



### **PRESS RELEASE**

Pursuant to Cal Govt. Code sect 6254(f)  
Gilroy Police Department  
Press Information Office  
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**Type of Crime: Illegal Indoor Marijuana Cultivation**

**Case #: 11-3333 & 11-3343**

**Location #1:** 6400 block of Church Street, Gilroy

**Date:** 08/04/11

**Location #2:** 600 block of Johnson Way, Gilroy

**Suspect #1)** Hoang, Khang - Asian Male, 34 year old, San Jose Resident

**Suspect #2)** Withheld – Pending further investigation

**Details:**

Incident #1

On August 3, 2011 at approximately 2058 hours, the Gilroy Fire Department received a report of a suspected fire at a residence in the 6400 block of Church Street, Gilroy.

During the Gilroy Fire Department investigation, fire department personnel located multiple marijuana plants within the residence while determining the cause of the fire. They determined that Hoang (Suspect #1) intentionally lit a fire within the residence's garage. After completing a safety inspection, the fire department determined that the residence's electrical power was not tampered with and was not the cause of the reported fire.

Gilroy Police Officers obtained consent from Hoang to search the residence. During the search, officers seized over 120 "starter" marijuana plants (with an estimated street value of over \$120,000) and marijuana cultivation equipment & material.

Hoang was arrested and later booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail for a violation of HS 11358 – Cultivation of Marijuana, HS 11359 – Sales of Marijuana and HS 11364 – Possession of Narcotic Paraphernalia.

Incident #2

The Gilroy Police Department's Anti-Crime Team has been investigating the suspected illegal cultivation of marijuana within a residence in the 600 block of Johnson Way for the past several weeks. Based on their investigation, a Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge signed a search warrant for a residence.

On August 4, 2011 at approximately 1700 hours, the Department's ACT team served the search warrant at the residence for evidence relating to the illegal cultivation of marijuana. Johnson Way & the residence are directly adjacent to Gilroy High School – which is scheduled to resume within the next couple of weeks.

Pursuant to the search warrant, detectives located evidence that supported the residence was used to cultivate marijuana. A large amount of marijuana cultivation equipment & material were located within the residence. However, it appeared that the Suspect #2 had processed the marijuana within the residence prior to the serve of the search warrant. With the assistance of PG&E, detectives confirmed that someone had tampered with the residence's electrical power to facilitate the illegal cultivation.

Nobody was at the residence when the search warrant was served. The investigation remains active and detectives continue to investigate leads. The identity of Suspect #2 will not be released due to the active investigation.

Preliminary information **does not** suggest that these two incidents are related to each other.

These two illegal marijuana grow houses are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> marijuana houses found within the City of Gilroy within the last couple of weeks. These houses present a significant safety threat to our neighborhoods and community. Criminals often times improperly tamper with PG&E electrical power to conceal their activity & to steal power from PG&E – which causes an increased potential for fire. The extreme humid conditions and concentrated liquids used to cultivate marijuana increases the risk of respiratory illness to residents and neighbors.

Community members should be aware of activity within their neighborhoods, to prevent the fire dangers and potential health hazards associated with indoor marijuana cultivation operations.

This investigation is continuing and anyone who has information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Corporal Brian Dutton at (408) 846-0350. Parties wishing to remain anonymous may call WeTip at 1-800-782-7463 (1-800-78-Crime).

For any media inquiries please call (408) 846-0347.

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

By: Sgt. Gallacinao  
DATE: August 4, 2011

