



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 13, 2009

Contact: Gina Coburn, Communications Director: (619) 533-6181

BORDER WILDCATTERS CONVICTED

San Diego Police and City Attorney Prosecutor Crack down on Violators

San Diego, CA: The San Diego City Attorney and San Diego Police have begun heightened enforcement at the San Ysidro Border crossing area on wildcatters. Wildcatters are individuals and companies that offer transportation for hire to individuals from the border area to other locations, usually within Los Angeles County. Wildcatters jeopardize the safety of their passengers and place them at risk by not complying with transportation laws. Residents and business owners in the San Ysidro neighborhood of the City of San Diego complained to police about the wildcatters, prompting heightened enforcement.

During a sting operation, the San Diego Police Department's Border Crime Suppression Team arrested six individuals for offering transportation services. Two individuals have appeared in court and have pleaded guilty to the charges against them. One of the men arrested for wildcatting, Everardo Garnica from San Ysidro, had been convicted of wildcatting on two prior occasions. He was sentenced to serve 90 days in custody and ordered to stay away from the Border Public Safety Zone. The other defendant, Jose Gutierrez from San Diego, pleaded guilty, and was ordered to pay a fine and also to stay away from the Border Public Safety Zone. The remaining cases are pending.

Police teamed up with Deputy City Attorney Karolyn Westfall and the City Attorney's Neighborhood Prosecution Unit for the Southern region of the City of San Diego. The Neighborhood Prosecution Unit works with police and community members to identify chronic community problems. The crack down on wildcatters has already resulted in a border zone that is safer.

###