



Riverside County District Attorney
NEWS RELEASE

ROD PACHECO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

John Hall
Public Information Officer
Contact: 951.955.8662

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2010

**DA ROD PACHECO ANNOUNCES CHARGES FILED AGAINST TWO MEN
IN RECENT STRING OF ATTACKS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN HEMET**

RIVERSIDE – Since December 2009, there have been numerous attacks on law enforcement officers in the city of Hemet. Today, July 7, 2010, Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco announced the filing of charges against two men involved in those attacks.

Nicholas John Smit, 39, of Hemet has been charged with nine counts while co-conspirator Steven William Hansen, 36, of Homeland has been charged with three counts. Smit faces multiple life sentences and Hansen faces a sentence of more than 30 years to life in prison.

“These attacks on those serving and protecting our communities are something I have never seen in this county,” District Attorney Rod Pacheco said. “The two men charged in these attacks threatened not only the lives of law enforcement officers but also the residents of Hemet.”

Among Smit’s charges are three counts of the attempted murder of a peace officer. The first happened on Feb. 23, 2010, when a member of the Gang Task Force opened the gate at the task force building in Hemet and a zip gun attached to the gate fired a shot, narrowly missing the investigator. The second happened on March 5, 2010, when another member of the task force found a suspicious device, determined to be another zip gun, had fallen from under his vehicle. Investigators believe the device was placed on the vehicle the day before. No one was physically injured in either attack.

Both Smit and Hansen are charged with conspiracy to commit murder on a peace officer for a June 3, 2010, incident in which they tried to launch a rocket from the top of the Los Altos Market. Although the rocket did not ignite, their attempts to do so started a fire which damaged the building’s roof.

Smit and Hansen are scheduled to be arraigned at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 8, 2010, in Dept. S201 at the Southwest Justice Center, 30755 Auld Road, and Murrieta.

The case, SWF10001439, will be prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Daniel DeLimon.

###