



Transit Services Bureau - South
2000 E. Imperial Hwy., Los Angeles, CA. 90059
(323) 563-5000
www.lasd.org

News Release

Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff

TITLE	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Transit Services Bureau, Los Angeles School Police Department, and Los Angeles County Probation Department, team up to target graffiti vandals
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Type of Crime:	Felony Vandalism	Incident Date:	August 16, 2011
Author / Date / Time:	L.E.T. Ramon Montenegro,08/17/11,1330	Incident Time:	N/A

Incident Location:	Los Angeles County
News Media Location:	N/A

Victim(s): (no names)	See narrative	Suspect(s):	See narrative

Narrative:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Transit Services Bureau, Los Angeles School Police Department, and Los Angeles County Probation "Disarm" Officers, arrested fifteen suspects in a search warrant / probation operation targeting graffiti vandals.

(See photos by clicking on the hyperlink at the bottom of this message)

On Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 6:00 A.M., a graffiti law enforcement task force arrested fifteen suspects for a variety of crimes ranging from graffiti, narcotics, and theft of auto parts. Additionally, five suspects were found to have given false information to their probation officers and are now wanted.

For Additional Information Contact:

Name and rank	Phone	E-Mail Address
Vince Carter, Lieutenant	(310) 386-3521	qvcarter@lasd.org





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Two search warrants were served on three graffiti vandals for causing over \$10,000 in damages to Sylmar High School, Metro's Gold Line, and local freeways. L.A. School Police Officer Jamison and L.A. County Deputy Moen initiated one of the search warrants after noticing the "tag" "Mars" spray painted on Sylmar High School properties. Officer Jamison identified Omar Carpio MH/21 through departmental resources and graffiti databases and tied Mr. Carpio to thousands of dollars in damages. The search at Mr. Carpio's home resulted in deputies discovering significant evidence supporting Mr. Carpio is an active tagger. An additional three family members were also arrested for similar graffiti crimes and suspicion of auto parts theft.

Lieutenant Armando Farias, LASPD, stated Officer Jamison's thorough investigation will result in Mr. Carpio paying restitution for the damages he caused to the local schools and communities. Their agency will continue to monitor another person detained during the execution of the search warrant for any further criminal behavior.

On July 5, 2011, a taskforce was formed to target vandals that have damaged the school systems within the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's transit system. The taskforce includes the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Unified School District Police, Los Angeles County Probation Department, and a cadre of twenty civilian volunteers with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Today's operation consisted of a combination of thirty-two probation and search warrants throughout the cities of Los Angeles County.

- Fifteen suspects arrested
- Suspects were charged with graffiti crimes, i.e., such as felony vandalism, possession of vandalism tools, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of auto parts with the VIN numbers removed. Five of the suspects had provided false probation addresses to the probation department which is a violation of their conditions.
- One family member was arrested for aiding and abetting a vandalism suspect by warning this suspect via cell phone that law enforcement were at his home

Four suspects were arrested for felony vandalism:

Omar Carpio, 21-year old Hispanic male from Sylmar (with gang enhancements)





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Elisa Carpio, 18-year old Hispanic female from Sylmar, arrested for aiding and abetting

(2) 17-year old Hispanic males, one from Sylmar (with gang enhancements), and one from Los Angeles

Eleven suspects arrested during probations searches:

Dagoberto Castaneda, 22-year old Hispanic male from Los Angeles, arrested for failing to report to his probation officer

Maria Manuela Rocha, 49-year old Hispanic female from Los Angeles, arrested for possession for sales of a controlled substance

Carlos Mendoza, 20-year old Hispanic male from Gardena, arrested for violation of probation for vandalism

Gilberto Garcia, 23-year old Hispanic male from Cudahy, arrested for violation of probation for vandalism

David Galindro, 20-year old Hispanic male from Los Angeles, arrested for violating parole by failing to appear

Jeffery Gallardo, 23-year old Hispanic male from Lynwood, arrested for possession of a controlled substance

Raul Aguilera, 39-year old Hispanic male from Sylmar, arrested for possession of auto parts with VIN numbers removed

Judith Garcia, 26-year old Hispanic female from Inglewood, arrested for a traffic warrant

Jose Lopez, 23-year old Hispanic male from Los Angeles, arrested for a domestic violence warrant

Cesar Hernandez, 27-year old Hispanic male from Los Angeles, arrested for a DUI warrant





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Harold Lopez, 21-year old Hispanic male from Los Angeles, arrested for failing to appear in court

The communities and victims where the warrants and probation searches were conducted, and/or damaged by graffiti included the cities of Los Angeles, Inglewood, Lynwood, Sylmar, Gardena, Compton, and Cudahy as well as Metropolitan Transportation Authority and LAUSD property.

Investigations were led by deputies from the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, the LASD unit that provides law enforcement services for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Deputy James Whitmore, the lead investigating officer said, "These types of operations are essential to our (LASD/TSB) mission to not only keep the public safe, but also to help mitigate the thousands of dollars that Metro is forced to spend replacing equipment and cleaning damage caused by these criminals."

Lieutenant Larry Gregg, LASD Community Oriented Policing Bureau, stated "These compliance checks are law enforcement tools we utilize to ensure that those people we searched today are compliant with their early release programs from jail. Our collaborative law enforcement approach is a proven successful tactic which enables us to lower crimes in an area and to achieve our mission of protecting lives and property."

For more information about what the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and partnering police agencies are doing to combat graffiti vandalism, visit:

LA's Most Wanted Taggers
<http://sheriff.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/lasd/graffiti/>

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
<http://www.lasd.org>

Report graffiti vandalism and information about graffiti vandals to your local sheriff's station or police department in order to have the damages documented, investigated, and added to the tracking databases. To remain Anonymous, call "LA Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), or using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>





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To Have Graffiti Removed:

Graffiti Reporting and Removal
Graffiti Hotline at (800) 675-4357

<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/itd/dispatch/publicgraffiti/index.cfm?action=report>

FOR GRAFFITI REMOVAL in the unincorporated areas of the Los Angeles County, contact the LA County Dept. of Public Works hotline at (800) 675-4357. The graffiti removal hotline is available with live operators 24 hours a day seven days a week. The LACoDPW strives for a 48-hour response when calls are received via the hotline. In order to have a response in a timely manner, please answer the brief questions the operators may ask you. Often questions may be related to graffiti on property which is not the responsibility of the County of Los Angeles. For example, information is offered for the agency providing graffiti removal services to the following: Parks and Recreation, Caltrans, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Metrolink, United States Post Office, Southern California Edison, and the 88 Cities within the County of Los Angeles.

L.E.T. Ramon Montenegro, Unit P.I.O.
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Address/Location

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Contact

Emergency: 9-1-1
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