

# T O R R A N C E

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## *Press Release*

*Police Department*

### **Operation Money Bags**

On Friday August 26, 2016, the Torrance Police Department's Gang Detail culminated a three and a half year residential burglary and narcotics gang conspiracy investigation aimed at targeting the residential burglaries in and surrounding the City of Torrance. This investigation, dubbed "Operation Money Bags", utilized the resources of the entire Police Department and involved a number of allied local and federal agencies. The investigation targeted suspected gang members that were committing residential burglaries.

Since January 2012, Detectives from the Torrance Police Department's Gang Detail & Special Investigations Division have been involved in a gang conspiracy investigation which focused on residential burglaries. The investigation involved members of the criminal street gang East Coast Crips. Members of this gang have been contacted and/or arrested in the City of Torrance, surrounding South Bay cities, Los Angeles County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernadino County and Ventura County committing residential burglaries.

During the investigation, Detectives determined that some of the proceeds from the burglaries were being used to obtain prescription narcotics which were then resold on the streets of Los Angeles.

As this investigation came to an end it was determined to be one of the most extensive, long term residential burglary investigations ever in Los Angeles County. Over 400 Officers from 18 different agencies throughout 5 counties worked together to serve warrants at 28 locations simultaneously.

The investigations have resulted in:

- 28 search warrants served
- 147 counts of residential burglary that were committed
- 53 members of the gang implicated in the commission of residential burglary
- 50 searches of inmates cells that are currently incarcerated in State Prisons
- 13 arrests

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**TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
3300 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, TORRANCE CALIFORNIA  
90503**

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- 7 firearms recovered
- Bulk U.S. currency
- Various amounts of narcotics

The investigation continues under the command and direction of Captain Martin Vukotic of the Special Operations Bureau. Anyone with additional information related to this case is encouraged to contact the Torrance Police Department at (310) 328-3456

Sergeant Paul M. Kranke  
Torrance Police Department  
Public Information Officer  
(310) 618-5688  
[pkranke@TorranceCa.Gov](mailto:pkranke@TorranceCa.Gov)

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**90503**