



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE/TIME:** April 23, 2015/ 6:30 a.m.      **LOCATION:** Bay St and Lighthouse Ave.

**TOPIC:** Sexual Battery-Arrest Made      **CASE NUMBER:** 15S-03394

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### **INFORMATION:**

On Thursday April 23, 2015 at 7:15 a.m. the Santa Cruz Police Department responded to the report of a suspect that slapped a female in the buttocks in the area of Bay St and Lighthouse Ave. The incident had occurred approximately 45 minutes prior to the call, but the victim did not call 911 until she arrived safely at her home.

The female victim was jogging on Bay St near Lighthouse Ave when a male suspect appeared out of the bushes. The suspect made a derogatory comment to the victim and then slapped her in the buttocks. The victim ran away from the suspect, and the suspect did not pursue the victim. The victim safely arrived at her home without further contact with the suspect. The victim had a complaint of pain but did not require medical attention. The Santa Cruz Police Department flooded the area of the attack, but could not locate the suspect.

On the same day at approximately 10:00 in the area of Portola Ave and Corcoran, the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office responded to a similar incident with a suspect matching the description of the incident described above. During this incident a female was jogging in the area of Portola Ave and 26<sup>th</sup> Ave, when a male suspect jumped out of the bushes and slapped the victim in the buttocks. The victim ran away from the suspect without any further assault.

There was a witness in this incident that took a photo of the suspect and called 911. The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office flooded the area and contacted suspect Lee Cast. At the time, the victim in this incident had not been identified and had not called 911. Cast was detained for a mental health evaluation by the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office.

The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office contacted the Santa Cruz Police Department regarding suspect Cast and the similarities in both cases. Suspect Cast was identified by the victim in the Santa Cruz Police Department's case and arrested for sexual battery. Cast was booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail with a bail increase of \$7,500.

The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office located the victim in their case the following day, who also assisted in the identification of Cast as the suspect. The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office will be requesting a warrant for Cast for the second sexual battery in the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office jurisdiction.

**Suspect:** Lee Cast, 30 years old, resident of Soquel. See photo below.

**Victims:** #1 35 year old female, Santa Cruz resident  
#2 36 year old female, Santa Cruz County resident



**For additional information, contact: Lieutenant Bernie Escalante**

**Phone: (831) 420-5823**

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