



## SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**DATE/TIME:** March 9, 2012

**LOCATION:** 200 Block Second Street

**TOPIC:** Arrests – Attempted Homicide

**CASE NUMBER:** 12S-02005

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### **SUSPECTS:**

#### **7 Hispanic Male Juveniles**

1 – 14 year old, Santa Cruz resident

1 – 15 year old, Santa Cruz resident

4 – 16 year olds, Santa Cruz residents

1 – 17 year old, Live Oak area resident

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### **INFORMATION:**

The Santa Cruz Police Department is announcing the arrest of 7 male juveniles in conjunction with an attack and stabbing that occurred in the 200 block of Second Street on Wednesday March 7, 2012. Two of the suspects were arrested immediately after the attack. The remaining suspects were arrested on Friday March 9, 2012. The victim remains in serious condition at an out-of-county trauma center.

The suspects attacked an 18 year old male from Sacramento who was walking through the area with his girlfriend. Prior to the attack, the suspects challenged and mistakenly accused the victim of being a “Norteno” affiliate. All of the suspects are gang members of a Sureno gang subset going by the name of “Killa Chicos”. This gang is prevalent in the lower Ocean Street and Beach Flats neighborhoods.

Since the incident, Detectives have been working around-the-clock to gather evidence and identify the suspects. Detectives identified the suspects using a combination of video evidence, search warrants and information obtained from the initial contact of individuals immediately after the attack. In the 48 hours since the attack, Detectives served search warrants at 6 separate locations in and around Santa Cruz, and obtained arrest warrants on the 7 suspects. Each of the suspects was booked into Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall for (1) Attempted Homicide and (2) Participation in a Criminal Street Gang.

Santa Cruz Police Department Detectives collaborated with Detectives from the County-wide Gang Task Force (GTF), and the Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team (C-ACT). The collaboration of resources is credited with the quick resolution and arrests in this case.

The Santa Cruz Police Department intends to continue with increased pressure on criminal street gangs as we approach the Spring and Summer seasons. We will continue to collaborate with our law enforcement partners and dedicate additional officers using overtime to address gang issues. Chief Kevin Vogel stated, “The quick resolution and arrests in this case should serve as an indication of our resolve and intolerance to gang activity in our community.”

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

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To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995