



PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange ST • Riverside CA 92501

Phone 951.826.5902 • FAX 951.826.5939

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Contact: Sergeant Dan Russell
Centralized Investigations Division
951.353.7106

Police Seek Suspects in Lottery Scam Thefts *Update*

Riverside, CA - On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, the Riverside Police Department distributed a press release seeking the public's assistance, as well as warning the public about suspects wanted in four separate lottery scam thefts that have occurred throughout the City of Riverside. The thefts occurred between February 28, 2012 and March 13, 2012, and in all instances the targeted victims have been Spanish speaking females.

The suspects, a male and a female are described as follows:

A clean-cut, well dressed, White or Hispanic male in his forties, approximately 5'-6" tall, 200 pounds; the second suspect is described as a female Hispanic (possible Columbian accent), sixty-five to seventy-five years old, having a light complexion, 5'02"-5'04" tall with a thin frame, black and grey shoulder length hair worn in a ponytail, green eyes and bad teeth. Composite drawings of the suspects are included below. The suspects' vehicle is described as a gray or light colored SUV, possibly a Toyota-4-Runner.

The suspects commit the thefts by contacting female victims and employing a lottery ticket type scam. The suspects convince the victims that they have or can obtain a winning lottery ticket and promise to share the winnings with the victims if they produce cash for their portion of the winnings. The victims are then convinced to enter the suspects' vehicle and accompany them to a lawyer's office. While driving, the victims are convinced to produce cash from their bank or are robbed of cash from their person before being released, without ever arriving at a lawyer's office. The suspects then flee in the vehicle with the victim's cash.

Working with a victim, the Riverside Police Department was able to obtain composite sketches of both suspects. Anyone with information that may help identify these suspects is asked to contact Detective Dave Smith at (951) 353-7103 or Detective Greg Rowe at (951) 353-7136.



Suspect 1 - A clean-cut, well dressed, White or Hispanic male in his forties, approximately 5'-6" tall, 200 pounds



Suspect 2 - a female Hispanic (possible Columbian accent), sixty-five to seventy-five years old, having a light complexion, 5'02"-5'04" tall with a thin frame, black and grey shoulder length hair worn in a ponytail, green eyes and bad teeth.

The suspects' vehicle is described as a gray or light colored SUV, possibly a Toyota-4-Runner.