



# CITY OF EL MONTE



POLICE DEPARTMENT



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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The El Monte Police Department works to protect the residents in our community daily. Any actions taken by our officers are implemented to address criminal activity related to drugs or violent crimes, in order to ensure residents are safe.

The police activity conducted April 7 on the 11100 block of Schmidt Road in El Monte, was an operation to arrest someone who had previously been convicted of a sex crime and deported, but whom had reportedly returned to the U.S. and had failed to register as a sexual offender in El Monte. While at the residence, El Monte Police Department's lead sex crimes detective ran license plates on cars parked in the driveway. One of the cars was registered to the sexual offender being sought. Further investigation found that the address belonged to a second suspect who had an outstanding arrest warrant for possession of narcotics.

The detective knocked on the door and asked the person who answered to please allow entry. The resident briefly opened the door, but refused to let police into her house and closed the door. The detective tried for more than 10 minutes to convince the resident to open the door. Finally, given the fact there was a narcotics-related arrest warrant out for one suspect and the other was a convicted sex offender, an officer found an unlocked window, legally entered the house, and unlocked the door for additional police personnel.

A walk-through found that neither suspect was in the house at the time detectives were at the property.

One news agency has reported that this was an immigration raid in cooperation with the INS. In fact, **this was an operation to arrest an unregistered sex offender**. While Immigration Customs Enforcement was a coordinating agency due to the suspect's previous deportation related to his conviction, the police department is only interested in taking actions against criminal activity related to drugs or violent crimes, such as sexual offenders.

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