



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
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San Diego Superior Court Contacts Public About Court Theft

The San Diego Superior Court is in the process of contacting people who made payments to the Court after the theft of more than \$60,000 in cash, checks and credit card receipts at the East County Courthouse over the weekend. Sheriff's investigators are now seeking a veteran court supervisor who has been missing since the incident.

Court employees discovered the monies missing in the Criminal and Traffic Business Office when they reported to work at 7:00 A.M. Monday. The funds, which were mainly traffic fine payments, were stored in a secured area which was accessible to a limited number of employees over the weekend. A computer "card key" was needed for area access.

Sheriff officials are calling 47-year-old Court Supervisor David Macias a "person of interest." Macias' mother filed a missing persons report when her son failed to return after leaving home on Sunday. Macias has been with the Court for more than 27 years and had access to the room where the money was stored.

"Sheriff's investigators are working diligently to gather all available information from staff members as court staff continues to notify potential victims. Macias has not been available and detectives would like to question him to see what information he may be able to add regarding the theft," says Capt. Glenn Revell, sheriff's spokesman.

"We're very concerned about the impact this has on those who have made their payments to the court. We're doing everything in our power to ensure all payments are recovered and recorded," says Presiding Judge Janis Sammartino.

(MORE)

The monies involved were payments made **Friday, January 20, 2006 for Traffic, Criminal, Small Claims and Civil fines, fees and forfeitures at the East County Courthouse. Payments made on any other date or at any other Court location were not involved.**

The San Diego Superior Court is currently reviewing all payment records and is in the process of contacting those whose payments are affected. The Court has a phone line available to answer any questions from the public – 619-441-4336.

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