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Board of Supervisors Praises Capture of All Three OC Jail Escapees

(Santa Ana, CA) – Representatives of the Orange County Board of Supervisors joined Sheriff Sandra Hutchens today as the Sheriff's Department announced the capture of escaped inmates Hossein Nayeri and Jonathan Tieu by the San Francisco Police Department. With these arrests, all three inmates that escaped from the Central Men’s Jail in Santa Ana are now in custody.

“We are grateful for the expertise and hard work of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, and its collaboration and leadership in working with other law enforcement agencies,” stated Board Chairwoman Lisa Bartlett. “They deployed every resource available and were unwavering in their pursuit of these hardened criminals.”

Escaped inmate Bac Duong was the first to return to custody when he turned himself in on Friday January 29. “Despite the dangerous nature of these criminals, I am thankful our Sheriff’s deputies arrested the escapees without incident or risk to the public,” remarked Vice Chair Michelle Steel.

This morning, escaped inmates Tieu and Nayeri were taken into custody by the San Francisco Police Department after being notified by a local citizen who recognized the white van that the fugitives were believed to be using. “Our Sheriff called on her far-reaching network of law enforcement partners to bring these criminals back into custody,” said Supervisor Todd Spitzer. “My colleagues and I acted quickly to partner with Sheriff Hutchens and contribute $150,000 from the County to the increase the reward to $200,000. We were proud to lend her our full support in order to apprehend the fugitives.”

Supervisor Andrew Do praised the Sheriff's use of state-wide law enforcement partnerships and cited the need to keep the safety of Orange County residents as the highest priority. “Sheriff Sandra Hutchens and Orange County's deputy sheriffs' efforts led directly to the public assistance that resulted in these arrests. I will be working with my colleagues to make sure that our law enforcement agencies have the necessary resources and take steps to prevent an escape like this from happening again.”

The manhunt lasted eight days and details of the escapees’ whereabouts during that time will be the subject of an ongoing investigation. The Board of Supervisors was kept apprised of ongoing developments in the manhunt, and will work with the Sheriff’s department to provide evaluation and recommendations for future actions. “A jailbreak like this is serious business,” stated Supervisor Shawn Nelson. “Their capture is just the first step in a series of actions the Sheriff’s department will undertake to continue to ensure the safety of Orange County residents.”

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