



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
SERGIO G. DIAZ
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARREST OF THEFT SUSPECTS

RIVERSIDE, CA – On Monday December 9, 2013 at about 2018 hours, loss prevention employees for the Target located at 2755 Canyon Springs Parkway in the City of Riverside called the Riverside Police Department to report they had detained two theft suspects. Police personnel investigated and found that the suspects arrived in a stolen vehicle. The suspects panhandled in the parking lot, watched customers get out of their vehicles and once they were inside Target the suspects would walk over to the customer's vehicle and pull on door handles and otherwise attempt to enter the vehicle. After doing this for some time, the suspects entered Target and attempted to steal merchandise and purchase other merchandise with a stolen credit card but were detained. Police personnel found the suspects were in possession of additional stolen property and fraudulent / altered checks. Police personnel arrested and booked Jeanette Romie Gatson, a 37-year-old Riverside resident, and Allan Lamont Thomas, a 40-year-old Riverside resident, for charges including possession of a stolen vehicle (496D PC), possession of stolen property (496(a) PC), credit card fraud (484g PC), and burglary (459 PC). Gatson was already on probation for a Riverside County case and out on bail for five separate pending cases in Riverside County; Thomas has seven cases pending in Riverside County.

The Riverside Police Department seeks a shared commitment with its residents, business owners, and visitors to reduce crime in our city. Many crimes are crimes of opportunity and the police department asks you to harden the target. Make it as difficult as possible for criminals to victimize you during this holiday shopping season, including:

- Remove or hide valuables in vehicles
- Avoid parking in dark and remote areas
- Use an alarm or anti-theft device
- Secure your vehicle, including locking doors and rolling up windows

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