



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

www.santacruzpolice.com

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: Friday, July 15, 2011—5:37 PM

LOCATION: Holy Cross Church

TOPIC: Felony Vandalism/Theft and Probation –ARREST **CASE NUMBER:** 11S-05867

INVOLVED SUBJECTS:

1. Name: Lee Wilson Arrested: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Age: 54 years old
Charges: 594(b)(1) PC, Felony Vandalism, 487(a) PC, Grand Theft, 1203.2 PC, Probation Violation
Address: City of Santa Cruz Resident

INFORMATION:

On July 15, 2011 at approximately 5:58 pm Santa Cruz Police Department officers contacted Mr. Lee Wilson near Pacific Avenue and Cooper Street. Mr. Wilson was carrying a piece of wood that Sergeant Jon Bush recognized as possibly being from a statue. While Sergeant Bush was speaking with Mr. Wilson, Dispatch informed Sergeant Bush that a vandalism call was pending from Holy Cross Church that involved a wood statue that occurred approximately twenty minutes earlier. Police Officer Barnaby Clark stood by with Mr. Wilson as Sergeant Bush contacted a Pastor at Holy Cross Church.

Sergeant Bush learned that a 3'-5' wood statue of Saint Joseph had been vandalized by being broke into pieces. The statue usually rests in the arch way several feet off the ground in the Chapel of Holy Cross Church. There is an altar underneath the statue. The statue was made around 1791 and was from the original Mission Santa Cruz. The statue is considered "priceless" because of how rare it is and potentially could cost thousands of dollars to repair. People come from all over to visit the statue.

Mr. Wilson admitted to vandalizing the statue because he was trying to steal it. Mr. Wilson was arrested and booked in the County Jail for felony vandalism, grand theft and a probation violation. Mr. Wilson has been arrested numerous times by Santa Cruz Police including vandalism and theft related cases.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is encouraged to call Santa Cruz Police Department Investigations at: (831) 420-5820.

To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995 or leave an anonymous tip on our website at www.santacruzpolice.com

