



**SHERIFF ROBERT JONSEN**

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**For Immediate Release - Media**  
**Office of the Sheriff**  
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Sergeant Russell Davis  
Public Information Officer  
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On June 23, 2023, at 1:12PM, Santa Clara County Sheriff deputies from our Special Enforcement Division arrested Russell Larson Charling (41), pursuant to an arrest and search warrant.

Deputies have extensive history in responding to incidents with Charling. There is currently a criminal restraining order in place, prohibiting any contact with his ex-wife and children. Charling owned multiple firearms that were previously confiscated at the time of a prior arrest. Due to the arrest, Charling became prohibited from owning or possessing firearms of any kind.

During the course of this investigation, Sheriff's deputies obtained information that Charling was in possession of illegal assault rifles. Further information indicated Charling was becoming increasingly erratic and aggressive. Charling has also made threats to shoot law enforcement if he encounters them and that he is "ready to engage with law enforcement". Due to public safety concerns and his prohibited status, deputies obtained an arrest warrant for Charling and a search warrant for his residence in San Martin.

Pursuant to the residential search warrant, deputies located illegal contraband ranging from three illegal assault-style rifles, a "ghost" semi-automatic handgun, "ghost gun" parts and building materials, suspected methamphetamine and cocaine, high-capacity ammunition magazines, and over 1500+ rounds of ammunition.

Charling was arrested near his residence in San Martin and was booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail on charges ranging from Possession of a Firearm in Violation of a Court Order, Committing a Felony While on Bail, Illegal Possession of an Assault Weapon, Possession of Drugs while Armed, and Illegal Assembly of Firearms. Bail has been set at \$612,000.

The Sheriff's Office utilized its South County Patrol team and specialized units to peacefully take Charling into custody. Deputies from the Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Division, the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team, Headquarters Patrol, and the Sheriff's Investigative Services Bureau all contributed to the peaceful resolution. The Sheriff's Office is also thankful for the assistance and collaboration with the Morgan Hill Police Department, the Gilroy Police Department, the Campbell Police Department, and the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety which each contributed specialized officers to the operation which led to the optimal outcome.

**Prepared By: Sergeant Russell Davis**  
**Approved By: Undersheriff Ken Binder**

**Date / Time Prepared: 06/24/2023 @ 1800**  
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“I am proud of our deputies. It was a great job by all involved to get these assault rifles, ghost guns, and ammunition off the streets and out of the hands of this potentially dangerous criminal. The Sheriff’s Office and our partners in law enforcement are fully dedicated to ensuring public safety for our residents in Santa Clara County.” -Sheriff Robert Jonsen, Santa Clara County Sheriff

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office at (408) 808-4500. Alternatively, you can contact the Sheriff’s Office Investigative Services anonymous tip line at (408) 808-4431.



**Russell Larson Charling PFN: DSD534**



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