



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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**DA'S GANG IMPACT TEAM OPERATION RESULTS IN DOZENS OF ARRESTS
AND THE SEIZURE OF MORE THAN 75 WEAPONS**

HEMET – Nearly 50 people have been arrested as part of Operation Valley Vigilance, a seven-month ongoing investigation by the DA's Gang Impact Team that culminated today, June 29, 2017, with dozens of arrest and search warrants being served in the Hemet area.

An estimated 400 law enforcement officers from city, county, and federal agencies targeted 58 different locations in the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, as well as in the surrounding unincorporated county area.

Today, 24 people were arrested on a variety of charges – primarily involving weapons- and drug-related crimes. That, combined with 23 other arrest made before June 29, brings the total number of people arrested in the operation to 47. There are six other suspects who are wanted and still being sought for arrest.

Among the 47 arrests made, some involved murder charges. During the operation, 77 weapons and more than four pounds of drugs were seized.

DA Mike Hestrin joined other law enforcement and elected officials at an afternoon news conference in Hemet announcing the results of the operation. Hestrin commended all the local and federal partners involved in the operation and gave the following warning to those targeted in this operation along with anyone who would bring this type of violence to Riverside County: "We will be patient, we will be organized, and we will be coming for you. If not today, soon"

The primary focus of the operation was to reduce crime and violence in the area while targeting organized crime, wanted felons, and those trafficking weapons and drugs.

The agencies in the Riverside County District Attorney's Gang Impact Team are the DA's Bureau of Investigation; the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations; U.S. Border Patrol; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General for Investigations; the FBI; the Hemet Police Department; and the Palm Springs Police Department.

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