



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

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: January 4, 2016

TOPIC: Shooting Investigations & Firearms Arrest

CASE NUMBER: 16S-00024, 16S-00052, 16S-00069

The Santa Cruz Police Department is investigating two separate shootings over the weekend. In a separate case, SCPD Neighborhood Enforcement Team arrested a juvenile in possession of a loaded concealed firearm.

Incident #1 On January 1, 2016 around 8:27 p.m., SCPD Officers responded to the area of West Cliff Drive and Swift Street on a report of shots heard. Police interviewed a witness who reported seeing a flash and heard two shots coming from a dark colored Dodge Charger. There were no reported injuries.

Witnesses told Officers that the individuals in the Dodge Charger had followed the victim who was driving up Swift Street. A shooter from the Dodge Charger fired two shots at the occupants in the victim's car. One bullet entered the trunk of the victim's car.

The suspect vehicle was described as a black or dark blue Dodge Charger with tinted windows, and black rims. The shooter was described as an adult Hispanic male wearing a black beanie. The shooter was sitting in rear left passenger seat of the car. The driver was described as an adult Hispanic male with long dark hair. The front passenger is described as an adult Hispanic male wearing a black beanie.

SCPD Officers were able to recover a bullet from the victim's car and a shell casing in the area of Swift Street and Sunset Street.

Incident #2 On Saturday, January 2, 2016 at approximately 11:34 p.m., Santa Cruz Police responded to several reports of shots fired into an apartment residence in the 300 block of La Fonda Avenue. Officers observed that one bullet had penetrated the rear fence, shattered the sliding glass door and lodged inside a living room sofa. No one inside the apartment was injured. SCPD Officers recovered approximately twelve bullet casings throughout the street. Witnesses reported seeing a dark color 4 door sedan drive away north on La Fonda Avenue.

The following day Officers responded to another home in the area to recover a bullet found by a child in the yard.

Both investigations are ongoing. Detectives are continuing to follow up leads and looking for video surveillance. The police department is asking anyone with information or who may have witnessed the shooting to contact investigators 831- 420-5820

Incident #3

On Sunday January 3, 2016 at 5:32 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Department's Neighborhood Enforcement Team Officers were patrolling with a focus toward the recent shootings. The Officers conducted a traffic stop on a BMW near the intersection of Wharf Road and Grace Street. The 17 year old driver is a known gang member. A search of the car revealed a loaded semi – automatic handgun. The juvenile was the sole occupant in the car. In addition to the loaded handgun, he also had drugs, drug paraphernalia and ammunition in his possession. The

juvenile was arrested for various drug and drug sales charges, possession of a loaded, concealed firearm and participant in a criminal street gang. **Photo of gun attached.**

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

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.

PHOTO OF GUN from Case 16S-00069

