



MONTEREY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**

**Deadly Weapon Arrest**

On September 21, 2023 at approximately 12:56 P.M., Monterey Police Officers were dispatched to a report of man with a gun inside of a business at the Del Monte Shopping Center. The reporting party was Del Monte Shopping Center Security. Security was not at the business but had received information from a mall patron that a subject entered the business and announced he had a firearm. The subject was not threatening or brandishing the firearm, but was described as acting strange.

Given the risk posed of an armed subject at a crowded shopping mall, numerous MPD officers responded. As would be expected, the MPD deployed a number of tactical tools to address the issue. MPD officers were able to call into the business and speak with an employee who confirmed the subject was still inside and had what appeared to be a firearm in a holster. Employees and customers were able to safely exit the business out of a back door. While MPD officers evacuated the business, they were told by one customer that the firearm appeared to be fake.

MPD officers then approached the store and detained the subject, Sai Fernandez 50 years old of Carmel Valley. Fernandez had a black rubber imitation firearm in

a drop leg style holster and a bullwhip tucked into the back of his waistband. Fernandez stated he worked in private security and used these items for training purposes. MPD officers noted Fernandez statements did not sound believable as he claimed to work with U.S. military Special Forces and celebrities.

Fernandez was found to be on probation for a prior arrest on May 29, 2023 wherein he threatened his coworkers at his then place of employment. Fernandez's probation terms included a requirement that he not possess deadly weapons. MPD officers searched Fernandez's car and found a military style tactical vest, a machete, a large knife, and a hatchet.

Through the course of the investigation, MPD officers determined Fernandez did not display the imitation firearm in a threatening manner and the business employees and customers stated they did not feel threatened by Fernandez. MPD officers determined Fernandez was in violation of his probation for being in possession of deadly weapons. Fernandez was arrested for violation of 1203.2 PC – probation violation.



Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact Lieutenant Ethan Andrews at (831) 646-3822, or to remain anonymous call (831) 646-3840.

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