



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Kenneth W. Small

Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: 8/27/2012

Time: 0800

Prepared by: Sergeant Shields

Type of Incident: Bank Fraud / Identity Theft - Search Warrants / Arrests

Location: County of Los Angeles

Date/Time of Occurrence: August 21, 2012

Case Number: 2012-006657

Details:

On August 21, 2012, a Federal Task Force comprised of agents from the United States Secret Service and officers from the Huntington Beach Police Department in conjunction with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and Irvine Police Department served multiple state and federal search / arrest warrants in the County of Los Angeles.

Seven persons were arrested during the operations, and multiple suspects were detained. Items seized included evidence of the crimes, several hundred thousand dollars in cash, jewelry, and high end cars.

The warrants and arrests are the culmination of an investigation which has taken place over the last year. Major leads in the investigation came with the tremendous cooperation from investigators at Chase Bank, Bank of America, and US Bank. The bank investigators worked very closely with the Federal Task Force and provided the evidence leading to the arrests. A large majority of the victims are from California and the State of Washington. The crimes were perpetrated by the same individuals and occurred inside bank branches all over the United States.

The scheme involves using counterfeit driver's licenses, Social Security cards, and credit cards as identification. The suspect removes cash from the victim's savings and checking accounts ranging from \$4000 to \$9000 in a single transaction. The investigation revealed a suspect could remove as much \$25,000 to \$35,000 from a victim per day. The scam involving the suspects has taken place over the last several years, and the loss is estimated to be in the multiple tens of millions. The investigation is ongoing.

If anyone has information, please call Detective Smith (714) 960-8848 or Sergeant Shields (714) 536-5948.