

T O R R A N C E

Press Release

Police Department

Commercial Burglary Arrest

DR# 120018690

March 14, 2013

After a four-month long investigation, Torrance Police Detectives arrested and charged four adults from the Chicago metropolitan area with multiple counts of conspiracy to commit commercial burglary and grand theft stemming from several commercial burglaries that occurred throughout the Counties of Los Angeles and Orange.

Ausra Bauzinskaite, 34-year-old from Chicago, Adeliya Nassybullina, 30-year-old from Chicago, Lukasz Karasinski, 37-year-old from Chicago and Przemyslaw Skiba, 31-year-old from Chicago, were all taken into custody without incident after Torrance investigators were able to link them to a commercial burglary in Torrance and over 17 additional commercial burglaries throughout Los Angeles County and Orange County. Upon identifying and tracking these individuals, Torrance investigators determined that the group was an organized retail theft ring that had victimized stores throughout the country in the states of California, Colorado, Washington and Florida.

During the course of their crimes, the suspects would all enter a store (such as Apple and Microsoft) that was open for business, select a large amount of merchandise, conceal it on their person and leave the location while making no attempt to pay for the items selected. Generally, the men would select and maneuver the merchandise into position where the females would later conceal the items under their oversized dresses and overcoats.

On Thursday, March 7, 2013, Torrance investigators located subjects from this ring in the City of Hawthorne. Coincidentally, they had flown into the area from Chicago, IL. for a court appearance in Santa Monica stemming from an earlier retail theft arrest. Torrance investigators conducted surveillance and observed the subjects commit additional thefts at Apple Stores throughout both Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Upon completing the thefts, the subjects attempted to mail the stolen property to various out of state locations. The suspects were ultimately arrested and warrants were later served. Over \$20,000 of stolen Apple products were recovered.

During subsequent interviews, the subjects described themselves as being a gypsy family out of Chicago, originating from the country of Poland. The subjects admitted to stealing in order to pay off a \$2 million dollar debt which their family had incurred several years prior. Investigators have estimated that since 2009, this group is responsible for approximately \$3 million dollars in property theft from retail stores that include *Apple, Best Buy, Costco, Microsoft, PetSmart, Sams Club, Sports Authority* and *Wal-Mart*.

This case is a small step in uncovering numerous other related conspirators and retail victims. At first look, the thefts appeared as singular crimes that occur every day to the retail industry, but when thoroughly analyzed, investigators were able to uncover the magnitude of the crimes being committed by this group. Investigators are optimistic that this arrest will lead to additional evidence in this ongoing investigation.

This case could not have been culminated without the assistance from other law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office and the relentless follow-up by Torrance investigators.

This investigation is being investigated under the command and direction of Captain Bernard Anderson of the Torrance Police Department Special Operations Bureau. Anyone with additional information about this arrest is encouraged to contact the Torrance Police Department at (310) 328-3456.

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