



Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



Chief Art de Werk

2727 Third Street, Ceres, CA 95307
Office: (209) 538-5726 Fax: (209) 538-5707

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

News Release Contact: Sergeant Jose Berber

Email: jose.berber@ci.ceres.ca.us

Phone: (209) 538-5719

Ceres Street Crimes Unit Making an Impact on Local Illegal Marijuana Grows

Ceres, California - The Ceres Police Department Street Crimes Unit (SCU) is making an impact on illegal Marijuana grows in the Ceres area. The Street Crimes Unit was established after Ceres voters approved Measure H, a half-cent sales tax increase specifically for improving public safety services, in November of 2008. The Street Crimes Unit is funded by Measure H revenues and consists of three police officers and one sergeant, all of whom were specially chosen for the assignment based on their skills, experience, and level of professionalism.

On 10-10-11 at 1455 hours, the unit served a search warrant in the 3100 block of Sanko Ave. The search resulted in discovery of an illegal outdoor Marijuana grow with over 56 large, mature plants. The Marijuana grow had the potential of producing over 200 pounds of processed Marijuana, worth over \$400,000. The following individuals in connection to the grow were arrested: **Calixto Betancourt** 46 years out of Ceres, **Eber Betancourt** 24 years out of Ceres, **Luis Mendoza** 23 years out of Modesto and **Jesus Martinez** 23 years out of Modesto.

A few hours later, at approximately 1822 hours, the Street Crimes Unit along with the Ceres SWAT Team followed up by serving a separate, unrelated search warrant in the 1100 block of Glenn Avenue in Modesto. During this search, investigators discovered a small outdoor marijuana grow with over 40 pounds of processed Marijuana and a small amount of Methamphetamine. Investigators found evidence of drug sales of these and two recovered firearms. **Emmanuel Mata** 27 years out of Modesto and **Vicente Bazan** 52 years out of Modesto were arrested in connection to this grow and being in possession of firearms.

The following day, on 10-11-11 at approximately 0900 hours, the officers of the specialized Street Crimes Unit and the Ceres SWAT team served a search warrant in the 900 block of Mock Avenue in Modesto. While officers surrounded the residence to serve the warrant, **Rosa Perez**, 22 years, ran out of the home and threw a loaded firearm onto the roof of the house. The search revealed evidence of marijuana sales. **Rosa Perez** was arrested for a variety of charges.

Investigators are not elaborating any further on these cases. They are separate, individual, ongoing investigations and detectives are encouraging anyone with any information in reference to these cases to contact the Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers at:

Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.

Phone number: 1-866-60-CRIME

Text Tips: "274637" TIP704 in the wording

Website: www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers or Sergeant Dennis Perry at (209) 538-5638.

Dennis Perry, Sergeant
Ceres Police Department
Street Crimes Unit