



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Raquel Zick
Public Information Officer
(805)681-4192

Date: 10/7/20
Time: 11:00 a.m.

News Release

Suspect in Isla Vista Stalking Case Re-Arrested for 17 Additional Allegations

Santa Barbara, Calif. – As part of a continuing investigation resulting from the arrest of Zachary Coughlin in May and pursuant to a search warrant, detectives from Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Bureau and an investigator assigned by the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, began reviewing digital media storage devices found in Coughlin's possession during his arrest. Upon review of the content, investigators discovered numerous photographic and video files that appeared to be potential sexual assaults by Coughlin upon several women. Investigators began working to identify the potential victims, so they could be contacted regarding the investigation. As a result of the further investigation, detectives believe that Coughlin has committed sexual assaults upon two women who have been identified and contacted. On October 1, 2020, detectives re-arrested Coughlin (who was already in custody) for 17 additional felony allegations including; 7 sexual penetration charges, 6 rape charges, 3 oral copulation charges, and kidnapping along with 4 enhancement allegations for the serious and violent nature of the offenses. Coughlin is being held on \$1,000,000 bail regarding the new charges. Investigators are still diligently working to identify additional potential victims or witnesses as the investigation continues.

The Special Investigation Bureau is comprised of multiple units tasked with initiating investigations in various specialized fields requiring specially 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 Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office has been working closely with Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Deputy District Attorneys, investigators and victim advocates throughout this investigation.

This investigation is ongoing and we encourage anyone with additional general information to contact the Special Investigations Bureau via email at InfoSIB@sbsheriff.org. If you are a victim, or believe you have information about a potential victim, please contact Detective McGillivray at (805)681-4175. If you prefer to remain anonymous, you can provide information by calling our tip line at (805)681-4171 or online at SBSheriff.org.

###