



## SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE/TIME:** January 1, 2015

**TOPIC:** New Year's Eve Wrap Up

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The Santa Cruz Police Department is pleased to announce that 2015 was welcomed without any major incidents of violence. The police department deployed additional officers throughout the city as well as a significant contingent of officers on foot in the Downtown corridor.

Crowds gathered at the Town Clock for a city sponsored Countdown Celebration. Like last year, temperatures dipped to approximately 35 degrees around midnight. The city sponsored event drew a crowd of approximately 4,000 compared to last year of approximately 4,500 revelers.

Officers kept busy throughout the city, and in the Downtown. Between 5:00 PM on December 31<sup>st</sup> and 5:00 AM on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Officers responded to 159 calls for service. This number is down from last year's 222 calls during that same time. The following is a breakdown of the arrest statistics for the night.

**Arrests Total = 19**

Public Intoxication = 8

Drug Possession = 8

Other = 3

Last year saw a total of 20 arrests on New Year's Eve

**Cites Total = 38**

Triple Fine Cites = 26

(all for possession of open containers of alcohol)

Non Triple Fines Cites = 12

Last year saw a total of 81 cites with 42 of those being Triple Fines cites.

One case of interest involved a group of approximately 20 individuals dressed in all black clothing, similar to "Black Bloc" activists. Just prior to midnight, these individuals carried homemade banners promoting violence and death to police officers. (Photo of seized banner attached) The group made their way to the Santa Cruz County Jail at 259 Water Street where they vandalized County cars parked in the lot, by throwing rocks, bottles and paint at the cars. SCPD was able to capture and detain three of the group for questioning and identification. At the time, the three could not specifically be identified as the ones vandalizing, although they were associated with the group. They were released after questioning, pending further investigation. The three detainees included a 23 year old male from Santa Cruz, 25 year old female from Reedley, CA, and a 29 year old female from Sacramento, CA. Officers worked to keep this group out of the downtown corridor and to keep additional vandalism from occurring. Refer to SCPD Case #15S-00007.

**Photo on Page 2**

**For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark**

**Phone: (831) 420-5815**

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