



# POLICE

*Serviced by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department*

To: Frank Spevacek, City Manager

From: David Walton, Lieutenant

Re: Citizen's Concern

Date: January 29, 2014

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On Tuesday, January 21, 2014, our City Council received notice of concern from one of our citizens living in the south cove neighborhood. The notice to City Council identified strange conduct and statements coming from Mr. Daniel Conover, who also lived within the cove neighborhood. Mr. Conover's behavior included surveillance of nearby residents, making baseless accusations his neighbors were stealing from his home, and carrying a loaded assault rifle as he took walks on the community streets at various hours of the day.

The serious concerns raised in this notification to our City Council were immediately met by the Police Department. The La Quinta Special Enforcement Team was directed to begin continued plain-clothes surveillance of Mr. Conover, with uniformed officers placed on high-visibility patrols of surrounding roads. With this first priority to safeguard our citizens quickly accomplished, a La Quinta Police Detective was assigned to investigate the merit of claims alleged against Mr. Conover. By January 22, 2014, the intelligence gathered by our patrol officers and Special Enforcement Team became instrumental when they learned multiple firearms, ammunition, and ballistic body armor were in Mr. Conover's possession. We also received credible information he created some dangerous ambush traps around entrances into his residence. On January 23, 2014, our investigation uncovered criminal evidence that Mr. Conover was a menace to the neighborhood and sufficient probable cause was presented to obtain a search warrant for Mr. Conover, his home, and his vehicles. Due to the danger Mr. Conover's actions presented to the community, the Judge endorsed nighttime service of the search warrant by Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT).

To avoid presenting more stress and hazard to an already dangerous situation, and to their credit, our La Quinta Police Detective developed a rouse that drew Mr. Conover to meet with officers at the Thermal Station. On January 24, 2014, Mr. Conover was captured without incident at the Thermal Station and was booked into the Indio Jail on charges related to armed criminal action and being under the influence of drugs. Mr. Conover's residence was searched and nine firearms, approximately 5,000 rounds of ammunition, and a ballistic vest were seized. An investigation into Mr. Conover's ability to legally possess firearms, given his prior history of drug addiction, will continue.

