TODAY’S DATE: 30 November, 2016

RELEASE DATE: Immediate

TITLE: Contracting Without a License Arrest

CONTACT: William Imboden, Police Chief
Wimboden@cityofst helena.org  707-967-2850

ST. HELENA, CA –

On Wednesday November 30th, 2016 at approximately 2:30 PM Saint Helena Police Officers responded to the 1100 block of Meadowcreek Circle in response to a complaint from a resident that she had been defrauded by a contractor. The victim stated she had contracted in July, 2016 with Mario Rios to have a fence built on her property, and had paid Rios up front. The work had not been started, and Rios had stopped responding to her attempts to contact him.

Earlier in the day Officer Steve Peterson attempted to make contact with Rios using the contact information the victim supplied, only to find it had been disconnected. When the victim saw Rios at her neighbor’s house in the afternoon of November 30th she called SHPD to alert us that he was in the area.

Officers Peterson, Tharp and Oam responded and located Rios on Meadowcreek Circle. During their investigation they learned that Rios had represented himself as a contractor, and had made a verbal agreement to complete the work for the victim. He also admitted receiving payment in advance for the job. Rios’ business partner, Jose Alberto Aparico arrived on scene while the officers were conducting their investigation. Ofc. Peterson discovered that Aparico had two (2) misdemeanor and four (4) felony warrants out for his arrest in Napa and Contra Costa Counties for similar crimes, including Grand Theft, Larceny, Embezzlement, Contracting without a License, and Violation of Work Release.

Aparico was arrested for his outstanding warrants as well as new charges related to the Saint Helena crime, and was taken into custody. Rios was arrested for Contracting without a License, Advertising as a Contractor without a License, and not having a Business License in Saint Helena. He was cited and released at the scene. Aparico was booked into the Napa County Detention Center.