



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# PRESS RELEASE

**Police Department**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 10, 2016

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### **3 ARRESTS AT ILLEGAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION AND THC OIL EXTRACTION LAB**

Riverside, CA – On March 9, 2016, The Riverside Police Department NARCOTICS Unit with the assistance of the department's University Neighborhood Enhancement Team (UNET) served a search warrant at a commercial building located in the 1600 Block of Chicago Ave. in the City of Riverside. Detectives received a "tip" regarding an illegal marijuana cultivation at the location.

During the service of the warrant detectives located an active THC oil extraction lab. The THC oil extraction process is a process in which a solvent is used to extract concentrated THC oil from the marijuana plant. In this instance, that solvent was butane. Butane is flammable, making the extraction process extremely dangerous and a felony in the State of California.

There have been numerous explosions and fire incidents related to the THC oil extraction process throughout the State of California. The Technical Services Unit and the Riverside Fire Department Hazmat Team responded to the location and rendered it safe.

Three separate marijuana cultivation grow rooms were found inside of the location. The sites contained approximately 730 illegal marijuana plants weighing over 532 pounds. Detectives seized approximately 2,700 grams of packaged and unpackaged finished THC oil with an estimated value of \$189,000.



The suspects at the location were also actively processing cannabis tincture. Cannabis tincture is a drinkable substance comprised of a mixture of various over the counter liquid products which are then mixed with marijuana and hashish. In this instance, the illegal product was being mixed inside of an unsanitary Igloo beverage cooler. The finished product was then being packaged inside of individual small bottles and fake prescription labels were then affixed to them so they would appear to be legitimate. Approximately 400 bottles of cannabis tincture worth approximately \$20,000 were seized. Additionally, a loaded .45 caliber handgun and a large sum of cash were taken as evidence.

As a result of the investigation detectives arrested Matthew Flynn, 23-years-old, from Santa Ana, William Daily, 31-years-old, from Chino, and Nicholas Palumbo, 23-years-old, from Littleton Massachusetts for manufacturing a controlled substance. All three subjects were booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center.

This is an on-going investigation. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Nathan Asbury at (951) 353-7215.

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