



# **SAN BENITO POLICE**

**601 NORTH OSCAR WILLIAMS RD SAN BENITO, TEXAS. 78586**

**PH : 956-361-3880 FAX: 956-361-3888**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **OPERATION BLACKOUT**

**Friday April 27, 2012**

On Thursday April 26, 2012, The San Benito Police Department launched **Operation Blackout**. The operations creation came after a recent increase of burglaries to businesses in the downtown area as well as residential areas. Officers assigned to the task force made contact with the following individuals who were arrested on the following charges:

**Isaias Quintanilla.** Felony Burglary of building warrant issued by Justice Court. Subject was arraigned and given a \$25,000.00 bond.

**Joshua Rivas.** Posession of marijuana class B misdemeanor. Subject was arraigned and given a \$7,500.00 PR bond.

**Santos H. Soria.** Cameron Co. Warrant and municipal court warrants. Subject was transferred to Cameron County Jail.

**Joe Anthony Gonzalez.** Traffic violations. Fined assessed by Municipal judge.

**Manuel Alcorta.** Assault class C. Fined assessed by Municipal Judge.

**Rene De Leon.** Municipal Court warrants. Still incarcerated.

**Rocio Lopez.** Driving While Intoxicated. Female was arraigned on the charge and given a \$7,500 PR bond. Transferred to ICE (detainer).

**Vicente Silva.** Traffic violations. Fined assessed by Municipal judge.

**Rosalinda Barrientos Lopez.** Failure to identify-fugitive from justice and Municipal Court warrants. Female was arraigned on the charge and given a \$7,500 PR Bond.

**Vanessa Rodriguez.** Municipal Court warrants. Still incarcerated.

**Peter A. Mascorro.** Driving While Intoxicated and municipal court warrants. Subject was arraigned on the charge and given a \$7,500 PR Bond.

**Gabriela A. Rodriguez.** Municipal Court warrants. Still incarcerated.

**Lydia Pina.** Public Intoxication. Fine assessed by Municipal Judge.

**Jessica Diaz.** Public Intoxication. Fine assessed by Municipal Judge.



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**Miguel Salinas.** Municipal Court Warrants. Still incarcerated.

**Michael Galvan.** Municipal Court Warrants. Still incarcerated.

**Joanne Ayala.** Municipal Court Warrants. Still incarcerated.



**AUTHORITY: DETECTIVE ROGELIO BANDA JR. # 124. 956-361-3880 EXT. 131.**



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: April 25, 2012**

**From: Chief of Police Operations Martin Morales Jr.**

**To: Staff and Citizens of San Benito**

A pattern of Burglaries has begun to emerge and it brings a great concern to the citizens of San Benito and the Police Department. We analyzed the data and found that the crimes of opportunity have not been isolated to any one area. While the effectiveness of increased patrols as a means of deterring crime has not been established, there are some occasions where they may be useful, particularly when crime analysis data can demonstrate a clear pattern of thefts in certain locations and at certain times. Monitoring the results of intensive patrols is important, especially as they demand considerable police department resources. For this reason they are only of use as temporary solutions and do not solve the problem in the long term.

We decided to launch a new offensive, OPERATION BLACKOUT, to combat this problem. A burglary task force will be formed and Detectives from the criminal investigation unit, narcotics unit, and patrol division will be assembled to work certain locations throughout the city on different nights during different hours. The task force will use unmarked patrol units to monitor the areas and to track and identify suspicious individuals in the neighborhoods. The task force will utilize foot patrols in certain areas aimed at reducing thefts from cars. These types of patrols not only increase the opportunity for police to discover offenders, but also improve their chances of apprehending these perpetrators who typically are on foot. The mission is to identify any persons of interest in these areas and make arrests if probable cause exists. These patrols will also identify suspicious vehicles and coordinate with marked patrol cars. If probable cause exists, a traffic stop will be conducted, a K-9 unit is then deployed, and searches will be done accordingly.

The majority of these crimes and narcotics activities are linked. The task force will also identify and track locations of interest that may be a source of narcotic trafficking. This too, will help in reducing these types of activities.

The goal of OPERATION BLACKOUT is to gather sufficient information on the individuals involved in these crimes, make arrests, and reduce the amount of burglaries and thefts inside our city limits.

OPERATION BLACKOUT will span a period of the next few months on different dates and different hours. Using the data collected during this operation will help in the investigations of these crimes.

The PRIMARY goal of OPERATION BLACKOUT is to bring confidence back to the citizens of San Benito and let them know that they can depend on us to protect them and their property.

Chief of Police Operations Martin Morales Jr.