

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 11, 2024

CONTACT: Captain Mike Holden at mholden@pd.sandiego.gov

Police Arrest Driving School Instructor for Sex Crimes Against Female Students

San Diego – San Diego Police detectives are looking for additional victims of a driving school instructor who was arrested for a string of sex crimes. The assaults happened during the driving lessons and while the instructor secretly recorded his young victims.

50-year-old Richard “Joseph” Banks was an instructor for American Driving School based in El Cajon when he committed these acts. Investigators learned he was sexually assaulting and molesting female students during driving lessons. While investigating these allegations, detectives learned Banks was using secret cameras hidden in the instructional car to record his students' private areas during lessons. Most of these students were teenage girls under the age of 18.

Banks was arrested and booked into jail today for child abuse and molestation, sexual battery, possession of child pornography, production of child pornography, and installation and use of a surreptitious recording device.

Anyone who believes they might be a victim in this case is urged to call police and speak with investigators.

Anyone with information about incidents involving Banks should contact the San Diego Police Department's Northeastern Division at 858-538-8026 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

###