



HERCULES POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

TYPE OF INCIDENT Possession of Stolen Property (Mail) and Second Degree Burglary		CASE NUMBER H13-4084
DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT April 2, 2013	LOCATION OF INCIDENT 1500 Block of Sycamore Ave	
VICTIM Numerous Victims of Mail Theft Cigarettes Cheaper (Burglary)		CITY 20 Cities/5 Counties Hercules
RESPONSIBLE Justin Reed Conlon & Brandon Thomas-Harris	AGE 27&25	CITY Martinez/Hercules
ARRESTED? Yes	CHARGE Reed -7 Counts of Possession of Stolen Property; Thomas Harris – 1 Count of Second Degree Burglary	BAIL

SUMMARY

On April 2, 2013, at 3:13 PM, Hercules Officers were dispatched to the Cigarettes Cheaper Store, at 1511 Sycamore Ave. The reporting party said two adult males were attempting to make a purchase using counterfeit money. Officers located the males in front of the Big Lots, next to the Cigarette Cheaper Store.

25 year old Brandon Thomas-Harris, of Hercules, was identified as the person who entered the Cigarettes Cheaper and made a purchase using counterfeit 20 dollar bills. Thomas-Harris entered the store a second time and tried to make another purchase with additional counterfeit 20 dollar bills. When he was contacted Thomas-Harris had three counterfeit \$20 dollar bills in his possession. Thomas-Harris was arrested for Second Degree Burglary (entering a business with the intent to commit theft), and Possession of Counterfeit Currency.

27 year old Justin Reed Conlon, of Martinez, was determined to have a \$25,000 Felony warrant, out of Napa County, for Possession of Stolen Property. Conlon was arrested on the warrant. Conlon was in possession of several credit cards, and identification, that were not in his name.

During the course of the investigation Officers determined that both suspects were associated with a vehicle, which was parked in the parking lot. Officers towed the vehicle, incident to the arrest, as it was parked on private property. Officers conducted an "Inventory Search" of the vehicle, as part of the towing procedure. Inside the vehicle Officers found two large suitcases which contained a large amount of mail and various documents. Items of mail were recovered from at least 25 Hercules addresses. Officers made contact with several of the residents and determined that their mail had been stolen. Charges of Possession of Stolen Property were added for both suspects. Both suspects were transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.

When the property in the suitcases was inventoried, Officers recovered mail from nineteen additional Cities, in five Counties. From Contra Costa County the Cities were Danville; El Sobrante; Concord; Martinez, Lafayette; Rodeo, Moraga; Pleasant Hill; Orinda; and Walnut Creek. From Solano County the Cities were Suisun City and American Canyon. From Napa County the Cities were Napa; Angwin; and St Helena. From Alameda County the Cities were Oakland; and San Ramon. There was also mail from Mill Valley, in Marin County; and

Torrance, in Los Angeles County. The mail from the other Cities was turned over to the Postal Inspectors Office.

On April 3, 2013 Officers executed a search warrant on an address in the 2300 block of Redwood Rd. The address was associated with one of the suspects arrested on April 2, 2013. There were two adult males, and one adult female, occupying the house when the officers arrived. They were detained during the search. Officers found additional stolen mail, "controlled substances"; and cash (believed to be legitimate). 36 year old Paul Pena, of Hercules; 63 year old Carlos Rivera, of Hercules; and 54 year old Silvia Solorzano, of Hercules; were arrested for Possession of Stolen Property; Possession of a Controlled Substance; and Possession of a Controlled Substance for Sales. They were all transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.

On April 4, 2013 the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office charged Brandon Thomas; Harris with one count of Second Degree Burglary. Justin Reed Conlon was charged with seven counts of Possession of Stolen Property (mail). Additional charges may be added as additional victims are identified and interviewed.

The cases on Pena, Riviera and Solorzano have not been presented to the District Attorney, pending additional investigation.

	PREPARED BY Connie Van Putten, Reserve Detective and PIO Desk Phone 510-799-8268 Cell Phone 510-221-1052	DATE April 5, 2013
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ROUTING

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| <input type="checkbox"/> CHIEF | <input type="checkbox"/> WEST COUNTY TIMES | <input type="checkbox"/> KRON | <input type="checkbox"/> KCBS | <input type="checkbox"/> _ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEPUTY CHIEF | <input type="checkbox"/> OAKLAND TRIBUNE | <input type="checkbox"/> KPIX | <input type="checkbox"/> CRIME STOPPERS* | <input type="checkbox"/> _ |

**If appropriate, add "Crime Stoppers (510) 799-TALK (8255)" to the contact footer.*