SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES HALLOWEEN STATISTICS

Approximately 15,000 people came to downtown Santa Cruz on Halloween for what has become the largest single informal gathering in the city. The Santa Cruz Police Department teamed with nine allied law enforcement agencies for proactive enforcement of all laws. In addition, the agencies worked diligently to identify and contact suspected gang members downtown during the evening. Overall, calls and arrests were up from 2010. The following provides an overview of the night's statistics (downtown only):

50 Total Arrests

· 34 for public intoxication/alcohol related (2 Juveniles)

· domestic violence, possession of a concealed weapon, possession of a switchblade knife, drug possession, parole violations/warrants, resisting arrest

49 Triple Fine Municipal Code Violations

·open container violations, urinating in public

Throughout the evening the department made contact with number of known county and out-of-county gang members. Gang investigators from Santa Cruz and Santa Clara County teamed to maintain a safe environment.

One unloaded handgun, one switchblade knife and two pellet guns were removed during the evening. Additionally, one documented gang member was found in possession of a hammer.

Elsewhere in the city the Santa Cruz Police Department fielded 347calls for service during the evening, a 75% increase over last year's call volume. Overwhelmingly these calls, especially later in the evening, were for parties and issues (such as fights) stemming from the parties. In addition to the parties officers responded to City Hall for a report of a juvenile that was igniting piles of rolled magazines on fire. At approximately 7:00 pm, a First Alarm guard saw the 17 year-old male juvenile igniting the magazines to create torches next to the building. He was arrested for loitering and attempted arson.

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