



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

Suspect Arrested for Stalking in Isla Vista

Isla Vista, Calif. – On Monday, March 18 at 10:12 p.m., detectives arrested 43-year-old Zachary Coughlin of Santa Barbara on a felony warrant for stalking. Detectives began investigating various reports regarding Coughlin on Thursday, May 14, 2020. Coughlin was living in a converted bus in the Isla Vista area and caught the attention of locals with his references on social media to the tragic mass murder that occurred in Isla Vista in 2014. His comments on social media also indicate that he shared ideology with “involuntary celibate” (incel) community. This investigation was handled by detectives from the Sheriff’s Special Investigation Bureau and involved interviews of witnesses, a behavioral threat assessment of the suspect, and combing through content from several social media accounts. Through their investigation, detectives established that Coughlin was stalking a woman in the Isla Vista area. Coughlin was booked at the Santa Barbara County Jail with a bail of \$200,000 and his vehicle was towed incident to his arrest.

The Special Investigation Bureau is comprised of multiple units tasked with initiating investigations in various specialized fields requiring specialty trained investigators using unique and specialized equipment, investigative, and surveillance techniques. These units are grouped together in one bureau so that all the investigators act as a force multiplier and assist each other in these investigations. The Special Investigation Bureau operates within the entire County of Santa Barbara, working with all the law enforcement agencies within the County.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to thank everyone who reached out to us with their concerns. This investigation is ongoing and we encourage anyone with additional information to contact the Special Investigations Bureau via email at InfoSIB@sbsheriff.org.



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