



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Covert Gang Investigation Yields Numerous Arrests**

Gilroy, CA

December 8, 2011

The Gilroy Police Department, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration and California Department of Justice completed a 7-month covert criminal investigation that focused on the criminal activities of suspected Gilroy criminal street gang members and their associates.

The investigation resulted in the identification of at least 25 suspects who violated California's *Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act* (STEP Act), as defined in California Penal Code section 186.22. These criminal street gang members and their gang associates organized violent and reckless criminal activity, which caused undue harm upon victims and compromised the safety of our community members.

As a result of the investigation, the Santa Clara County Superior Court issued arrest warrants & search warrants related to the investigation. Portions of the investigation took place in the following cities – Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Hollister and San Jose. However, all of the defendants lived in Gilroy, or were active in a Gilroy based criminal street gang.

The suspects will be prosecuted by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office for various criminal violations to include – violations of the STEP Act, shooting into an inhabited dwelling, assault with a deadly weapon (firearm), assault with a deadly weapon (vehicle), robbery, criminal conspiracy, narcotic violations, witness intimidation and the use of juvenile offenders to commit crimes to benefit a criminal street gang. If convicted, suspects may be eligible for sentence enhancements (increased incarceration sentences) due to violations of the STEP Act, prior felony convictions and the use of juveniles during the commission of a crime(s).

This investigation marks the second time within recent months that Gilroy Police Department and Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office have collaborated with other local, county, state and federal agencies to disrupt and dismantle criminal activity in Santa Clara County. The investigation and arrests of criminal street gang members and their gang associates continues

to affirm our commitment to insuring the safety of our community members and our zero tolerance policy against criminal street gangs.

Law enforcement agencies that provided assistance during the investigation include, but are not limited to, the California Department of Justice, California Department of Justice Task Forces (Unified Narcotic Enforcement Team, Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team & Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team), California Highway Patrol, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, Santa Clara County Probation Department, Santa Clara County – Regional Auto-Theft Task Force (RATTF), Morgan Hill Police Department, Mountain View Police Department, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, Campbell Police Department, Milpitas Police Department, High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives and the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

**Media Inquires:**

Gilroy Police Chief Denise J. Turner will be available for interviews on December 8, 2011 between 1400 – 1600 hours to answer questions regarding the investigation. Please contact Sergeant Chad Gallacinao at (408) 846-0347 to schedule an interview with Chief Turner.

Otherwise, please contact the listed agency representatives for media related questions –

Gilroy Police Department

Sergeant Chad Gallacinao  
(408) 846-0347

Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office

Assistant District Attorney David Tomkins  
(408) 792-2792

**\*End of Media Release\***

By: Sgt. Gallacinao  
DATE: December 8, 2011