



PRESS RELEASE

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Prepared by:
Deputy Reginald Cooks

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Detectives Arrest Two Sworn Personnel in Separate Investigations

DETAILS:

On February 17, 2017, Correctional Deputy Leonel Groba was arrested by Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Detectives for a violation of California Penal Code section 149, *Battery Under Color of Authority*. On August 18, 2016, Groba allegedly struck an inmate in the face without justification. Due to the nature of the allegations, Groba was immediately placed on administrative leave following the incident. The case was presented to the Santa Clara County District Attorney and an arrest warrant was issued for Groba. Groba turned himself in at the Sheriff's Office, and after being booked into the Main Jail was released upon posting bail.

Additionally, on February 14, 2017, Correctional Sergeant Robert Liddle was arrested by Santa Clara County Sheriff's Detectives for violation of California Penal Code section 632, *Intentionally Recording a Confidential Communication*. Liddle intentionally recorded a conversation between himself and another sworn staff member unbeknownst to his fellow officer. The alleged incident occurred on July 11, 2016 and came to the attention of Sheriff's investigators on October 27, 2016. Due to the serious nature of the allegations against Liddle, prior to his arrest he was placed on administrative leave. Liddle was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail and was released after posting bail.

Following standard protocol, in addition to the criminal investigation, the Sheriff's Office will conduct an Internal Affairs investigation into the above mentioned incidents.

"The Sheriff's Office holds its employees to the highest standards of professional conduct," stated Sheriff Laurie Smith.

"However, there are moments where the actions of individual actors cast an agency in poor light and reflect negatively on the hard work of so many dedicated sworn staff. Arresting one of your own is never a proud moment, but in these circumstances necessary to maintain the community's trust and integrity of the Sheriff's Office."

No further information is being released at this time so as to not compromise the ongoing investigations.

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Approved By: Undersheriff Neusel

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