



# SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## MEDIA RELEASE



**DATE:** December 23, 2022

**LOCATION:** City of Santa Cruz

**TOPIC:** Parking Ticket Scam Arrest

**CASE NUMBER:** 22S-07206

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### Santa Cruz Police Arrest Suspect in Fake Parking Ticket Scam

Santa Cruz, CA — On December 22, 2022, Santa Cruz Police received reports that fraudulent citations were issued to parked vehicles in the beach area during the evening of December 21, 2022. The scam citations used a QR Code to direct potential victims to a website for payment. It is unknown how many fraudulent citations the scammer issued or how many victims may have paid the bogus citations.

During the subsequent investigation, the suspect, Damian Vela 19-year-old resident of Watsonville, was contacted in the beach area on December 22, 2022, at about 4:00 pm. Mr. Vela admitted to the crime and denied receiving any payments. Officers searched Vela's vehicle and located evidence relevant to the scam.

Santa Cruz Police arrested and booked Damian Vela into jail for unlawful use of a computer system and attempted fraud.

Detectives are looking for additional victims of this fraud and encourage community members to come forward and contact the Investigations Unit (831) 420-5820.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the validity of a ticket, call the City of Santa Cruz Parking Office at 831-420-6100 or visit the Parking Office at 124 Locust Street.

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**Additional information, contact: [Joyce Blaschke](#) | SCPD Media & Community Relations | (831) 420-5844**

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### Santa Cruz Police Arrest Suspect in Fake Parking Ticket Scam



**FAKE**



**REAL**

City of Santa Cruz  
**NOTICE OF PARKING VIOLATION**  
You are in violation of Santa Cruz Municipal Code or California Vehicle Code. The specific violation and amount due is indicated below.  
If penalty is not received within 21 days additional penalties may be assessed and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) notified for a hold on your vehicle registration.

Barcode

**TICKET INFORMATION**  
Ticket #: 22SC703245  
Date: 12/23/2022 Time: 11:18  
Location: BEACH ST  
Meter: 2425

**VEHICLE INFORMATION**  
Plate: NONE  
State: CA  
Reg Exp: 12/22 VIN# 1234  
Vehicle: HONDA CIVIC  
Color: BLACK CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

**VIOLATION INFORMATION**  
Violation: B1 Amount: \$43.00  
10.52.050(b) - METER TIME EXPIRED-BEACH ARE

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**  
Total Amount: \$43.00

Officer: 9 JB

QR Code

Pay Online

**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ**  
124 Locust Street, P.O. Box 1870  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1870  
For more information call (831) 420-6100

**SEE REVERSE SIDE**

Additional information, contact: [Joyce Blaschke](mailto:Joyce.Blaschke@scpd.org) | SCPD Media & Community Relations | (831) 420-5844