PRESS RELEASE

Office of the Sheriff
55 West Younger Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110
408-808-4900

Prepared by:
Sergeant Kurtis Stenderup
@KurtisSCCSO

TYPE OF CRIME: Illegal Indoor Marijuana Grow
LOCATION: 7500 block of Monterey Road, City of Gilroy
CASE NUMBER: 15-022-0081I

DETAILS:

On January 22nd, 2015, the Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET) served a search warrant at a business in the 7500 block of Monterey Road in the City of Gilroy. This search warrant was the result of a long investigation by the MET team and Gilroy Police Department. The business was a "furniture store" that was never open for business, in fact none of the furniture was even for sale. To the rear of the furniture store, detectives found over 1,000 marijuana plants and over 50 pounds of processed marijuana. The street value of all the marijuana located was over $2 million dollars. Detectives also found the suspect had bypassed the electrical meter and had stolen an estimated $80,000 worth of electricity from PG&E. This poised a very serious fire hazard because none of the wiring was done to electrical code requirements. See attached photo of the store front and marijuana plants.

Detectives located and arrested 39-year old Phuc Nguyen of Gilroy inside the "fake" furniture store. Mr. Nguyen was booked into the Main Jail on charges of theft of utilities and illegal cultivation of marijuana for sales. His bail was set at $200,000. Attached is his booking photo.

In 2014, the Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team seized over 104,000 marijuana plants, over 250 pounds of processed marijuana, arrested 20 people and seized 3 firearms. All of the investigations by the MET team are into illegal marijuana operations that are not in compliant with the State of California laws regarding the use and possession of medicinal marijuana.

If anyone has any information about any illegal marijuana operations, please contact our Marijuana Enforcement Team at 408-808-4420.

Prepared By: Sergeant Stenderup **Date / Time Prepared: 1-27-15 @ 1130**
Approved By: Undersheriff Hirokawa **Date / Time Approved: 1-27-15 @1130**

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