



PRESS RELEASE



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2024

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South Pasadena Police Apprehend Wanted Sex Offender

South Pasadena (Calif.) - On Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 7:59 p.m., South Pasadena police officers were dispatched to the 1900 block of Huntington Lane for a report of a suspect looking into carport cabinets and attempting to open car doors.

Officers arrived on the scene and swiftly located the suspect, who was identified as Robert Owen Smith, a 56-year-old unhoused individual, still present at the location. Upon seeing the officers, Smith attempted to flee, but was apprehended shortly thereafter. Subsequent investigation revealed that Smith was a sex offender who had failed to maintain compliance with registration requirements. Additionally, it was discovered that Smith was wanted for an outstanding felony warrant.

Smith was arrested, booked, and held at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Inmate Reception Center pending further court proceedings.

California's Megan's Law was enacted in 1996 Penal Code § 290.46. It mandates the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) to notify the public about specified registered sex offenders. Megan's Law also authorizes local law enforcement agencies to notify the public about sex offender registrants found to be posing a risk to public

safety. Megan's Law is named after seven-year-old Megan Kanka, who was raped and killed by a known child molester who had moved across the street from the family without their knowledge. In the wake of that tragedy, the Kankas sought to have local communities warned about sex offenders in the area. All states in the U.S. now have some form of Megan's Law.

For more information on sex offender registration please check the California Megan's Law website at <https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/>.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is urged to call the South Pasadena Police Department at (626) 403-7270. If you would like to provide an anonymous tip, you can call "Crime Stoppers" at (800) 222-TIPS (8477).

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