



**CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For additional information:
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East Palo Alto Police and Menlo Park Fire District Join Forces to Arrest Firestarter

In the early morning hours of Saturday April 10, 2021, suspect Sender Abraham Ramirez Gonzalez (26-year-old transient) walked along the bicycle path adjacent to the RV Safe Parking lot located at 1798 Bay Road. The RV Safe Parking lot was established by the City of East Palo Alto in partnership with Project We Hope to give people who were living in their vehicles a location to park and feel safe while they tried to regain their financial independence. While walking along the bike path, Gonzalez set four (4) separate fires along the fence bordering the RV safe parking lot where people were asleep in their vehicles.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District quickly responded and extinguished the fires, but not before one (1) RV and several portions of the fence were damaged by fire.

Menlo Park Fire Investigators responded and began a joint investigation with members of the East Palo Alto Police Department. Based on evidence collected during the preliminary investigation, Sender Gonzalez was quickly identified as the suspect. The joint investigation with fire investigators revealed strong evidence linking Gonzalez to four (4) previous fires dating back to 2020.

In the evening hours of Tuesday April 13, a patrol Officer located Gonzalez on the same bike path where he started the fires. The Officer arrested Gonzalez and ultimately booked him into the San Mateo County Jail.

Anyone who witnessed this incident or has information about this incident, or another incident is urged to contact the East Palo Alto Police Department by any of the following means:

- Send an anonymous email to epa@tipnow.org
- Send an anonymous text from your cell phone to (650) 409-6792
- Leave an anonymous voice mail by calling (650) 409-6792

Prepared by:
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