



**City of Pasco**

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**\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 13, 2015**

**TO: Media, News Directors, Editors, and Producers**

**Contact: Captain Ken Roske, Pasco Police, (509) 545-3487  
Deputy City Manager Stan Strebel, (509) 545-3404**

**Subject: April 11 Protest**

On Saturday, April 11, Pasco Police arrested 4 individuals for disorderly conduct in connection with a protest march over the February 10 officer involved shooting of Antonio Zambrano-Montes.

The march on Saturday of approximately 60 people was headed westbound on Court Street occupying nearly three lanes of traffic. Officers on the scene instructed the group (in both English and Spanish) to use the sidewalk; this was done to avoid any safety issues between protestors and other members of the public, especially vehicles (concerns were heightened after protestors staged Friday night's "die-in" that blocked traffic on 10<sup>th</sup> and Lewis where a number of near misses between traffic and protestors occurred). Protestors on Saturday continued down Court Street to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue where Police had blocked the intersection to allow the group to turn off Court onto the less congested 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

However, the four individuals attempted to get the main body of protestors to continue down Court by walking into oncoming traffic; it was at this time that they were detained. Again, given the near misses during Friday's protest and the fact the group was instructed to use sidewalks, officers made these arrests for the safety of all members of the public.

The public's guarantees under the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances are rights everyone supports. To that end, the City previously worked with local community groups in other marches, such as Consejo Latino and the Zombrano family, to coordinate plans so as to facilitate peaceable assembly of free speech expression. The City would strongly encourage anyone planning a march (or any other activity where pedestrian and vehicle conflicts are a possibility) to use the City's parade permit process to help insure everyone's safety.

As has been previously noted, the investigation and determination process is continuing and will take some time, and the City has no control over the investigation or determination. The City recognizes the frustration of some in the community looking for a quicker resolution to the process. However, there is only one standard that must always be applied: everyone must follow the rule of law, and the City is doing that through this process, and is committed to respecting the integrity of the investigation. The City believes due process and fairness will produce outcomes that will ultimately bring our community closer together.

Finally, the City appreciates the dialogue started through the efforts of such groups as the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service to bring about healing, and wishes to continue and expand the discussions to help the community through this difficult time.

The City of Pasco strives to continue improving the quality of community life in Pasco.

For more information about City activities visit: [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov).

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