



HERMOSA
BEACH
NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH

*Burglar Suspected of Multiple Thefts from
Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf Stores*

Hermosa Beach Police Department
Press Release
March 31, 2008

PIO: Sergeant Paul A. Wolcott
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Suspect: Armando Esquivel-Nava (21)
Bell Gardens, CA

Charges: Burglary 459 PC, Possession of Burglary
Tools 466 PC

Bail: \$ 20,000.00

Synopsis:
Suspect caught with burglary tools while enroute to burglarize Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf store in Hermosa Beach. The same subject is suspected of committing multiple similar burglaries in the area of Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf stores.

Details:

Early Thursday morning, (3-27-08) Sgt. Raul Saldana observed a suspicious vehicle entering the city on Gould Avenue. While Sgt. Saldana watched, the suspect vehicle stopped and parked suddenly. When Sgt. Saldana approached the vehicle he found the suspect attempting to conceal himself in the car.

Subsequent investigation by Sgt. Saldana and Ofc Robert Higgins determined that the suspect was in possession of pass keys to "Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf" stores located in the area. Ofc Higgins was able to confirm that the keys could be used to unlock the Hermosa Beach store. The suspect was also in possession of a "Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf" uniform shirt and apron. Further examination of the suspect vehicle revealed a set of bolt cutters and a back pack. The investigation by the officers determined that the suspect was not a current employee of the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf Company. Believing that the suspect had just committed or was on his way to commit a burglary he was placed under arrest for possession of burglary tools.

Detective Dorothy Scheid was assigned as the case agent for further investigation into the circumstances of this incident. She initially determined that several "Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf" locations had been burglarized by a suspect who gained entry by unknown means then used bolt cutters to cut the lock off of a locker containing the tip money and other cash belonging to the business and employees. It was also determined Esquivel-Nava had been an employee of a cleaning company that no longer had the contract to clean Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf stores. Further investigation found the suspect had used various access codes for entry to the stores and to disable the alarm system.

Sgt. Tom Thompson also assisted in the investigation when he obtained additional information from the Manhattan Beach Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. He was able to determine that there

had been other stores that had fallen victim to the same type of crimes. After determining that crimes had occurred at other Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf locations and that the suspect in custody was most likely responsible, Det. Scheid began coordinating with the other agencies that have had similar crimes committed in their jurisdictions. It is believed that this individual is responsible for multiple burglaries committed against the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf Company and its employees.

This is an ongoing investigation and it is expected to reveal multiple victims in several jurisdictions.

Anyone with additional information about this crime series is asked to contact Detective Dorothy Scheid at 310 318-0360.

Hermosa Beach Neighborhood Watch

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