



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

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: Monday 2/29/16

LOCATION: Pacific Ave & Center Street

TOPIC: Suspect Arrested in Stabbing Investigation CASE NUMBER: 16S-01719

INFORMATION:

UPDATE

Adolfo Pantoja has been identified and arrested as the suspect in the stabbing investigation from 2/26/16. He is 18 years old and a Watsonville resident. SCPD Detectives identified Adolfo Pantoja as the suspect and issued a "Be on the Lookout" to law enforcement agencies. Pantoja was spotted near his home on Ford Street by Watsonville Police. He was taken into custody and turned over to SCPD. SCPD Detectives are serving a search warrant on the home.

Adolfo Pantoja is arrested for the following charges: attempted murder and participating in a criminal street gang. Photo attached.

Background:

On Friday 2/26/16 at 11:45 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Officers responded to the 7-11 on Ocean Street on a report of a victim with multiple stab wounds. The victim, a male, age 19 from Watsonville claimed to have been stabbed in the area of Pacific Ave and Center Street. The victim waved down a Good Samaritan who began to drive the victim to the hospital. While enroute, the victim's injuries worsened and his condition declined. The Good Samaritan driver called 911 and stopped at the nearest parking lot so that the victim could be treated by EMS staff.

The victim sustained multiple knife wounds to his face and torso. He was transported to a Bay Area trauma center where he is still undergoing treatment.

Santa Cruz Police Officers arrived at the location of the initial crime scene. Evidence was discovered to substantiate the stabbing had occurred near the intersection of Pacific Ave. and Center Street.

Detectives are continuing to follow up on leads and looking for additional video evidence. Gang investigators are following up this information and any possible ties to this incident.

Anyone with information or who may have witnessed this stabbing are asked to contact investigators. Contact investigators at 831- 420-5820. Tips can also be left through the means listed below.

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 Adolfo Pantoja

