THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SEXUAL ASSAULT/PEEPER SUSPECT ARRESTED

(San Diego) On February 22, 2007 at about 4 p.m., the Pacific Beach peeper was arrested by detectives from Northern Division and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

On February 15, 2007, Northern Division released information to the public regarding the ongoing Pacific Beach peeper series, which included several sexual assault cases. On February 16, 2007, a female Pacific Beach resident contacted Detective Garrick Nugent with information related to these cases. The caller told detectives that she had witnessed a peeper in Pacific Beach during 2005. The witness lives within the narrow area defined in the series and reported seeing an individual fitting the description provided to the public. The caller initially reported this activity on February 28, 2005, which resulted in an interview of Eduardo Castillo Herrarte, (2-15-74). No further action was taken at that time.

The caller had taken a photograph of Herrarte engaged in peeping activity. She saved that photo and gave it to Detective Nugent. The witness told Detective Nugent she had seen the person in the photograph (Herrarte) as recently as two months ago.

Additional investigation from this lead revealed that on two occasions Herrarte had been arrested for driving while intoxicated and on one occasion for solicitation of prostitution. The most recent booking photograph was from 2003. Records also indicated Herrarte had been deported at least twice.

It was determined that in this case, for purposes of showing victims a photograph of this suspect, a more recent photograph was necessary. On February 21, 2007, ICE agents were contacted for assistance. It was confirmed Herrarte was a previously deported illegal alien.

ICE agents, working in collaboration with Northern Division detectives, arrested Herrarte for immigration violations thus providing a recent photograph and access to interviewing the suspect.

On February 22, 2007, Northern Division Detectives conducted surveillance on Bonita Street in Lemon Grove, the last known address of Herrarte. At about 3:15 p.m., Herrarte arrived at the residence, stayed a short time and drove away. The detectives conducted a rolling surveillance of Herrarte and directed ICE agents to their location.

At 4 p.m. Herrarte was taken into custody by ICE agents at Lemon Grove and Golden in the city of Lemon Grove. This arrest was for immigration violations. Northern Division Detectives interviewed Herrarte at SDPD headquarters in connection to the sexual assault and peeper cases.

Herrarte is now being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center on an immigration hold. Northern Division detectives, along with the District Attorney's office are preparing charges against Herrarte.

A photograph of Herrarte will not be released to the public at this time because of concerns that the case against him may be compromised.

A media briefing will take place at SDPD Headquarters, 1401 Broadway Street, at 11:30 a.m. this morning.

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