



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: December 16, 2014

TOPIC: Serial Tagger/Vandalism Arrest

CASE NUMBER: 14S-004690

INFORMATION:

Santa Cruz Police arrested a vandalism suspect in connection with a series of tags that included two police vehicles. Arrested was:

Derek Murphy – 21 years old, Petaluma resident

Detectives followed up on the tagging cases that were discovered on June 10, 2014. The suspect vandalized property with the tag “BERG” or “GREB”. His tags damaged city parks, walls, fences and two police vehicles parked at the city’s corporation yard for repairs.

During the investigation, SCPD detectives shared information with Northern California agencies seeking information on similar tags. This information led to contact with a task force investigator from San Francisco Police Department who shared a possible lead. SCPD detectives continued follow-up, which eventually led to working with investigators from the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office and the Napa County Sheriff’s Office. Through this collaboration, SCPD detectives were able to identify Mr. Murphy and a second suspect as responsible for the tagging here in Santa Cruz. The identity of the second suspect is being withheld pending a warrant request.

On December 15, 2014, SCPD detectives served a search warrant at a home in Petaluma and a home in American Canyon. Mr. Murphy was contacted at the Petaluma home and arrested. During the searches, detectives seized a portfolio of taggings, sketch books, canvas art, photos, computers and digital cameras. Images retrieved from these devices show multiple taggings on public and private property in several locations.

Detectives believe our suspect may be responsible for vandalizing property with his tags throughout the west coast from Bakersfield to Seattle. We are collaborating with those agencies to assist in their cases. While driving to the search warrant locations from Santa Cruz, SCPD detectives noticed numerous tags from our suspect along Bay Area freeways to include Highways 101, 880, and 37.

In addition to any criminal penalties, SCPD will be seeking restitution for the damaged property. Mr. Murphy has a history of arrest in San Francisco that includes vandalism and resisting arrest.

Suspect photo and tag photos on following pages

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

Phone: (831) 420-5815

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com. Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.





