



## **FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT**

250 Cypress Street  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

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Chief of Police

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### **\*PRESS RELEASE\***

Releasing Officer: Officer Thomas N. O'Neal  
Report Number: FG1601317 / FG1601414  
Date / Time Incident: September 25, 2016 / 7:17 p.m.  
October 17, 2016 / 11:50 p.m.  
Location of Incident: 200 W. Elm Street / 200 S. Harold Street  
Crime or Incident: Failure to Register as a Sex Offender  
Victims: State of California, 15 year old juvenile  
Suspect: Derrick Heater, 50 years old, Fort Bragg, CA

### **CIRCUMSTANCES:**

On September 25, 2016, Officers were dispatched to the 200 Block of W. Elm Street for the report of a suspicious male following a jogger. Officers contacted the 15 year old victim, who reported that the suspect, Derrick Heater, attempted to speak with her in a secluded area near the North Coastal Trail. The victim fled the area in fear and contacted police from Denny's. Heater was contacted and interviewed regarding the incident, however due to a lack of evidence of criminal activity, Heater was released at the scene.

During a follow-up investigation, it was learned that Heater had failed to register as a sex offender with the Mendocino County Sherriff's Office since 2013. Based on this new information, on September 27, 2016 Officers of the Fort Bragg Police Department arrested Heater at his residence (200 Block of S. Harold Street) and charged him with 290.018(b) PC (Failing to Register with a Previous Conviction). Heater was booked into the Mendocino County Jail on the felony charge. On September 28, 2016 Heater posted bond and was released from jail.

On October 17, 2016 Heater was again located at his residence and identified as having failed to register as a sex offender since his release from jail. Heater was again arrested for 290.018(b) PC with an additional bail enhancement of 12022.1 PC (Commission of a Felony while on Bond). Heater was transported to the Mendocino County Jail where he awaits arraignment.

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