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Watsonville men arrested in Santa Cruz shooting

Two Watsonville men were arrested Friday night after a gang-related shooting in Santa Cruz that left one teenager with a bullet wound in his buttocks and a Santa Cruz police car with a bullet in its rear panel.

Noe Ramiro Castillo Jr., 19, and Arturo Martinez, 21, were arrested after the shooting incident, which took place around 10:15 p.m. on the 700 block of Beach Street. Castillo was booked on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and Martinez on suspicion of possessing a concealed weapon in his car.

According to police, a verbal altercation erupted among a group of people. Police said Castillo pulled a .38 handgun from his waistband and began shooting at

several people, who started to run away after he pulled the gun.

A teenager, whose name was not released by police, was hit in the buttocks. He later sought treatment at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Police believe the shooting is gang-related.

Detective Sgt. Tom Watson was on patrol in the area where the incident took place when he heard several shots being fired.

Watson said one of the stray bullets hit his patrol car in the rear quarter panel. By the time Watson arrived at the scene, both Castillo and Martinez, along with an unidentified woman, had driven away in a blue green car. The trio was apprehended a short time later. The woman was questioned and released.