



PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to Cal Govt. Code sect 6254(f)
Gilroy Police Department
Press Information Office
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TYPE OF CRIME:

False Report of an Emergency

CASE NUMBER: 11-2112

LOCATION: 7700 Blk of Santa Barbara Drive

DATE: 5/10/2011

TIME: 1435

VICTIM: City of Gilroy

Details

On 5/10/2011, approximately 2:35pm, Gilroy Police Department received a call from an unknown caller indicating that his home in the 7700 block of Santa Barbara Drive was being burglarized. The caller indicated several persons had entered the residence with firearms and the caller had barricaded himself inside the residence. Soon after, the caller disconnected and Gilroy Police Officers were immediately dispatched to the residence.

A search of the residence was conducted and the residence was found to be empty. Contact with the homeowner was made and it was determined the homeowner had no association with the original caller; the call was a hoax.

Gilroy Police Detectives immediately assumed the investigation and began conducting follow-up on possible leads to identify the original caller. During the course of the investigation, Gilroy Police Detectives learned similar type of calls were made in cities within Illinois and Texas. This type of false reporting was referred to as "Swatting."

Through a collective collaboration with the agencies in Illinois and Texas, it was determined that a 13 year old juvenile was responsible for the false calls to the different law enforcement jurisdictions. The juvenile was subsequently arrested by authorities in Texas for multiple internet hacking charges.

The Gilroy Police Department is working with in corroboration with cities in Illinois and Texas for criminal prosecution against the juvenile. The City of Gilroy will also seek civil restitution for resources expended during the hoax from the parents of the juvenile suspect.

For any media inquiries please call (408) 846-0347. Parties wishing to remain anonymous may call WeTip at 1-800-782-7463 (1-800-78-Crime).

End of Media Advisory

By: Officer Stanford

Approved By: Sgt. Gallacinao

Date: 6/2/2011

