. At the time of the shootings in question the firearm was not in pawn status.