



SHERIFF SEMINOLE COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE

SCSO arrests 48 in holiday safety operations

Seminole Co. (Dec. 24, 2013) – The Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) today announced the arrest of 48 subjects in a series of coordinated holiday safety operations designed to remove drunk drivers from the roadways, stop retail theft and economic crime, and prevent burglaries. The operations took place over a 10-day period in various commercial and residential areas across the county.

On Dec. 14 and 21, the Motor Unit conducted traffic safety operations on some of the county's most trafficked roadways. Deputies arrested seven people for driving under the influence, five for driving on a suspended or revoked license, two for driving with no license, and two for narcotics violations. The Unit also issued 165 moving violations.

During the commercial operations, deputies patrolled retail establishments and plain clothes investigators embedded themselves inside stores. Working in conjunction with merchants and loss prevention teams, deputies arrested shoplifters as they left stores with stolen items. The operations resulted in 15 arrests for theft, hundreds of dollars of merchandise recovered, and a number of drug possession charges. In the residential operations, crime analysts identified communities that had been recently victimized and developed a forecast of possible locations for additional burglaries. Investigators and deputies then began proactive patrols in those areas.

Some of the operation highlights were as follows:

- Burgandy Smith, 21, and Kevin Jackson, 40, were arrested on Dec. 19 after investigators caught him stealing expensive flashlights inside the store and found her waiting in a vehicle outside with \$1700 of bras just stolen from a nearby mall. (*Photo uploaded to SCSO media site)
- On Dec. 18, investigators patrolling neighborhoods witnessed a burglary in progress in Druid Estates. The three men fled, but ran their vehicle into a wall and were quickly captured and subsequently charged with burglary, grand theft, and drug possession. [The press release can be found here.](#) Deputies recovered the victim's belongings, including cash, jewelry and Christmas presents intended for her young children.
- In one case, investigators thwarted two subjects twice – on two consecutive days. On Dec. 17, investigators in a retail store parking lot observed a woman in car put on a wig, baseball cap and sunglasses and take a stack of what appeared to be gift or credit cards inside the store. When she and her male companion left the parking lot, they fled from deputies and tossed gift cards, cash and credit cards out of the window. Igor Silva, 23, and Melony Calderon, 22, both of Hollywood, were charged with driving on a suspended license and destroying evidence. Inside the vehicle, deputies discovered numerous fake gift cards, stolen credit cards, cash and two skimming devices. As a condition of their

release, they were prohibited from having contact with one another. The following day, when the two bonded out just minutes apart, investigators observed them get into a car together just a short distance from the jail, and arrested them for violating release conditions.

- On Dec. 21, investigators arrested Gregory Simeon, 24, of Miami Shores and Dion Gibson, 26, of Pembroke Pines after they attempted to use a fraudulent driver's license to obtain an account with a telecommunications company and purchase thousands of dollars in cell phones and iPads. An additional eight fraudulent licenses were found in the vehicle.

In addition to enforcement efforts, SCSO distributed thousands of door hangers with holiday safety tips to residents and aired [this vehicle burglary public service announcement](#), a catchy spinoff on the "Sleigh Ride" Christmas carol, in Seminole County's five movie theatres.

Please do not respond back to this email as the account is not monitored. For more information contact:

Heather Smith (hsmith@seminolesheriff.org)

(407) 665-6748 - desk

(407) 474-5189 - cell

or

Kim Cannaday (kcannaday@seminolesheriff.org)

(407) 665-6978 - desk

(407) 402-3319 - cell

###