## **SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

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## INFORMATION RELEASE 01/26/15 LARGE MARIJUANA OPERATION DISCOVERED IN BENICIA

Just after 3 p.m. this afternoon Benicia Police Officer Armondo Sanchez received information regarding possible narcotics activity and the theft of utilities within the city of Benicia. During Officer Sanchez's investigation he went to the 4600 block of E. Second St. While at the location Officer Sanchez smelled the strong odor of fresh marijuana in the air and a representative from PG&E confirmed that the theft of utilities was occurring. Benicia Police Department then contacted the Solano County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Team while they continued to watch the area.

The Solano County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Team gathered the necessary information and wrote a search warrant for the building where the marijuana smell was coming from and the theft of utilities was occurring.

Just before 7 p.m. this evening the Solano County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Team served a search warrant at the building. No suspects were contacted at the building but Detectives discovered a large scale marijuana cultivation operation was being run inside. The operation consisted of sophisticated marijuana growing equipment and watering system. Detectives discovered three separate rooms within the building that were specifically set up to grown marijuana in various stages of growth. They also located a room within the building that specifically for the drying of the processed marijuana.

Detectives located approximately 30 pounds of processed marijuana valued at \$90,000.00 and 825 marijuana plants valued at approximately 2.5 million dollars. Detectives are continuing to follow up on leads and gathering information regarding the person or persons responsible for the operation.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to call the Solano County Sheriff's Office at 707-421-7090. Callers may also remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at 707-644-STOP (7867). The Solano County Sheriff's Office and Benicia Police Department encourage all citizens to contact their local police department if they suspect narcotics activity in their neighborhood.

If you need additional information regarding this press release, I can be reached at the numbers below.

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