



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

MARK MURPHY
Chief Deputy District Attorney

JASON WINES
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 7, 2022

JUVENILE SUSPECT CHARGED FOR HOUSE PARTY SHOOTING

A 16-year-old male juvenile from Chico was charged today by the District Attorney's Office for shooting five people after getting into an argument at a Chico house party over the weekend.

On September 3, 2022, at approximately 1:50 a.m., Chico Police officers responded to a shooting that had just occurred in the 1500 block of W. 5th Street. Emergency personnel arrived and located five victims who were suffering from gunshot wounds inside a home there.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said officers began investigating what had occurred and learned that the victims, several of whom are Chico State students, had been attending a party when a group of people, who had not been invited, arrived and tried to come into the party. The hosts did not feel comfortable letting strangers in, and a verbal argument began on the front porch of the house between the group and the hosts of the party.

Ramsey said the 16-year-old suspect, whose identity cannot be revealed due to his age, had already been inside the home at the party. Officers later learned that some of the group who showed up were friends of the suspect. After the disagreement, the hosts began to shut the door to the house upon the strangers and go back inside. At that time, the suspect who had gone out on the porch to be with his friends, pulled out a semi-automatic handgun, loaded a magazine into it, racked the slide, and then began shooting from the porch through the front door window at the people inside the party. He continued to fire at least six times, until he emptied his gun. The suspect then fled on foot. Five young victims inside were hit with bullets.

The shooting was captured on surveillance cameras both inside and outside the house.

Ramsey said all five victims were rushed to hospital. The victims, all young men, included a 23-year-old who was shot in the shoulder, a 19-year-old who was shot twice in the shoulder, a 20-year-old who was shot in the abdomen, a 21-year-old who was shot in the back, and a 21-year-old who was shot in the spine and is now paralyzed from the waist down. Several of the victims required emergency surgery, but Ramsey said all are expected to survive.

Ramsey said Chico officers worked throughout the night and all through the day on Saturday to gather evidence, identify the shooter, and bring him safely into custody. That afternoon the

shooter, after being convinced by family members to do so, surrendered at Chico Police Department and was taken into custody. He was taken to Butte County Juvenile Hall where he was booked and is being held without bail.

At this point, the gun used in the shooting has not been located.

Ramsey said his office charged the suspect today with five counts of assault with a firearm, as well as shooting into an occupied residence. The shooter was also charged with several enhancements for causing serious injury to the victims during his crimes, which can increase the potential punishment under the law.

Ramsey said in addition to the charges, the District Attorney's Office has asked the Juvenile Court to begin the process of exploring whether to try the teenage suspect as an adult given the seriousness of his alleged crimes.