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Pine Ave. pipe bomb suspect appears in court

O.C. parolee, arrested after explosion in downtown L.B., has lengthy criminal record.

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LONG BEACH - An Orange County parolee with a long criminal history has been arrested in connection with the recent explosion of a pipe bomb in downtown Long Beach.

William Peltier, 47, appeared briefly in Long Beach Superior Court Wednesday to face charges of possession, use and transportation of a destructive device and possession of an explosive device, all felonies. His arraignment was rescheduled to Nov. 7.

Peltier, who has a number of aliases - including "Crazy Billy" - was arrested Monday at his Huntington Beach residence, said Long Beach Police Department spokeswoman Nancy Pratt.

Pratt declined to discuss a motive for the crime.

He is believed to be responsible for the Oct. 20 bomb that detonated in a Pine Avenue parking structure adjacent to the popular Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, 111 W. Ocean Blvd. No one was injured, but prosecutors said Wednesday that two vehicles were damaged. Portions of downtown were closed after the incident.

Peltier is no stranger to the court system.

Public records in Orange County connect him to at least 12 criminal filings since 1995 - from possession of a controlled substance to burglary.

Most notably, in 1997, he pleaded guilty to possession of a destructive device and was sentenced to 16 months in state prison.

Since then, he has been in and out of prison constantly. In 2000 and 2003, he served stints for possession of a controlled substance, among other charges. In 2005, he was sent to prison again for possession of a controlled substance and then, shortly after being paroled in 2006, was charged with burglary and resisting arrest.

His latest case was filed in July, when he was accused of making telephone calls with the intent to annoy. He pleaded guilty in August and was sentenced to jail and probation, records show.

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Los Angeles County district attorney's spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said Peltier's criminal record dates back to 1986 and that he was on parole at the time of Monday's arrest.

The LBPD was assisted by a number of other agencies, including nearby law enforcement and bomb squads, Pratt said. She said investigators relied heavily on video footage taken inside the parking structure, out on Pine Avenue and at the near Metro station platform to identify the getaway car, which provided one of the first major breaks in the case.

Peltier was being held in lieu of \$2 million bail.

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