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CITY MANAGER



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2/13/2018

NEWS RELEASE

Two More Arrested in Financial Crimes Continuing Mail Theft Investigation Case

Date: December 2016 – December 2017
Location: VARIOUS
Arrested 16: 48-year old Phillip BIAGAS of El Paso, TX
Arrested 17: 34-year old Joseph HOWE of El Paso, TX

EL PASO, Texas – The El Paso Police Department has arrested two additional El Paso men in the on-going Mail Theft Ring case. Arrested last week were 48-year old Phillip BIAGAS (Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018) and 34-year old Joseph HOWE (Friday, Feb 9, 2018). Both men were booked into the El Paso county jail on charges of Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity (EIOCA) – Forgery and EIOCA – Fraudulent Use of Possession of Identifying Information > = 50 items and their bonds totaled \$100,000.00.

History 02/05/2018

El Paso, TX. -Investigators from the El Paso Police Department's Financial Crimes unit (FCU) have arrested and charged fifteen in a theft of mail case that began in December 2016. The FCU investigation began when Northeast Investigators observed an increase in cases of stolen mail/documents occurring at residential – community mailboxes. The offenders worked together to unlawfully obtain documents from the mail and other sources, and then used the documents to commit fraud against citizens and financial institutions. To date thirty-seven victims have been identified and fifteen individuals arrested. Investigators do believe that more victims exist. The fifteen have been charged with Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity (EIOCA)-Forgery and EOCA – Fraudulent Use of Possession of Identifying Information > = 50 Items. Additional arrests are forthcoming and additional charges are anticipated. Financial Crimes has worked with the U.S. Postal Inspector and is asking that anybody who is the victim of mail theft to please contact the Postal Inspector. This investigation continues.

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Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community

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