PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 3, 2016

From: Lt Glen A. Haas, Cathedral City Police Department

ghaas@cathedralcity.gov

On 2-18-16, CCPD Detectives received a Cyber Tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The tip indicated a suspect was sending "Harmful matter Intent of Seduction of Minor." CCPD Detectives began the investigation and discovered the intended victim was a 14-year-old male from Cathedral City.

The 24-year-old male suspect had already attempted to meet the victim in a local parking lot once before the tip came in, but the meeting never took place. With the victim's, and his parents' approval, a detective posed as the victim and continued the on-line communication with the suspect. The suspect continued communicating plans to meet the minor to have sex.

Today, CCPD Detectives conducted a sting operation in a local parking lot in Cathedral City. The suspect had planned to meet the minor for a sexual encounter and arrived at the agreed upon location with condoms and alcohol. Police were waiting and took the suspect into custody without incident.

The suspect was identified as 24-yr old Balwinder Singh of Cathedral City, but has also used the name Gogga Saini. He was arrested and booked into Riverside County Jail in Banning for the following charges:

- 288.2 PC Sending Harmful Matter to a Minor
- 288.3 PC Contacting a Minor with the Intent to Commit a Felony
- 288.4 PC Arranging a meeting with a Minor for Purposes of Lewd Conduct

It is possible other victims may exist, and the Cathedral City Police Department would like other victims to come forward. While a meeting or contact may never have taken place, contact of a sexual nature between the suspect and other minors should be reported to police. If anyone has information regarding any other incidents they are encouraged to contact the Cathedral City Police Department at 760-770-0313, or their local law enforcement agency.