



## SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Incident**

**DATE/TIME:** Sunday 2/28/16

**LOCATION:** 500 block of Center Street

**TOPIC:** 2/28/16 Shooting Investigation

**CASE NUMBER:** 16S-01777

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### **INFORMATION:**

On Sunday 2/28/16 at about 11:35 p.m., Santa Cruz Police Officers responded to the area of the 500 block of Center Street for a report of gunshots in the area. Santa Cruz Police Officers were patrolling the area due to prior reports of several fights as a concert was letting out on Pacific Avenue.

Officers quickly identified that the gunfire came from Center and Elm Streets. Several witnesses reported hearing multiple gunshots and seeing two cars speed away in opposite directions. Witnesses described a gold colored Acura traveling northbound on Cedar Street. The other car was described as a dark color sedan speeding away southbound on Cedar Street. When Officers arrived at the scene they located several shell casings.

Officers spotted the Acura driving away from the scene. Officers noted the car had several bullet holes along the driver's side. The Acura was stopped in the 700 block of Chestnut Street in a high-risk car stop.

The occupants were contacted and the car eventually searched. During the search, Officers located a loaded .45 caliber handgun in the purse belonging to a passenger. This weapon did not match smaller caliber shell casing found at the scene.

The driver was identified as a 20 year old male from Salinas. The passenger in the front seat was a 27 year old female from Salinas. There was an additional passenger in the back identified as 30 years old male from Salinas. SCPD will not release the names of these individuals as they are victims of a crime. The involved parties claimed not to know why they were shot at.

The driver and female passenger were arrested/ cited for possession of a loaded and concealed firearm.

Currently, there is no suspect information. 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.

**For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke**

**Phone: (831) 420-5844**

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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.

Photo of handgun 16S-16S-01777

