

SEQUIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

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"Personal Attention to Our Community"

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY IDENTIFIES DRUG DEALING

As the result of community complaints and the involvement of local citizens, Sequim Police served a search warrant during the evening hours on Friday, November 4, 2005 at 237 West Prairie Street in Sequim. The residence is the home of Mario Lopez a 47-year old male.

The search warrant was the result of citizens reporting suspicious activity and suspecting that narcotics dealing was occurring from the residence on Prairie Street. "This is one of those incidents where people called the police department to complain about suspicious neighborhood activity and we were able to investigate and put a solid case together involving the suspected sale and delivery of illegal narcotics from this home and resident," said Sergeant Sean Madison. "It takes time, investigative resources and community support to work these types of complaints, and of course an arrest never comes soon enough, especially if you live in the neighborhood where this type of conduct is happening, but we do listen, we do investigate, and we do put people in jail," said Madison.

"Narcotics dealing occurs even in the very best of communities like Sequim," said Chief of Police Robert Spinks, "as our community grows and folks realize what a gem of a

community Sequim is, we will unfortunately also attract those people who seek to victimize others.”

This investigation was supported with funding support from the Olympic Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Team (OPNET) which the Sequim Police are a member of, but the investigation and search warrant development and execution were handled entirely by the Sequim police officers. This search warrant is the first in what Sequim Police expect to be a series of searches and arrests related to methamphetamine sales and possession in the Sequim area.

Drug packaging and a small amount of cash were found at the residence, along with several ounces of marijuana and small amounts of methamphetamine. Lopez was booked into the Clallam County Corrections Facility and charges of three counts of methamphetamine delivery will be referred to the Clallam County Prosecutor’s Office.

Spinks challenged the small number of local drug dealers with the fact that drug dealing would be targeted as a continuing priority for enforcement by the agency, that available resources will continue to be used to respond to community complaints, informants will be solicited and paid, drug deals will be set up and arrest and search warrants will be executed with vigor.

“It is a simple plan,” said Spinks, “we will hunt down illegal narcotics dealing with vigor, we will push to expand the current OPNET operation on the Peninsula and we will push for resources to make Sequim a very unfriendly place to peddle illegal narcotics, now and in the future.”

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