



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, February 6, 2009
Contact: Lt. Victor Williams
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Identity Thieves Arrested

Riverside, CA -- On February 5, 2009, at approximately 2:30 p.m., detectives from the Riverside Police Department, NPC-North Investigation Unit conducted a probation compliance check at an apartment located in the 4300 block of Palm Ave., in the City of Riverside. This investigation was initiated in response to an anonymous tip regarding stolen property and narcotics activity at that location.

During the course of the investigation detectives discovered the suspects were forging checks and making on-line purchases with several different victims' stolen personal information. The stolen checks and property have been linked to residential burglaries and thefts throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Detectives seized several boxes of stolen property, stolen personal information, computer hard drives, printers, narcotics, and drug paraphernalia. Approximately twenty-five victims have been identified thus far, and Detectives are continuing their investigation while working with investigators from surrounding agencies also affected by these suspects.

Four suspects have been arrested. They have been identified as Mary HINES, 40, of Riverside, Mackenzie WALSH, 21, Jermaine WELLS, 24, and Robert LAKES, 50, all from Moreno Valley. Charges on all four suspects range from possession of stolen property, forgery, identity theft, possession of controlled substances, probation and parole violations, and re-offending while on bail for similar offenses. They were booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center.

Anyone with information pertaining to this investigation is asked to contact Riverside Police Detective Charles Payne at (951) 826-8717.

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