



THE CITY OF
MONTEREY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 23, 2022

PHONE: (831) 646-3816

CONTACTS: Lt. Jake Pinkas, Monterey Police
Department

E-MAIL: pinkas@monterey.org

**DENNIS THE MENACE BRONZE STATUE
STOLEN FROM EI ESTERO PARK PLAYGROUND
Monterey Police Seeking Perpetrator(s)**

Monterey, CA. – Monterey Police Department is asking for the public's help in finding who is responsible for stealing the adored Dennis the Menace bronze statue from the Dennis the Menace Playground at the El Estero Park Complex on Pearl Street. The theft happened sometime early Sunday morning, August 21, 2022.

The original statue of Dennis the Menace was also stolen back in October 2006, and in 2007 a replacement statue was erected. The statue was attached to the concrete base more securely, however, the thieves used a grinder to cut the foot of Dennis the Menace and steal the statue.

City Manager Hans Uslar said, "The Dennis the Menace statue has a well-earned characterization as '*a symbol of the goodness and happiness of the City*' and we are all very disappointed to see criminals have taken it once again. Hundreds of daily visitors enjoyed the cheerful welcome by Dennis the Menace. We are still hoping to recover the statue."

"We encourage the public to share any credible leads they have on who is responsible," said Monterey Police Lt. Pinkas. Anyone with information on the statue's location or who is involved is encouraged to call the Monterey Police Department at (831) 646-3830 or the confidential tip line at (831) 646-3840.

(more)

About Dennis the Menace Playground

Dennis the Menace Playground was opened in 1956 with unique playground equipment designed by the late cartoonist Hank Ketcham and sculptor Arch Garner.

In 1987, Mr. Ketcham commissioned artist and academy award winning animator, Wah Ming Chang to sculpt a life-size statue of Dennis to be displayed in the playground named for his character. It was installed at the playground in 1988.

The bronze statue that portrays the Ketcham cartoon character, Dennis the Menace, is approximately 3 feet high and weighs approximately 125 pounds. The statue is valued around \$10,000.

Photos: Dennis the Menace statue location before, and after it was stolen. Parks staff have since removed the stand.



Playground hours and more park information is available at monterey.org/elesteropark.

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