



**CITY OF IRWINDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Ty Henshaw, Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 12, 2021

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT LEADS TO PURSUIT AND ARRESTS

Irwindale, CA: On Sunday, April 11, 2021, at about 10:50 P.M., Irwindale police officers responded to a business in the 15700 block of Arrow Highway regarding the report of three subject who had just stolen the catalytic converter from a vehicle parked outside the business. The victim was able to provide a description of the suspect's vehicle, a silver 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee, to the dispatcher.

Our officers located a Jeep matching the description provided by the victim in the area of Irwindale Avenue and 4th Street and initiated a traffic stop. After pulling to the curb, the Jeep suddenly fled as the officers approached the vehicle. A vehicle pursuit then ensued, with the suspect going south on Irwindale Avenue from Arrow Highway through the city of Irwindale and into the city of West Covina. The vehicle committed several unsafe traffic violations during the pursuit.

The Jeep eventually collided with three uninvolved civilian vehicles at the intersection of West Covina Parkway and Sunset Avenue in the city of West Covina. Two of the occupants were detained by officers at the collision scene. The third suspect ran into the West Covina Civic Center, where he was captured by officers from the West Covina Police Department.

Officers located the victim's catalytic converter inside the Jeep, along with various hand tools, power saws, saw blades and a rolling car jack.

Alfredo Paredes Ramirez, 35-years-old, Herbert Tecero, 38-years-old, and Lejoi Louise Mims, 38-year-old, all from the city of Los Angeles, were arrested on a variety of charges, including grand theft, possession of burglary tools and possession of stolen property. The driver, Alfredo Ramirez, was additionally charged with felony evading and traffic related violations.

Ramirez and Tecero were booked at the West Covina City Jail and Mims was taken to a nearby hospital for minor injuries she sustained in the traffic collision. Due to COVID-19 booking restrictions, all three suspects were later released with citations to appear in court on a future date.

The West Covina Police Department is investigating the traffic collision that occurred at the end of the pursuit. None of the occupants of the uninvolved vehicles, including two children, were injured in the traffic collision.

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