

PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange Street • Riverside, CA 92501
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, September 03, 2009
Contact: Lieutenant Chris Manning
Phone: (951) 351-6045

Police Arrest Three Suspects on Suspicion of Extortion

Riverside, CA -- Riverside Police arrested three suspects this week for violations including Extortion, Vehicle Tampering, and Weapons Violations.

David MILLS, 47, Leon DANIEL, 50, and Mark MARTIN, 46, all of Riverside, were arrested on the listed charges and booked into Robert Presley Detention Center in Riverside.



MARTIN



MILLS



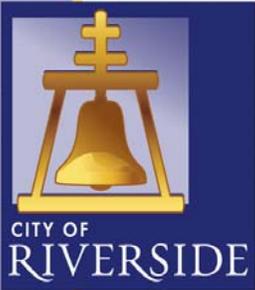
DANIEL

In an unusual investigation, Officers became aware of a small group of individuals conducting an unlawful parking enforcement business. Officers became suspicious when they began receiving several complaints from citizens who had parked their vehicles in public access strip-mall parking lots and returned to find an immobilization boot locked onto a wheel of their vehicles, preventing them from leaving. The suspects then attempted to extort money in exchange for the removal of the device.

In each instance, the victim's vehicle had a fictitious parking citation left on the windshield demanding \$185.00 for the removal of the boot, and a cellular phone number to call. When the victim called the number, a suspect arrived and demanded money in exchange for removing the device. In some instances when the victims refused to pay, the suspects became irate and threatened to have the

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

vehicle impounded. Many victims paid the suspects, not realizing the suspects weren't authorized to place the devices or collect any money.

Police apprehended two of the suspects as they attempted to collect cash from a restaurant patron whose vehicle they booted while it was parked in a parking lot in the 9500 block of Magnolia Ave. One of the suspects was dressed as a security guard and carrying a loaded firearm. A third suspect was apprehended when he returned to a business where he had recently booted several vehicles and attempted to collect money from their owners.

Police have identified some victims thus far, but believe more may have been victimized who have yet to come forward. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact Ofc. Melendrez of the Riverside Police Department at 951-826-8715.

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