



MEDIA RELEASE

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Sheriff-Coroner

5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831) 454-7611 FAX: (831) 454-7608

Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Media Release: June 6, 2020 Deputy Killed and Others Injured During Ambush

June 6th 2020

On Saturday June 6th at around 1:30 p.m., we received a call about a suspicious van parked off the road near Jamison Creek, Boulder Creek. The caller saw guns and bomb making materials inside the van. When deputies arrived, the van was seen leaving the area and tried to follow it, finally finding it at a home on Waldeberg, Ben Lomond. As deputies began investigating, they were ambushed with gunfire and multiple improvised explosive devices. Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller was shot and taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Another deputy was either shot or struck by shrapnel and struck by a car as the suspect fled the property. We are hopeful the deputy will recover.

Calls of a carjacking nearby soon followed as officers from departments throughout Santa Cruz County began arriving to the area, several of whom were involved in the arrest of the suspect, Steven Carrillo, who was reportedly armed was shot during his arrest. The suspect survived and was treated and released from the hospital. He will be arrested for the murder of Sergeant Gutzwiller and other felonies.

Damon was a patrol supervisor and worked for the Sheriff's Office since 2006. He is 38-years-old and married with children. Damon was a courageous, intelligent, sensitive and a caring man. "Words cannot express the pain we feel for Damon and his family," Sheriff Jim Hart said, "He was the kind of person we all hope to be. Today, we lost a hero. We are grateful to have known him and we mourn with his family."

The District Attorney's Office is investigating the case. We will release more information about the incident early next week.

PREPARED BY:
Ashley Keehn
Public Information Officer
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

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