



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

Deputies Arrest Serial Burglar

During a sunny afternoon on May 17th, 2012, Deputies Jose Perez and Jay Maeda were monitoring traffic on Pacific Coast Highway in the City of Malibu, when they conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle to warn/cite the driver for a minor vehicle code violation (missing front bumper). While talking to the male driver, who was accompanied by a male passenger in the front seat, the deputies smelled the odor of fresh marijuana emanating from within the vehicle and/or their persons. They also saw, in plain view, several women's items: wallets, ID's, purses, cosmetics, etc. spread over the back seat of the vehicle.

The deputies immediately detained the occupants in order to conduct a narcotics investigation and to determine the source of the odor and a theft investigation to determine the owners of all the women's property. During the course of their investigation, including a search of their persons and the vehicle, the deputies located more items belonging to person's whom both occupants did not know. A check of some of the ID's revealed some of these women had been victims of recent burglaries in the Malibu/Lost Hills jurisdiction. As such, the two occupants were arrested for burglary and possession of stolen property, respectively. Furthermore, during a follow-up investigation, Detectives were able to link both suspects to approximately 30 burglaries in our area.

Deputies Perez and Maeda are commended for conducting a thorough on scene investigation which led to the apprehension and arrest of two burglars who had been victimizing our community. You are both commended for your outstanding observation and investigative skills, thus capturing this serial burglar.