



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** November 2, 2011  
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### **MAN AND WOMAN ARRESTED FOR HAWARDEN HILLS' MAIL THEFT**

Riverside, Ca. – Riverside Police Department detectives have been investigating a recent series of mail thefts from residential mailboxes. In some cases, the thieves would pry the rear panel off both individual and community mailboxes, stealing the contents. The suspects or their associates would then use personal information found in the stolen mail to obtain credit cards and commit fraudulent purchases.

Recently, RPD detectives obtained a surveillance video recording from a local department store which captured a fraudulent transaction taking place. An adult man and woman could be seen completing a transaction with a credit card which had been stolen from a residential mailbox in Riverside's Hawarden Hills neighborhood. Detectives also obtained additional evidence from the fraudulent transaction and other databases, which led them to identify Riverside residents, Rosa MUNIZ age 42 and Steven STILES age 36, as the suspects making the fraudulent purchase.

On November 2, 2011, tactical officers from RPD's METRO Team and Neighborhood Policing Center detectives conducted a search warrant in the 4100 block of Donald Avenue, where both MUNIZ and STILES were placed under arrest. Detectives recovered a large quantity of mail, credit cards and personal documents taken from mail box thefts throughout Riverside and Orange Counties. An illegal sawed-off shotgun was also discovered to be concealed in STILES' bedroom. This investigation is ongoing and it is believed the suspects are responsible for many other mail thefts. Both suspects have been booked into jail for a variety of charges to include burglary, possession of stolen property and grand theft.

Community members can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of mail theft by taking preventative measures, such as reporting suspicious individuals and vehicles seen driving around their neighborhoods, familiarizing themselves with postal schedules, picking up mail promptly, reporting any theft of mail they may discover and taking part in our local Neighborhood Watch Program. For information on how to become a member of Neighborhood Watch, contact RPD at 826-5235.

This investigation is ongoing and anyone with information about recent mail thefts is encouraged to contact Detective Dave Riedeman at (951) 353-7949.

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