



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kevin Vogel, Chief of Police

Santa Cruz Police Works on Compliance of Second Hand Dealers

The Santa Cruz Police Department Property Crimes Unit is embarking on a business license enforcement campaign within city limits, focusing on second hand dealers. Generally speaking, second hand dealers are stores selling pawned, traded, or consignment items that are tangible personal property. Law enforcement agencies have historically seen that stolen property may be sold or traded to these locations and then resold. One way to limit this is to ensure licensing compliance. Currently, seventeen second hand dealers have been identified in the city of Santa Cruz; however only four are currently licensed.

Second hand dealers are required to be licensed in accordance to state and local guidelines, specifically the Business & Professions Code section 21641 and Financial Code section 21300. City and county licensing agencies are delegated the responsibility to implement the State Secondhand Dealer and State Pawnbroker licensing process into their local program. Per the codes, and person, entity or corporation wishing to do business as a secondhand dealer or pawnbroker must first apply for a specific license to conduct such business in addition to any other local general business licenses or permits.

It is the intent of the Santa Cruz Police Department to reach 100 percent compliance with the guidelines by January 1, 2012. While violent crime has decreased in the city over the last year, property crimes have risen. It is essential that local law enforcement take away one of the financial avenues by which stolen property becomes monetized. The department's Property Crimes Unit believes that license compliance, and educational outreach, are key components in this endeavor. Beginning October 10, 2011 the Property Crimes Unit will begin citing businesses that are not licensed or in compliance with state and local guidelines.

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