



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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OPERATION DESERT IMPACT LEADS TO ARRESTS IN WEAPONS AND DRUG CASES

Results were announced at news conference in Desert Hot Springs

DESERT HOT SPRINGS – Today, June 16, 2016, District Attorney Mike Hestrin was joined by local and federal officials in announcing the results of Operation Desert Impact.

Operation Desert Impact was a nine-month criminal investigation by local and federal agencies targeting primarily weapons and drug trafficking happening in and around Desert Hot Springs.

The operation culminated today, June 16, 2016, with the service of 11 state and 11 federal arrest warrants at various locations in the city of Desert Hot Springs and surrounding communities. A news conference was held at the Henry Lozano Community Center in Desert Hot Springs. Lozano was murdered in 2001 by a member of a Desert Hot Springs gang member who was later sentenced to death.

Operation Desert Impact targeted 22 people charged either in state or federal cases. Many of those targeted are known gang members or gang associates of several criminal street gangs in the Coachella Valley.

Updated information about arrests in the state cases can be obtained later today by contacting District Attorney spokesperson John Hall. Information about the federal cases and arrests can be obtained later today by contacting Thom Mrozek, spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office at (213) 894-6947 or at thom.mrozek@usdoj.gov.

Throughout the investigation a variety of weapons were seized. Those weapons included rifles, shotguns, semiautomatic handguns, and at least one rocket launcher.

Operation Desert Impact was conducted primarily by the Gang Impact Team and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Violent Crime Task Force. The Gang Impact Team is made up of law enforcement officials from the Riverside County DA's Office; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the Desert Hot Springs Police Department; the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General.

Special agents from ICE were involved today at locations where there were believed to be immigration violations. Special agents from HUD targeted individuals who have been charged by the DA's Office with perjury and grand theft by defrauding a housing program of a public housing authority.

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