

**IMPERIAL COUNTY
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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**From: District Attorney George Marquez
RE: Cross Agency Operation
Date: October 11, 2024**

IMPERIAL COUNTY – On October 4, 2024, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureaus of Investigation, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, El Centro Police Department, and Imperial County District Attorney's Office executed an operation in the City of El Centro to apprehend a suspect, Joseph Garcia, who is allegedly selling illegal controlled substances and illegal firearms. During the operation, numerous firearms along with controlled substances were recovered from the suspect's vehicle and residence. Three individuals were arrested and booked into the Imperial County Jail on charges including possession for sale of controlled substances, transportation for sale of controlled substances, possession of controlled substances with a firearm, carrying a loaded handgun on one's person or vehicle, child abuse, possession of a firearm by a felon, and possession of ammunition by a felon. The defendant, Joseph Garcia, was arraigned on October 11, 2024. The court set bail is set at \$500,000. The Preliminary Hearing is set for October 25, 2024.

The investigation and prosecution of this case are both ongoing. The District Attorney's Office urges anyone with additional information with regard to this investigation to contact Drug Enforcement Administration tipline at 619-572-7483. The Case Reference Number is R6250002.

The success of this operation resulted from collaborative cooperation between the numerous local and federal agencies listed above.