



PRESS RELEASE

An Internationally Accredited Agency 

C. C. Costigan, Chief
Golden Gate Division, Public Information Unit
1551 Benicia Road, Vallejo, CA 94591

Contact: Officer John Fransen
(510) 957-8247
30Media@chp.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2020

2020

ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME TASK FORCE MAKES MULTIPLE ARRESTS

VALLEJO, Calif. – A monthslong investigation into a Northern California retail theft operation, has resulted in the arrest of four suspects and a request to the public for help finding additional victims of these crimes.

On December 10, 2020, investigators from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Golden Gate Division's Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF), including members from the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, along with investigators from the Northern Foreign Export and Recovery Team, the Cargo Theft Investigation Program, CHP Valley Division Investigative Services Unit, ORCTF associates, and the CHP North Sacramento Area served a search warrant on a suspected coupon fraud ring's residence and business in the Sacramento area dubbed, "Operation Liquidator."

Karen Caye De Guzman (02/05/1987), King James Barberan Miranda (08/22/1988), and Terry Craig Hubbard (06/20/1955), all residents of Sacramento, were arrested and are suspected of using fraudulent coupons to obtain merchandise for free or reduced cost to resell at a storefront known as KC Liquidators. The storefront was being advertised on Facebook Marketplace as a location to "never pay retail." Investigators recovered fraudulent coupons and stolen or fraudulently purchased merchandise from retailers including CVS, Walgreens, Target, and others totaling over \$212,000. The suspects were booked into the Sacramento County Jail on several charges including grand theft, possession of stolen property, organized retail theft, and conspiracy.

A week earlier, the same group of investigators served a search warrant on a South Sacramento home/store for an investigation that began in July. The operation, dubbed "Operation Patrona," resulted in the arrest of Maria Angel Ozuna (12/10/1990) of Sacramento and the recovery of \$73,000 in suspected stolen retail merchandise from CVS, Walgreens, and others. She was also booked into the Sacramento County Jail on several charges including grand theft, possession of stolen property, organized retail theft, and conspiracy.

-MORE-



Join the Conversation!



@CHP_GoldenGate



@CHPGoldenGate



CHPGoldenGate

“The retail merchandise these individuals were selling at a reduced cost was only possible because of their criminal activities and was at the expense of the retailers and their employees, who are risking their health during the pandemic to work and provide for their families. The underground economy these individuals supported with their theft contributes to the losses experienced by retailers and impacts the retailer’s ability to provide jobs and keep their doors open to serve their communities,” said Lieutenant Kevin Dobby, of the CHP Golden Gate Division Investigative Services Unit. He reminded buyers to, “beware of purchasing retail merchandise priced significantly lower than established retail stores or displaying anti-theft retailer labeling. If you see anything suspicious, notify authorities.”

Legislation approved in 2018 recognized organized retail theft as a crime and tasked the CHP with coordinating with the Department of Justice to establish a regional property crimes task force. One of the roles of the ORCTF is to provide local law enforcement in three of CHP’s geographical divisions with logistical support and other law enforcement resources, including personnel and equipment.

Both “Operation Liquidator” and “Operation Patrona” received essential support from the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office and retail industry loss prevention personnel. The ORCTF is now seeking the public’s assistance in locating additional victims from these crimes. If you have any information, please call the tip line at (510) 957-8247.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

###