



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: January 31, 2012

LOCATION: 400 Block of Beach St and 300 Block of Church St

TOPIC: Bike Theft Suspects Arrested

CASE NUMBER: 13S-00915 and 13S-00917

INFORMATION:

While we have experienced a spike in bicycle thefts, we offer a bit of good news! The last 24 hours saw two more bicycle theft suspects caught in the act during two separate incidents. Both cases were resolved thanks to the watchful eyes of witnesses and immediate reports to the police. This now makes a total of 5 bicycle theft suspects caught and arrested in the act during the last week.

Case #13S-00915

Suspect: Zachary Bernal, 19 years, Santa Cruz Resident

Occurred on January 30, 2013 at 5:35 PM

In this case, Mr. Bernal was witnessed cutting a lock from a bicycle that was secured to a bike rack in front of the Civic Auditorium. Mr. Bernal was working with another accomplice who stood guard while he (Bernal) cut the lock. Witnesses confronted Mr. Bernal as he was riding off on the bicycle. According to witnesses, when confronted, Mr. Bernal increased their speed and rode away. Witnesses called the police and responding officers circulated the area. Officers recognized Mr. Bernal's description from information shared with them by the previous shift. Mr. Bernal had been arrested during the early morning hours for a domestic violence incident. Mr. Bernal was spotted by officers several blocks away and still in possession of the stolen bicycle. The bicycle is a light green/teal Trek women's mountain bicycle. The accomplice was not located. Mr. Bernal also had in his possession a red boys BMX style bicycle that was originally in the possession of his accomplice.

Officers discovered that Mr. Bernal was actually on his way home after being released from jail on his previous arrest. Mr. Bernal was arrested and once again booked into Santa Cruz County Jail. Both recovered bicycles are being held at the police department pending contact with the victims.

Case #13S-00917

Suspect: Jeremy Anthony Ochoa, 31 years. Transient

Occurred on January 31, 2013 at 1:00 AM

In this case, Security Officers from the Boardwalk interrupted the suspect who was in the process of cutting off a lock that was securing a bicycle to a rack. Three Security Officers intervened and prevented the theft. Mr. Ochoa was booked into Santa Cruz County Jail for theft and a probation violation. Mr. Ochoa is on formal probation for drug related charges. He has a significant history of contact and arrests for drug related charges.

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

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