FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rachelle Bedell, Communication and Engagement Manager
City of Gilroy

A Message to the Community from the City of Gilroy Administrator Jimmy Forbis and Gilroy Unified District Superintendent Dr. Anisha Munshi on Recent Events at and Near Luigi Aprea Elementary School

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 (Gilroy, CA): The City of Gilroy and the Gilroy Unified School District (GUSD) are releasing the following community letter to address the recent events at and near Luigi Aprea Elementary School. This letter informs our community about the events and our approach to disseminating information to the public, parents, and guardians of our students.

On the morning of February 26, 2024, Markus Beck arrived at Luigi Aprea Elementary's front office. He inquired about an individual who he thought was working at the school. Upon learning that no such individual was employed at the school, Mr. Beck apologized and left the front office.

Mr. Beck remained on school property, outside of the fenced area. As he stood near the fence on the north side of the school, he engaged with another staff member, again inquiring about the individual. Due to concerns about Mr. Beck's ongoing presence and repeated inquiries, the Gilroy Police Department (GPD) was contacted by school staff. The school's principal conversed with Mr. Beck, urging him to move away from the school area. Mr. Beck showed a photo of the individual he was looking for, received confirmation that the person did not work at the school, and then walked back to his nearby residence.

Later that same morning, two GPD officers responded to a call from the school office and arrived at the school around the time Mr. Beck returned to his residence. Soon after, the GPD School Resource Officer arrived at the school. GPD initially discussed Mr.
Beck’s interactions with school staff. GPD then located Mr. Beck at his residence on Mockingbird Lane. Mr. Beck cooperated with GPD officers and agreed to stay away from the school. During all interactions with school staff and GPD, Mr. Beck was cooperative.

On early Wednesday, February 28, 2024, GPD responded to a hit-and-run incident in a location far from the school and arrested Mr. Beck for Driving Under the Influence (DUI). A search of the vehicle revealed two legally registered but illegally stored firearms in his car. Mr. Beck was arrested and booked into the County jail where he remains. GPD then sought and obtained a search warrant for Mr. Beck’s residence as well as a gun violence restraining order, which was authorized by the Santa Clara County Superior Court. During the execution of the search warrant GPD noticed a strong presence of gas at Mr. Beck’s residence. Gilroy Fire and PG&E responded and instituted further precautionary measures, including neighborhood evacuations and the recommendation to GUSD to lockdown Luigi Aprea. Mr. Beck's residence was searched, and additional firearms were confiscated. GPD confirmed all firearms registered to Mr. Beck are accounted for and have been seized.

On Friday, March 01, 2024, further investigation prompted GPD to serve an additional search warrant at Mr. Beck's home, uncovering additional evidence. Mr. Beck is now facing multiple felony counts and is currently held in custody without bail. His motive and/or intent remains under investigation.

The City of Gilroy and GUSD remain committed to the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community and will continue working collaboratively with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to protect the safety of our community.

We understand the community's need for timely and accurate information, especially when it concerns the safety of our children. In today's social media environment, information is produced rapidly through sources that often make assumptions and contain inaccuracies. The premature disclosure of details about an ongoing investigation can potentially impede law enforcement efforts and jeopardize criminal prosecution, thus, affecting our ability to seek justice and ensure accountability. The City and GUSD are committed to providing accurate and timely information to the community in a manner that does not jeopardize law enforcement’s ability to conduct investigations.

GUSD is committed to improving safety practices and protocols and has already begun reviewing internal and external communications during and following the incident. GUSD will also provide more robust safety and security training for all district staff. The City's partnership with GUSD is essential to ensuring the safety and security of all
students and educational staff. The City's School Resource Officers continue to be vital partners in keeping our staff and students safe.

The Gilroy Police Department is actively investigating the criminal case, in collaboration with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office. We urge anyone who has information about this case to reach out to Detective Jason Greathead at (408) 846-0373 or jason.greathead@cityofgilroy.org.

For questions about the Gilroy Unified School District, please contact GUSD at communications@gilroyunified.org.

If you have questions about the Gilroy Police Department, please contact the City of Gilroy at (408) 846-0317.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Forbis     Dr. Anisha Munshi, Superintendent
Gilroy City Administrator     Gilroy Unified School District