On April 25th, 2020 at approximately 2:59 AM, Monterey Police Officers were dispatched to a residence on Via Buena Vista. The Reporting Party related that someone had broken into the residence and that her husband was in a physical altercation with them.

Monterey Police Officers arrived at the residence at 3:02 AM and the Reporting Party directed the officers to enter through the back, as the front door was locked. Officers entered the back yard and observed a shattered glass door to the back of the residence. Officers heard the husband yelling for help from inside the house. Officers entered the residence and observed the husband on the ground struggling with the suspect. The officers observed that the husband was injured as there was blood on the floor where the two were struggling.

Officers attempted to take control of the suspect and he fought with them, including biting one of the officers. Officers overcame the suspect’s resistance and were able to handcuff him.

After the suspect was controlled, Officers interviewed the victim and learned that the victim was sleeping when he heard a loud noise and glass breaking. The victim left his room and went into the living room and saw the suspect standing in the house holding a shovel. The victim yelled at the suspect to get out of his house
and the suspect responded by attacking the victim with the shovel. The victim was able to fight back and repeatedly told the suspect to get out of the house. At one point during the attack, the suspect obtained a flower vase and struck the victim in the head with it. The suspect and victim have no prior relationship and the motive for this incident is still under investigation.

The victim was transported to CHOMP for his injuries and was later released.

During the course of this investigation, officers recognized the suspect matched the description of suspect who was reported prowling outside of a residence on Soledad Drive at 2:26 AM prior to the incident on Via Buena Vista. Both residences are in close proximity to one another. The reporting party stated she observed the suspect looking through the front windows of her residence. The suspect then made a throat slashing gesture with his hands and fled the area. Officers responded to the area and were in the process of searching for the suspect when they were dispatched to Via Buena Vista.

Officers identified the suspect in both incidents as Jose Cruz Rivas, 34 years old of Salinas. Cruz Rivas was transported to CHOMP for minor injuries he sustained during the incident. Cruz Rivas was later booked into the Monterey County Jail on charges of 664/187 PC – attempted murder, 459 PC – burglary, 243b PC – battery on a peace officer, 422 PC – criminal threats, and 664/449 PC – attempted burglary. Based on Cruz Rivas’ violent and unprovoked attack on one victim and threats to another, the Monterey Police Department requested a bail enhancement and his bail was set at $1,000,000.
Jose Cruz Rivas

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is encouraged to contact Monterey Police Detective Sergeant Delgado at (831) 646-3831. To remain anonymous call (831) 646-3840. Media inquiries can be made at the contact below.

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