



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A NATIONALLY  
ACCREDITED LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
AGENCY

TODD D. ELGIN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE:** June 26, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Crowd Control and Dispersal-Tanacon Event

**LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:** Marriott Suites Hotel 12015 Harbor Blvd

**DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE:** June 22, 2018 - 2:40 p.m.

### **NARRATIVE:**

Garden Grove Police Department officers were sent to the Marriott Suites Hotel to assist hotel staff and security with crowd control and dispersal of unruly hotel guests from the hotel property. The Tanacon convention was an event hosted by the Tanacon Company at the Marriott Suites Hotel. The organizing group for Tanacon was a company called Good Times Promotions. The event was scheduled to have meet and greet sessions between YouTube celebrities and their fans. There were concerts and DJ's scheduled to perform for fans in the ballroom starting at 1000 am. Tanacon had sold approximately 4000 tickets at the time of the event.

Event attendees started lining up for Tanacon at 0400 am and waited outside the hotel before the event started. The event did not start on time as planned and the police department began receiving phone calls from concerned parents. The parents said they were worried about their teenagers standing in line for 4-6 hours and suffering from heat related exposure. The parents added that there was not adequate water or shade for the people waiting to get into the event.

The hotel ballrooms where the event was scheduled could hold a maximum of 1,150 people. The organizers planned to move the crowd in and out of the venue to allow all attendees the opportunity to participate in the event. As the crowd moved through the venue they were herded out into the lobby after a short time to allow other fans into the ballrooms. The people moved into the lobby were upset and refused to leave. As the crowd grew in the lobby, hotel staff and event security could not gain compliance from the fans. Hotel staff

said the crowd became unruly and began climbing on furniture. Hotel staff locked themselves in their offices and called the police department for assistance.

Approximately 20 police officers and several supervisors responded to the scene. Supervisors met with Tanacon organizers and were told they could not handle the crowd. Hotel staff asked the crowd be dispersed for safety reasons. The hotel ballrooms and lobby were over-capacity and one 14-year old female was injured by the crowd. The female was taken to a local hospital for minor injuries.

The police supervisors on-scene estimated the crowd was between 4,000-5,000 people. Social media sites said the crowd was 20,000 and this was not accurate. The police officers were able to disperse the crowd after approximately 60-90 minutes. No force was used by the police department and the crowd became compliant with verbal commands.

There was no permit required for the event and the Garden Grove Fire Department did not shut it down as some social media sites were reporting. GGPD Resort Services officers remained in the area for several hours after the event was shut down.

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