



# NEWS RELEASE

CHERYL MOODY  
INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
207 N. GARFIELD AVE.  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2022

**For More Information:**

Lieutenant Mario Ortiz (626) 744-4507

## **PASADENA DETECTIVES MAKE ARRESTS OF THEFT & ROBBERY SUSPECTS WHO HAVE BEEN DUBBED "THE BLESSINGS CREW"**

**Pasadena, CA** – On July 29, 2021, officers from the Pasadena Police Department responded to the 400 block of S. Los Robles Ave. in the City of Pasadena regarding a "pick pocket" theft. The suspects drove alongside the Hispanic male victim when a female suspect passenger offered to pray and provide blessings to the victim. Distracted by the blessing, the suspects removed money from the victim's wallet.

On September 28, 2021, officers from the Pasadena Police Department responded to Raymond Ave. at Villa St. regarding the theft of money resulting from a distraction "pick pocket". The suspects who were in a vehicle, claimed to be of a religious faith and distracted the Hispanic male victim with fake jewelry while removing money from a wallet.

On October 10, 2021, officers from the Pasadena Police Department responded to the 500 block of E. Villa St. regarding the theft of money. Officers determined suspects placed an elderly Hispanic male victim in a vehicle and removed money from his pockets while partaking in a prayer session.

On October 13, 2021, officers from the Pasadena Police Department were called to Marengo Ave. at Washington Blvd. regarding the theft of money. The Hispanic female victim was waiting at a bus stop when the suspects drove up offering blessings while removing money from her purse.

On November 8, 2021, officers from the Pasadena Police Department took a robbery report which occurred at a bus stop near Allen Ave. at Villa St. The suspects drove up to the Hispanic male victim and while mentioning information about a charitable donation, the suspects presented a firearm and removed money from the victim's pockets.

On March 11, 2022, officers from the Pasadena Police Department responded to the 300 block of E. Orange Grove Blvd. regarding the theft of money and jewelry. The suspects drove up to the Hispanic male victim as he walked along the sidewalk. The suspects distracted the victim with religious blessing while removing the loss.

A short time later, officers responded to the 300 block of E. Villa Street regarding another theft. The suspects pulled up in a gray SUV alongside a Hispanic female who was sitting near the street corner and forcibly took personal property from the victim. Investigating officers located surveillance video which captured a partial license plate of a possible suspect vehicle, allowing detectives to further their investigation.

On March 23, 2022, Pasadena Robbery/Major Crimes Detectives followed up on the vehicle information and determined it frequented an address in the City of Baldwin Park. Detectives located the gray SUV parked near a Baldwin Park motel and learned occupants in one of the motel rooms, matched the suspect descriptions from the multiple Pasadena thefts/robberies.

Detectives contacted the occupants and detained two adults in the motel room. A search warrant for the motel room was obtained and a search led to the discovery of money and identifiable stolen property from Pasadena victims. **28-year-old Pamela Linu and 33-year-old Gheorge Aronel** were subsequently taken into custody while their 8-year-old son was taken into protective custody by Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. The investigation revealed the suspects are part of an extensive organized crime ring targeting victims across multi-jurisdictions and possibly across several states.

On March 25, 2022, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office reviewed the investigation and filed three counts of robbery against both suspect Linu and suspect Aronel. Their bail has been set at \$150,000 each.

Pasadena Police Department is urging anyone with information about this case to call the Pasadena Police at (626) 744-4241 or you may report information anonymously by calling "Crime Stoppers" by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477), use your smartphone by downloading the "P3 Tips" Mobile APP on Google play or the Apple App Store or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.

##