



San Diego County SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE INFORMATION SHEET

Subject: Arrest of Esteban Antonio Loaiza

Person Providing Information: Lt. Jason Vickery

Email Address of Provider: Jason.Vickery@sdsheriff.org

Telephone number of Provider: 619-337-2040

Media Contact: Lt. Vickery

Date of Release: 02/12/2018

Time of Release: 8:30a.m..

SYNOPSIS:

On 02/09/2018 as part of an ongoing narcotics investigation, former Major League Baseball player Esteban Antonio Loaiza (12-31-71) was arrested by members of the Sheriff's Border Crimes Suppression Team. During surveillance related to that investigation, Loaiza was seen driving a vehicle believed to be involved in the smuggling of narcotics. Loaiza was contacted during a traffic stop for a minor traffic infraction after leaving a home in the City of Imperial Beach. A search of the vehicle led to the discovery of a sophisticated aftermarket compartment used to conceal contraband.

Based on evidence obtained during the traffic stop a search warrant was issued for the Imperial Beach home which had been leased by Loaiza in early February. The home was just steps away from an area preschool. The subsequent search of the home led to the discovery of 20 kilograms of suspected cocaine which had an estimated value of about \$500,000.

Loaiza was booked into San Diego County Jail for 11370.4 (A) (4) H.S. Possession of Cocaine Over 20 Kilograms, 11351 H.S. Possession of Cocaine for Sale, and 11352 (a) H.S. Transportation of Cocaine. His bail was set at \$200,000.

Call Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 with information and you will remain anonymous. You may be eligible for up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to a felony arrest.