THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAN DIEGO DEPUTY SHERIFF ARRESTED

(San Diego) On July 31, 2008, members of the San Diego Police Department Sex Crimes Unit arrested Thomas Sadler, 47, a San Diego County Deputy Sheriff, on charges of false imprisonment and sexual battery under the color of authority.

On February 6, 2008, at about 10:30 a.m., San Diego Police officers responded to a report of a disturbance involving a male and female in a car in the parking lot of 2800 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley. The victim told officers she had been sitting on a bus bench at 3100 El Cajon Boulevard when a man got out of his car and approached her, wearing a Sheriff's badge and an exposed pistol on his belt. The victim said the male ordered her to get into his vehicle.

The suspect drove the victim to the parking lot in Mission Valley where the sexual battery occurred. The victim was resisting the assault when a witness intervened. The victim got out of the vehicle and the suspect fled in his car.

Within a few days, the investigation focused on Sadler as the suspect. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department was notified of the information and has been cooperating with the investigation since that time.

SDPD Sex Crimes detectives have been working with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office on the case since February. The investigation determined that Sadler was on duty at the time of the incident.

On July 31, the District Attorney's Office issued five felony charges against Sadler. They are as follows: 243.4 PC sexual battery by restraint; 149 PC assault and battery by an officer; 236/237(a) PC false imprisonment by menace, fraud, deceit; and two counts of 502 (c)(1) PC accessing a computer to defraud. If convicted, Sadler faces up to six years and eight months in prison. Shortly after the charges were issued, detectives arrested Sadler in front of his home in Santee without incident. Sadler was later booked into San Diego Central Jail.

Any additional witnesses or victims are encouraged to call the San Diego Police Sex Crimes Unit at (619) 531-2210.

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