

Hermosa Beach Police Department

Press Release

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“Bank Fraud, Stolen Luxury Cars, Identity Theft, Suspects Arrested”

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Synopsis:

Two suspects are arrested after investigation ties them to multi million dollar fraud and theft schemes.

Suspects:

(The suspect names are not being released at this time due to the ongoing nature of the investigation)

26 year old male resident of West Hollywood

Bail: \$4 Million

Charges: Commercial Burglary, Identity Theft, Forgery, Receiving Stolen Property, Possession of Forged Drivers License, Grand Theft,

Auto Theft

26 year old Female resident of West Hollywood

Bail: \$4 Million

Charges: Commercial Burglary, Identity Theft, Forgery, Receiving Stolen Property, Possession of Forged Drivers License, Grand Theft

Details:

A local bank alerted the Hermosa Beach Police Department of two subjects who were attempting fraudulent transactions in the amount of millions of dollars. An investigation was begun headed up by the Hermosa Beach Police Department with the assistance of two task forces including the Task Force for Regional Auto Theft Prevention (TRAP). During the investigation it was learned the suspects were using a vehicle that had been obtained through fraud.

During the investigation it was learned the suspects had by fraudulent means, identified several high net worth bank accounts. The suspects had attempted to gain access to the accounts. A scheme was developed by the suspects to transfer victim money from legitimate accounts to fraudulent suspect controlled accounts.

Multiple surveillances were conducted of the suspects by Hermosa Beach Detectives and TRAP Detectives. Case agent, Hermosa Beach Detective Steve Saylor assembled the case and evidence against the initial suspects. He sought a search warrant for a West Hollywood location where the suspects were known to operate from.

The search warrant was served last week at the West Hollywood location. Extensive evidence was found. Documents related to the known crimes as well as supplemental evidence of additional crimes and victims

was recovered.

Additionally with the assistance of TRAP Case Agent, Detective Eric Cahalan a case involving the fraudulently obtained vehicle was started. Additional stolen and embezzled high value vehicles were located during the service of the search warrant at the West Hollywood location, 2006 BMW 750Li, 2006 H2 Hummer, 2007 Audi Q7.

The 2006 H2 Hummer was stolen from a victim's home in Moorpark, CA on 4-16-07. The BMW was stolen from the valet parking garage at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on 5-7-07 and the Audi Q7 had been embezzled from a major rental car company. The value of the three vehicles was estimated at approximately \$200,000.00. The vehicles were not stripped and it was believed that they were to be used for the continuation of the ongoing fraud crimes. The investigation is ongoing. Additional arrests are anticipated.