



Mark A. Matsuda  
Interim Chief of Police

# BULLETIN



## TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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## GYPSY DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

March 10, 2014



**COOK, Michael Lawrence**  
Las Vegas, NV



**DEMITRO, Vincent Matthew**  
Fullerton, Ca



**WEST, Leo Christopher**  
Corona, Ca

**DETAILS:** On Thursday, February 20, 2014, the above-pictured suspects were observed by **TPD** detectives committing three attempted and one completed distraction residential burglaries in the City of Carson. The suspects were placed under arrest in the City of Fullerton later that day. Arrestee **WEST** was also linked to several other South Bay burglaries.

Suspects distract elderly victims by engaging them in conversation regarding services such as tree trimming being performed at neighboring residences and lure victims into their backyards. Additionally, suspects will inquire about early model vehicles being for sale (present in driveway or fictitious) as a means of luring victims out of their residences. While one suspect distracts the elderly victim, another enters the residence and removes pocketable valuables. Suspects employ walkie-talkies or cell phones to notify crime partner(s) it is clear to enter victim residences without detection. If suspects were unable to locate an open door or window, they forced entry to the victim residence with the use of a pry tool. Numerous jewelry items and watches were recovered.

**SUSPECT VEHICLES:** 1.) Black, 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV 2.) Gray, 2007 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up 3.) Red, 2004 Chevrolet Silverado pick-up 4.) White, 2005 Chevrolet SUV 5.) Black, newer Chevrolet Tahoe Z71, paper plates

**PLEASE CONTACT THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT  
\* \* 310.328.3456 \* \* WITH ANY RELATED INFORMATION**