SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: September 26, 2011 – 5:30 PM **LOCATION: 100 Block of Laurel Street**

TOPIC: Drug and Weapon ARREST **CASE NUMBER: 11S-08261**

INVOLVED SUBJECTS:

1. Name: Thomas Gainsborough **Arrested: [X] Yes [] No**
DOB: 61 years-old **Charges: 11379(A), 11532(A), 11550(A), 12020(A), 1203.2**
Santa Cruz Resident

2. Name: Sonny Harper **Arrested: [X] Yes [] No**
DOB: 36 years-old **Charges: 11532(A)**
Boulder Creek Resident

INFORMATION:

On September 26, 2011 at 5:30 pm, two members of the Santa Cruz Police Department Downtown Unit were on routine patrol in a parking lot in the 100 block of Laurel Street when they noticed what appeared to be drug activity within a Toyota 4Runner in the lot. When officers approached on either side of the vehicle and announced their presence they saw Mr. Gainsborough try to hide a bag of crystal meth out of view. The officers told Mr. Gainsborough and Mr. Harper to place their hands on the dash. Mr. Gainsborough instead started the vehicle and placed it in reverse, quickly backing up, placing the officers in a dangerous situation. The two downtown unit officers drew their firearms and Mr. Gainsborough complied and turned the vehicle off.

During a field test officers determined that Mr. Gainsborough was under the influence of a controlled substance. Within the vehicle officers located methamphetamines, marijuana, drug packaging materials and a sickle that was located next to the driver's seat.

Mr. Gainsborough was booked into Santa Cruz County Jail for a number of drug-related charges, possession of a dangerous weapon and a probation violation. Mr. Harper, the passenger, was arrested for loitering in a public place with intent to commit drug activity.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Santa Cruz Police Department Investigations at (831) 420-5820 or leave an anonymous tip at www.santacruzpolice.com or via the department's mobile app.