



Elk Grove Police Department

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGGRAVATED BATTERY SUSPECT ARRESTED

ELK GROVE, CA – The Elk Grove Police Department has arrested 30-year-old Joel Olivarez, a Sacramento resident, for an aggravated battery that took place on June 5, 2011 in the parking lot of the Strike’s Family Entertainment Center (3434 Laguna Blvd.).

On June 5, 2011 at 11:19 p.m., detectives believe that Joel Olivarez confronted 26-year-old Sacramento resident Seth Parker in the Strike’s parking lot. Olivarez then punched Mr. Parker in the face after a verbal argument and fled the area with a second individual. As a result of the punch, Mr. Parker suffered several facial fractures.

During the course of the investigation, detectives received information through Crime Alert that identified Joel Olivarez as the person responsible for the attack. Detectives were also able to identify and locate the second person captured on surveillance footage, who is being considered a witness at this time. Based on information obtained during the course of the investigation, detectives have determined that Joel Olivarez was responsible for punching Seth Parker. Detectives have also categorized this assault as a hate crime and an aggravated battery. Upon completion of the investigation, the report will be forwarded to the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office for prosecution. Due to the ongoing nature of this investigation (pending photo lineup), a booking photo of Olivarez will not be released.

Elk Grove Police Chief Robert M. Lehner issued the following statement regarding the arrest:

“Hopefully, this investigation and arrest will serve as a message to those who not only would commit a criminal act but would do so motivated by hate or bias. When a crime is committed that may have been motivated by hate, that possible element will be thoroughly investigated and, if proved, will be added to the basic underlying criminal charge. Our political leaders have said there is no room for hate influenced intolerance in our communities and they are right. It’s not only shameful, it’s against the law. I am saddened by this event and its circumstances but proud of my staff for their relentless pursuit of those responsible for this crime.”

Although an arrest has been made, this investigation is still ongoing. Anyone with additional information is asked to call the Elk Grove Police Department Detective Bureau at (916) 478-8060 or Crime Alert at (916) 443-HELP (4357). Callers to Crime Alert can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.00. Tips can also be sent via SMS text message by entering CRIMES (274637) on a cell phone, followed by Tip732 (agency identification number) and the message.

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