

From Chinatown to Hollywood, LAPD Surveillance Nets Pickpockets

(Nov. 27) LAPD officers arrested four pickpocket suspects and recovered a 93-year-old Los Angeles woman's stolen wallet and personal documents, Nov. 16, following a surveillance that took them from Chinatown to Hollywood.

The four, whose records included pickpocket arrests in New York, Chicago, Las Vegas and San Francisco, were charged with grand theft, person. Three of the four had outstanding warrants against them for grand theft.

According to police reports, Officers Refugio Garza, Lorena Alcaraz and George Oto of the Transit Group's Pickpocket Detail were working a bus stop at Broadway and Ord in Chinatown when they spotted three men and a woman who appeared to be targeting an elderly bus patron.

Tracked the suspects

The patron boarded a bus and the group then drove off in a Nissan Maxima, followed at a discrete distance by the officers. They tracked the suspects to North Fairfax Avenue, a hangout for professional pickpockets who frequent the area's many thrift shops.

Officers Chang Kim, Maggie Sherman and Sgt. Bruce Vermaat, also of the Pickpocket Detail, observed the suspects enter a thrift shop. Officer Kim followed and watched as they surrounded an elderly woman, then allegedly lifted her wallet.

Officers arrested Jose Moreno, 39; Julio Alarcon, 40; and Manuel Perez, 40, all of Los Angeles; and Nancy Pinargote, 34, of Hollywood. They were booked at the Hollywood Division and charged with grand theft, person.

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