THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

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OPERATION "OIL BURNER" CONDUCTED BY NARCOTICS DETECTIVES AT LOCAL SMOKE SHOPS

(San Diego) On December 19, 2007, detectives from the San Diego Police Department Narcotics Section conducted an undercover operation to purchase illegal narcotics paraphernalia at smoke shops throughout the city of San Diego. The operation targeted 12 stores that have a large percentage of their overall inventory dedicated to illegal products.

On November 15, 2007, the City Attorney's Office sent letters to the owners of all smoke shops within the city of San Diego advising them to remove illegal paraphernalia from their stores by November 30, 2007.

In yesterday's operation, undercover detectives attempted to purchase glass pipes used to smoke methamphetamine and cocaine. Ten of the stores would not sell the products to the detectives. However, detectives did make successful purchases at two stores. The clerks were arrested and the inventory of illegal merchandise was seized. More than sixteen hundred pipes along with other narcotics paraphernalia were taken from the two stores as a result of the operation.

Steven Kassab, age 36, was arrested for selling glass pipes from the ABC Smoke shop located on Market Street in the Mt. Hope neighborhood.

Doug Offenheiser, age 24, was arrested for selling glass pipes from the Up In Smoke store located on University Avenue in the North Park neighborhood.

Similar operations will be conducted in the future to ensure compliance by the smoke shops.

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