



Fresno County Sheriff's Department

Richard Pierce, Sheriff **December 22, 2006**
News Release

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Vehicle Burglary Sting Operation a Success

On the evening of Tuesday, 12-19-2006, Fresno County Sheriff's Department detectives conducted a sting operation in the area of Olive and Fowler. The sting involved the placement of a "bait" vehicle in a parking lot that was being targeted by burglars. The vehicle was consistent with the type of automobile that was being habitually targeted by thieves. After at least eleven burglaries had been committed in a commercial parking lot since the late summer months, detectives decided to strategically place a county-owned vehicle on the lot to see if it would be burglarized. Within two hours of placing the bait vehicle on the parking lot while under surveillance, two suspects arrived and broke into it, stealing bait property that had been placed inside by detectives. The suspects were followed out of the immediate area and arrested by assisting deputies. Two suspects, Alejandro Perez (27 years) and Noe Raiz (27 years), were arrested and eventually booked on charges of burglary, receiving stolen property, and conspiracy. Detectives believe the two suspects are responsible for most, if not all of the burglaries that occurred in the area over the past several months.

Detectives then executed a search warrant in an effort to recover additional stolen property at a home on the 700 block of A St. in Fresno. Property was recovered from two prior vehicle burglaries that had occurred at the same location as the sting operation. Prior to the search warrant being served, a vehicle was observed leaving the property pulling a trailer full of equipment. An enforcement stop on the vehicle and the subsequent investigation yielded two stolen motorcycles and numerous other pieces of stolen property. Geronimo Serna, 27 years, was booked into Fresno County Jail on charges of possession of stolen property.

Anyone with information regarding this operation should contact Detective Eric Schmidt or Sergeant Matt Alexander at 292-1104.