



SAUSALITO POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Rohrbacher
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE:

SAUSALITO'S LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION CAMERAS LEAD TO ANOTHER STOLEN VEHICLE ARREST

For immediate release:

12-4-19 0800 Hours
PR 1 SP19-889
Captain Bill Fraass
(415) 289-4170

On Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at approximately 12:57 AM, the Sausalito Police Department received an alert from our License Plate Recognition cameras of a stolen vehicle entering Sausalito from the 4000 block of Bridgeway. The vehicle, a 2005 Lexus, had been stolen from Fremont on December 3, 2019.

Sausalito Police Corporal Brian Mather was in the vicinity when the alert sounded and immediately located the Lexus in the area of Bridgeway at Harbor Drive. Corporal Mather and Officer Adam Clerici then affected a stop on the Lexus and Bridgeway at Nevada Street and detained the driver and sole occupant of the vehicle, Chelsie Erkel (a 28-year old resident of Windsor), without incident.

Upon further investigation, officers located suspected methamphetamine and a possible counterfeit U.S. currency \$100 bill within the vehicle. Erkel was arrested for possession of the stolen vehicle and possession of the narcotics and was booked into the Marin County Jail. Upon confirmation that the \$100 bill is counterfeit, an additional charge of possessing counterfeit currency will be requested through the Marin County District Attorney's Office.

Since the City of Sausalito's License Plate Recognition Cameras program became operational on Thursday, May 18, 2017, twenty-nine (29) stolen vehicles have been recovered leading to the arrest of thirty-three (33) individuals for various crimes. The goal of the License Plate Recognition Camera program is to increase public safety by utilizing technology to alert law enforcement to wanted vehicles, enhance post-crime investigative abilities, and deter crime by increasing the likelihood of suspect identification.

###