



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2009
Contact: Sergeant Mark Rossi
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Man arrested for multiple acts of vandalism

Riverside, CA – On Sunday, October 18, 2009, at approximately 2045 hours, Riverside Police officers were dispatched to the area of Chicago Avenue and Massachusetts Street in the city of Riverside reference several subjects vandalizing a portion of the 215 freeway at Chicago. While en route to the call, the officers located two male subjects matching the suspects' descriptions walking northbound on Chicago Avenue north of the railroad tracks. The officers contacted the two subjects and began their investigation.

During the officers' contact with the two men, they found evidence connecting one to the graffiti found on advertising signs, railroad crossing arms, and city owned electrical boxes in the immediate area. During further investigation, it was discovered that the damage they had found was associated with a rash of vandalism involving a local graffiti vandal operating not only in the city of Riverside, but in the cities of Highgrove, Grand Terrace and along the 91/215/60 Freeways.

Alex Villa, 19 years old of Riverside, was arrested for being in possession of graffiti tools and graffiti vandalism. He was booked into the Robert Presely Detention Center for felony vandalism and possession of graffiti tools. As a result of an on-going investigation over several months, it is believed that Alex Villa is responsible for seven additional felony acts and twenty-eight misdemeanor acts of graffiti vandalism.

It is estimated that Alex Villa caused approximately \$8000 in damages to the local freeways, \$4000 to railroad property, \$5000 to local billboard advertisers, and \$3000 to the city of Riverside and some local businesses.

Anyone with additional information regarding the vandalism caused by Alex Villa is asked to contact the Riverside Police Department's Graffiti Unit, Officer Steve Warlick at (951) 353-7130 or Detective Cathy Nelson at (951) 353-7131.