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NEWS RELEASE

PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Copper Wire Theft Suspects Arrested

Pasadena, CA – The City of Pasadena has experienced a high number of copper wire thefts from underground electrical boxes recently, with ten in November and an additional four thus far in December.

On Monday, December 11, 2023, Pasadena Police officers responded to a citizen report of two male subjects tampering with a city-owned underground electrical box in the 1800 block of E. Corson St. Officers located the two males, as well as a female accomplice, next to an underground electrical box. The subjects had removed the box cover and cut wires inside the box. A search of their vehicle revealed additional copper wire, tools, and other evidence related to the crime. The two male suspects admitted they intended to steal the copper wire.

Pasadena Police detectives responded and took over the investigation. The three arrested suspects are:

Candido Benitez, Jr. (Male Hispanic, 27 years old, Los Angeles resident)

Javier Soto (Male Hispanic, 43 years old, homeless)

Lizbet Echeverria (Female Hispanic, 31 years old, North Hollywood resident)

On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, detectives presented the case to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, who declined to file charges. The case on all three suspects will instead be presented to the Pasadena City Prosecutor's office for misdemeanor filing consideration.

Anyone with information about copper wire theft cases is encouraged to call the Pasadena Police at (626)- 744-4241 or report information anonymously by contacting "Crime Stoppers" at (800) 222-TIPS (8477), via 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>.

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