



# EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DAVID CUMMINGS, CHIEF OF POLICE

## Press Release

December 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Police Arrest Five Suspects in Two Separate Incidents of Catalytic Converter Thefts within 8 Hours**

On Monday, December 17, 2007, the El Segundo Police Department arrested five people who are suspected of stealing catalytic converters from parked Toyota vehicles. The three suspects in the first incident were identified as Jorge Adrian Sanchez, age 26 from the City of Compton, Fernando Garcia Rivas, age 45 and Judy Ann Jimenez, age 43 both from the City of Downey.

At 3:02 am, a patrol officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for traffic violations as it was leaving the residential area. The officer's investigation revealed three catalytic converters and numerous burglary tools lying on the rear floorboard behind the driver's seat. All three were arrested and booked at the El Segundo Police Department.

Approximately eight hours later, another patrol officer was in route to investigate a crime report of a catalytic converter theft when the officer observed a vehicle traveling in the residential area with no evidence of registration. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle. Inside the vehicle, the officer observed a catalytic converter lying on the passenger side floorboard. Upon searching the trunk, officers found two additional stolen catalytic converters, one of which was still hot to the touch. The two suspects arrested during this incident were identified as Joel Martinez, age 22 and Manuel Antonio Barriga, age 39 both from the City of Los Angeles.

SUV's, in particular Toyota 4Runners and Toyota trucks, have been targeted by catalytic converter thieves for their scrap metal value which contain small amounts of precious metals.

Detectives investigating the case are working with the victims in an attempt to identify their recovered catalytic converters and return them.

If you have any information regarding these crimes or have any questions, please contact Detective Marco Lemus at (310) 524-2284 or Sergeant Danny Kim at (310) 524-2261.