



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
MIKE HESTRIN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WEBSITE: WWW.RIVCODA.ORG

TWITTER: @RIVCODA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPT. 14, 2018

CONTACT: JOHN HALL
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
951.955.8662

**DA'S NEW CANNABIS REGULATION TASK FORCE SERVES SEARCH WARRANTS
AT THREE DISPENSARIES ALLEGED TO BE OPERATING ILLEGALLY**

NOTE: This version updates with seizure numbers

RIVERSIDE – The DA's countywide Cannabis Regulation Task Force (CRTF) continues to proactively investigate dispensaries believed to be operating illegally.

Today, Sept. 14, 2018, CRTF served search warrants simultaneously at three dispensaries alleged to be operating illegally. The locations were: 291 N. Yale St., Hemet; 5298 Mission Blvd., Jurupa Valley; and 5024 Etiwanda Ave., Jurupa Valley.

All three locations are operating under the name of The Vault Church. The Hemet location is a property in a residential neighborhood.

UPDATE: Seized from all three locations was estimated to be more than 100 pounds of harvested cannabis product and between \$75,000 and \$100,000 in cash. At the Etiwanda location, two indoor grows were found and seized with 200-300 plants in various stages of harvest. Task force investigators also found the remnants of what is believed to have been a butane honey oil lab at that location. No arrests were made today and the investigation is ongoing.

"We will pursue investigations into unlicensed and illegal dispensaries," said DA's Bureau of Investigation Chief Joe DelGiudice. "These places operate outside of state laws and use unfair business practices that hurt legal dispensaries. They often supply untested and potentially harmful product to consumers, and promote criminal enterprise."

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department is among the first allied agency CRTF partners which also includes the Hemet Police Department, all working together to clamp down on unlicensed dispensaries throughout Riverside County.

"We recognize the necessity of proactive efforts to address unlawful activities related to marijuana," said Sheriff Stan Sniff. "Participating in efforts that leverage our limited resources and act as force multipliers to address community concerns is important and we are pleased to be a part of this Task Force."

The purpose of the CRTF is to protect properly licensed legal cannabis businesses and enforce regulatory requirements which protect the environment and consumers.

The aim of the task force is not to shut down legally operating facilities, but rather to ensure fair business practices and keep criminal activity out of the legal cannabis industry and out of our communities.

###