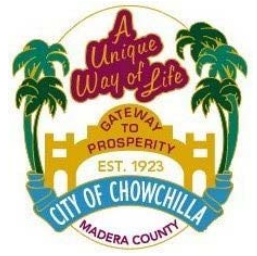




Chowchilla Police Department

Jay A. Varney, Chief of Police
122 Trinity Avenue, Chowchilla, California 93610



Press Release

On November 5, 2009, Detective Scott and Sgt. Palmer of the Chowchilla Police Department were following up on a tip given to them by a Merced County Sheriff's Deputy. The tip they received advised them of a residence located at 15030 Torrey Pines in the gated Green Hills community where the residents were believed to be involved in the illegal cultivation of marijuana.

Once at the residence, Detective Scott and Sgt. Palmer contacted the two residents who were identified as 34-year-old Alex Abrahamian and 26-year-old Mohammad Shahrokh Badkoubei. The residence had a strong odor of marijuana and the two residents were questioned regarding the odor and the report of marijuana being cultivated. After some questioning it was determined further investigation was going to be needed. While detaining the occupants of the residence, a physical altercation between officers and one of the males occurred resulting in additional charges for one of the occupants. Once the residence was secured and the occupants detained, a search warrant was written and granted by a judge.

During the service of the warrant, officers discovered a large amount of marijuana plants being cultivated inside of the residence rooms as well as in the backyard area.

Officers seized 197 potted and drying marijuana plants as well as 36 half gallon jars containing processed marijuana for distribution and numerous materials for the purpose of cultivating marijuana.

Alex Abrahamian was booked at the Madera County Jail on felony charges of cultivating marijuana, battery on a police officer, and the misdemeanor charge of resisting arrest. Mohammad Shahrokh Badkoubei was also booked at the Madera County Jail for the felony charge of cultivating marijuana.

Sgt. Palmer and Detective Scott both stated the cooperation between the Merced County Sheriff's Department and the Chowchilla Police Department was vital in the apprehension of the two residents as well as the termination of this illegal operation of cultivation and distribution of marijuana in our community.

Service & Safety

Office (559) 665-8600 Fax (559) 665-7416
www.ci.chowchilla.ca.us/police/police_main.htm