



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471
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Second Illegal Marijuana Grow Operation Found in Pueblo West Home

Pueblo, CO: Alterations made to a Pueblo West home's electrical system tipped off Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies to an illegal marijuana grow Thursday at the home that also was the site of a 2016 bust. Narcotics detectives seized 76 marijuana plants worth an estimated \$76,000 in the latest bust. State law allows only 12 marijuana plants per household.

Sheriff's deputies and narcotics detectives responded to the home in the 1100 block of Camino Santiago Thursday afternoon after receiving a report the tenants had altered the electrical system to bypass the meter. Deputies attempted to contact the residents but were unsuccessful. However, they did detect a strong odor of marijuana coming from the home indicating there was possibly a grow inside the home.

Narcotics detectives contacted the homeowner, who lives out-of-town, by phone. The homeowner told detectives she was renting out the home but could not give detectives the names of tenants.

Detectives sought and executed a search warrant of the home. Inside the home, detectives found three separate grow rooms in the basement containing 76 marijuana plants in various stages of growth, along with grow lights and an irrigation system. Detectives seized the plants and the equipment.

The home was condemned due to the extensive alterations made to the electrical system. It is unknown if anyone was living in the home. No arrests have been made at this time, but they may forthcoming.

The home was also the site an illegal grow found in 2016. In that bust, the residence was one of five homes Drug Enforcement Administration officials and Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies executed search warrants after receiving a tip from Texas authorities of the possible grow operation. Seven people, all with ties to Florida, were arrested in that operation and nearly 1,900 marijuana plants were seized along with an estimated \$250,000 in grow equipment from the five homes.

Detectives are still investigating whether the grow found Thursday is related to the 2016

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operation.

“This was nothing more than a Black Market grow house,” said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. “People are moving into these homes that were already set up for marijuana grows and are growing product that is going strictly to the Black Market.”

Taylor said this bust along with an unrelated bust on October 9 at home in rural Avondale is an demonstrates illegal grows are still prevalent in Pueblo County.

“This continues to be an issue in our community,” Taylor said. “We thank the public and others who are reporting when they see suspicious activity surrounding possible grows. We will continue to remain diligent investigating those reports.”

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