

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illegal Sideshow Investigation Uncovers Fraud

San Diego – Two San Diego men have been arrested and are facing criminal charges related to activities in connection with illegal sideshow events. On November 21st, a vehicle driven by one of the men was engaged in “stunt driving” in the parking lot of the Westfield Plaza Bonita Mall located in National City. As the driver performed the stunts, his car collided with another vehicle.

The driver was later identified as 20-year-old Daniel Gomez. The men then staged a false hit-and-run accident scene on a nearby street. 19-year-old Ruben Antonio Talamantes assisted in creating the fake accident scene. When patrol officers arrived, the men provided false information for a report. Gomez then provided false information to his insurance company.

A follow-up investigation revealed that during an unrelated event, Talamantes had engaged in falsifying information to both law enforcement and the courts in relation to illegal modifications to his vehicle. The investigation also revealed efforts by Talamantes to bypass smog and vehicle inspection measures to ensure that his vehicle was in compliance with state regulations.

Talamantes is charged with felony crimes including insurance fraud and forging and falsifying a document. He was arraigned on July 11th and faces more than 5 years in prison if convicted of all the charges. Arraignment for Gomez is scheduled for tomorrow, July 19th, in Downtown Court, Department 101 at 1:30 p.m. Charges will be announced at that time.

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