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For Immediate Release

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DA, Sheriff and Crime Stoppers Seek Additional Witnesses in Possible Hate Crime

Five African-American Youths Attacked, Injured at East County Party

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) today joined with San Diego County Sheriff William D. Gore and [San Diego County Crime Stoppers](#) to appeal for information about a potential hate crime that occurred in the East County in April. Investigators are looking for the identities of individuals responsible for an assault on a group of African-American teens during a party.

“We know there were many witnesses who were there and saw what happened,” DA Dumanis said. “We are asking them to come forward and assist with law enforcement’s investigation.”

On Saturday, April 11, 2009, at about 11:30 p.m., a group of five African-American teenagers were leaving a party at 20855 Cinnamon Dr. in rural Deerhorn Valley, southeast of Jamul. The incident began inside the house when one of the teens was physically attacked. As the teens were driving away in a black Mitsubishi Galant, some of the party guests began throwing rocks, bottles, and a metal pipe at the car. As a result, the driver lost control and crashed into a nearby parked car.

The attackers continued striking the victims' vehicle with various objects, while threatening the victims and shouting racial slurs. The teens escaped from the car, which was then vandalized and destroyed by the attackers. Although some suspects have been identified, law enforcement is seeking the public's assistance in identifying additional suspects in the attacks.

Witnesses who can identify those responsible for the assaults or who have additional information about the incident are urged to call Crime Stoppers' anonymous tip line at (888) 580-8477. Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information on the case and the [Hate Crime Reward Fund](#) may also offer additional reward money if hate crime charges are filed.

“The fund was established to ensure that perpetrators of hate crimes will be held accountable,” said Crime Stoppers Executive Director Sally Cox.

To be eligible for the Crime Stoppers and Hate Crime Reward Fund, the tipster must call Crime Stoppers or send a text or web tip at [San Diego County Crime Stoppers](#). Tipsters can remain anonymous.

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