



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: May 12, 2011

TOPIC: Sexual Assault Arrest

CASE NUMBER: 10S-08789

SUSPECTS:

1. Octavio Castillo - 18 years – Watsonville Resident

INFORMATION:

The Santa Cruz Police Department is announcing the arrest of Octavio Castillo for a sexual assault that occurred on October 16, 2010. Mr. Castillo was arrested on May 12, 2011 near his home in Watsonville, by Santa Cruz Police Detectives. In addition to arresting Mr. Castillo, Detectives served an arrest warrant at Mr. Castillo's home.

This case involved a 28 year old victim that was taken from Santa Cruz while walking home from a party. She was severely beaten and sexually assaulted before being left on the side of the road just outside of Watsonville.

Mr. Castillo was identified as the suspect through a DNA hit in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). Evidence obtained from the victim was processed by Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services DNA lab. The lab was able to develop a DNA profile of a male the suspect from the evidence. Once the DNA profile was developed, it was entered into the CODIS database, on November 15, 2010. An initial comparison did not reveal a match for anyone currently in the system.

Santa Cruz Police Detectives continued to request a comparison be run with the DNA profile in this case. On Tuesday May 10, 2011, the police department was notified of a match or a "hit" with the DNA profile. The "hit" came as the result of a DNA sample collected from suspect Castillo when he was arrested for possession of stolen property and auto burglary in February of 2011. Detectives authored an arrest and search warrant for Mr. Castillo and his home. Detectives began surveillance looking for Mr. Castillo. He was located near his home and arrested on May 12, 2011.

This case once again underscores the importance of the relationship between the Santa Cruz Police Department and the Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services lab, and the importance of the service they provide with forensic capabilities. The Santa Cruz Police Department would like to acknowledge Bureau Chief Jill Spriggs and her team for their work in this case.

Mr. Castillo has been booked into Santa Cruz County Jail on charges of sodomy, kidnapping, and battery with serious bodily injury.

BACKGROUND

On October 16, 2010, the victim was located by a passer-by on Ranport Road just outside of the Watsonville city limits. The initial investigation was started by the Sheriff's Office, until it was determined that the victim was taken from Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz Police Department then took over the investigation. Initial information was difficult because of the victim's level of intoxication and the extent of her injuries from being battered by the suspect. Information indicated the victim was walking home from a party between 2 and 3 AM when she was attacked by the suspect, and taken from Santa Cruz. Forensic evidence was recovered and processed by DOJ's BFS.

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

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To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995