



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

Kirk M. Taylor Sheriff
J.R. Hall Undersheriff

Mark A. Mears
Bureau Chief
Emergency Services

David J. Lucero
Bureau Chief
Detention

Jeffrey S. Teschner
Bureau Chief
Law Enforcement

News Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471
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Another Illegal Marijuana Grow Found at South Pueblo County Home

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff's Narcotics detectives arrested one man after finding an illegal marijuana grow today worth an estimated \$216,000 at a home in south Pueblo County. Detectives seized more than 200 marijuana plants from the home that was the site of a similar grow bust in 2016.

Detectives went to the home in the 5500 block of Eagle Feather Lane after receiving a tip that marijuana was possibly being grown at the home. When detectives arrived, they found no one at the home but did notice a strong odor of marijuana coming from the house and saw signs of a possible grow operation.

As detectives prepared to execute a search warrant on the home, a man identified as Jorge Perez, 56, arrived at the residence. Perez said he rented the home. Detectives executed the search warrant and found multiple grow rooms in the home containing a total of 216 plants in various stages of growth. State law allows only 12 marijuana plants per household. The home was condemned due to the extensive alterations made to the electrical system.

Perez, who has ties to Cuba, was arrested for cultivation of marijuana (30 plants or more) (CR 18-18-406(3) (a), Drug Felony 3), possession with intent to manufacture or distribute marijuana 50 pounds or more (CR 18-18-406 (2)(b)(I)(III)(A), Drug Felony 1). He has been booked into the Pueblo County Jail.

In May 2016, detectives seized 22 marijuana plants and 55 pounds of dried product from the same residence as part of a larger bust operation that included five homes. Seven people, all with ties to Cuba, were arrested in that operation. Perez was not among those arrested at that time.

The Eagle Feather residence is owned by the same individual as in 2016. Detectives are investigating whether the two grows are related.

“This is the second time in less than a month that we have found marijuana grows in homes in Pueblo County that were sites of previous marijuana grow operations,” said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. “This is a clear indication that Black Market marijuana grows continue to exist in our community.”

“I want to assure residents that we will continue to investigate any tips that we receive regarding these illegal grow operations,” Taylor said.

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