



**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE/TIME: March 28, 2013**

**LOCATION: 100 block Ocean Street**

**TOPIC: Sexual Assault Arrest**

**CASE NUMBER: 14S-02434**

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**INFORMATION:**

**Arrested:**

**Ahmed Ali Abdi – 53 years old Live Oak resident (photo attached)**

On March 28, 2014, Santa Cruz Police Officers arrested Mr. Ahmed Ali Abdi after investigating a report of sexual assault at a motel in the 100 block of Ocean Street. Information on the case was withheld up to this point due to the ongoing nature of the investigation.

Mr. Abdi was working as a cab driver when he picked up the victim as a cab fare in the 900 block of Pacific Ave around 1:00 AM on Friday March 28th. The victim is a 30 year old woman from Watsonville. She was extremely intoxicated to the point of passing out. Instead of contacting authorities for help, Mr. Abdi drove the victim to a motel in the 100 block of Ocean Street. Mr. Abdi took money from the victim's purse and rented a room at the motel.

Video evidence shows Mr. Abdi assisted the victim to the motel room. The victim reported waking up later to find she was naked in bed with Mr. Abdi also naked in bed fondling her. The victim "blacked out" at this point. The victim awoke around 4:00 AM to find Mr. Abdi had left the room and she reported the incident to the police.

Mr. Abdi was found by officers in his cab on Winkle Ave in the Live Oak area. Mr. Abdi was identified as the suspect in this case. Mr. Abdi had a key to the motel room in his possession at the time of his arrest. Mr. Abdi was also found in possession of methamphetamine.

Mr. Abdi was arrested and booked into County Jail for the sexual conduct and for being in violation of his probation. At the time of this incident, Mr. Abdi was on probation for drug charges. Charges have since been filed against Mr. Abdi that includes Kidnapping and Burglary counts.

At the time of this incident, Mr. Abdi was driving a cab for Santa Cruz Transportation, dba Yellow Cab. Mr. Abdi was not properly permitted to operate a cab in the City of Santa Cruz. Taxicab driver permits are managed and issued by the police department. Each driver is required to be approved for a permit. The permitting process includes a criminal history vetting by the police department prior to approval. Because of his criminal history, Mr. Abdi had been denied three times in the past when applying for a permit. The most recent denial was issued in June of 2013.

**For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark**

**Phone: (831) 420-5815**

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**To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995 or use our mobile iPhone and Android App**

Ahmed Ali Abdi

