



PRESS RELEASE

*Seal Beach Police Department
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January 10, 2024

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME DIRECTED ENFORCEMENT

Seal Beach, CA – during the 2023 holiday season, the Seal Beach Police Department conducted several Organized Retail Crime Directed Enforcement Operations that resulted in multiple arrests, recovered stolen vehicles, and recovered stolen merchandise.

Organized Retail Crime is a growing problem in California, with estimated annual losses totaling 7 billion dollars. The City of Seal Beach is experiencing a noticeable increase in retail crime events, including pushouts, return scams, and grab-and-runs. To address this growing problem, the Seal Beach Police Department has partnered with local retailers to deploy proactive enforcement operations to gather intelligence, identify suspects, and arrest all offenders.

During the months of October, November, and December 2023, the Seal Beach Detective Division conducted six Organized Retail Crime Directed Enforcement Operations which have proven to be largely successful. The operations consist of Seal Beach Police personnel conducting surveillance in our retail establishments, and enforcing retail crimes as they occur by apprehending thieves with zero tolerance. The Directed Enforcement Operations resulted in twenty-five arrests, two recovered stolen vehicles, five identified suspects related to crimes outside of Seal Beach, and \$13,300 in recovered stolen merchandise.

Chief Michael Henderson said, “Throughout the holiday season, combating escalating Organized Retail Crime enforcement becomes increasingly important to ensure the safety of our community.” Chief Henderson continued, “The Seal Beach Police

Department continues to work diligently to show our dedication and commitment to the safety our community and its consumers, and to safeguard our local shopping centers by partnering with local retailers to take a proactive approach in combating these types of crimes as they occur.”

This is an ongoing operation, anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Gibson at (562) 799-4100 ext. 1172 or jjgibson@sealbeachca.gov.

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